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Date: October 7, 2014
In your response please mention:
31250

To
Captain Elad Rachamim
Substitute of the person responsible for implementation of the Freedom of
Information Act
Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories

By Fax: 03-6977674

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Dear Sir,

شارع أبو عبيده ٤
القدس ٩٧٢٠٠
هاتف. ٠٢. ٦٢٨٣٥٥٥
فاكس. ٠٢. ٦٢٧٦٣١٧

Re: **Request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act:**
A sweeping prohibition on the exit abroad of residents of the West Bank, in general, and on the residents of Hebron, in particular, during June-August this year

mail@hamoked.org.il
www.hamoked.org.il

1. I hereby write to you according to the Freedom of Information Act, 5758-1998, concerning a sweeping prohibition which was imposed on the exit abroad of many of the residents of the West Bank during and after the abduction of the youths in the West Bank and the "Shuvu Achim" Operation (Bring Back Our Brothers Operation).

The general ban on the exit of Hebron residents between the ages of 20-50 abroad

2. Following the abduction of the three Yeshiva students in Gush Etzion, severe movement limitations were imposed on the residents of the Hebron district, including a ban on travelling abroad on all residents of the Hebron district between the ages 20-50 through Allenby Bridge, the only point of departure through which West Bank resident can travel abroad.
3. On June 29, 2014, in HCJ 4554/14 **al-'Awawdeh v. The Military Commander**, the representative of the State Attorney's Office notified as follows:

As informed by the representative of the legal advisor for the Judea and Samaria Area, yesterday on midnight (the night between June 28, 2014 and June 29, 2014), the unit for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories decided to lift the general ban which prevented

residents of Hebron between the ages 20-50 from travelling abroad.

A copy of the notice of the State Attorney's Office is attached as Exhibit A.

4. We therefore wish to know:
 - a. On how many Hebron residents was the ban on travelling abroad imposed?
 - b. What is the source of the authority for the imposition of a sweeping ban on travelling abroad?
 - c. Was the ban on travelling abroad which was imposed on the residents of Hebron entrenched in a general order, or was it given by an oral instruction?
 - d. If an order was issued, please provide us with a copy thereof as well as with the following information:
 1. Who signed the order?
 2. When was the order issued?
 3. Was the order published? If the answer is positive, where was it published?
 4. Was the order time limited?
 - e. If the instruction was given orally we would like to know:
 1. Who gave the instruction?
 2. When was the instruction given?
 3. Was the instruction time limited?
 - f. Did the instruction and/or order establish a mechanism for the handling of urgent humanitarian cases?

The sweeping ban on the exit abroad of about 30,000 Palestinians from the West Bank

5. In addition, we write to you in connection with the sweeping ban which was imposed on the exit of many of the residents of the West Bank abroad through Allenby Bridge – the only point of departure of the residents of the West Bank abroad – many of whom are Palestinians residing abroad, who came to the West Bank for a visit during Eid al Fitr and for the summer vacation.

6. In an article published in "Ha'aretz" on August 19, 2014, entitled "**Israel Prevents Thousands of West Bank Residents from Travelling to Jordan**", it was reported, *inter alia*, based on information received from an Israel source, that a new list was formulated which included at least 27,000 persons whose exist was precluded.

A copy of the article is attached as Exhibit B.

7. In addition, in a telephone conversation between the Executive Director of HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual (HaMoked), Mrs. Dalia Kerstein, and the Head of the Operations Division of the Civil Administration, Lieutenant Colonel Visam Hammed, on August 24, 2014, Lieutenant Colonel Hammed confirmed that there were 30,000 travelling abroad preclusions, which were removed.
8. In view of the above we would like to know:
- a. How many people were declared (or became) precluded from travelling abroad between June-August 2014?
 - b. How many West Bank residents, whose travelling abroad was banned by Israel, entered the West Bank during the last six months, which preceded the beginning of June 2014?
 - c. What are the criteria for the prevention of the exit and what was the basis for the formulation of the list of the precluded persons (said 30,000)?
 - d. What is the source of the authority for the imposition of the sweeping ban?
 - e. Was the ban on travelling abroad entrenched in a general order, or was it given by an oral instruction?
 - f. If an order was issued, please provide us with a copy thereof and the following information:
 - 1. Who issued the order?
 - 2. When was the order issued and when was it revoked?
 - 3. Was the order published? If the answer is positive, where was it published?
 - 4. Was the order time limited?
 - g. If the instruction was given orally we would like to know:
 - 1. Who gave the instruction?
 - 2. When was the instruction given?
 - 3. Was the instruction time limited?
 - h. Following the revocation of the instruction/order, was the ban on travelling abroad lifted from all precluded persons who were included in the list?

- i. Did the instruction and/or order establish a mechanism for the handling of urgent humanitarian cases?
- 9. It should be noted that on October 1, 2014, the peculiar response of the Civil Administration Public Liaison Officer was received concerning the two types of the above sweeping preclusions, which informed, contrary to the above mentioned information that these were individual preclusions.
- 10. According to regulation 6(2)(b) of the Freedom of Information Regulations (Fees) (Amendment), 5774-2014, a not-for profit association which acts for the promotion of a public cause, is exempt of the obligation to pay fees. Attached is a certificate of good standing of HaMoked for 2015.
- 11. I thank you in advance for receiving the above information without delay.

Sincerely,
Bilal bihat,
Advocate

Attached: Exhibits A-B