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Date: December 15, 2015
In your response please note: 90004

To:
Adv. Yehuda Weinstein
Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah a-Din St.
Jerusalem 9010

By fax: 02-6467001

Extremely urgent!

4 Abu Obeidah St.
Jerusalem 97200
Tel. +972.2.6283555
Fax. +972.2.6276317

Dear Sir,

Re.: **Demand to open criminal investigation against the organization Im Tirtzu for incitement to murder**

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

mail@hamoked.org.il
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1. I hereby write to you on behalf of HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual, a human rights organization acting to protect the rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories, to demand the opening of an immediate investigation against activists of the Im Tirtzu movement, over publications initiated and circulated by this movement against employees of human rights organizations. These publications constitute severe incitement to murder! We shall specify.
2. On May 14, 2015, the organization Im Tirtzu launched a campaign entitled "Shtulim" [Planted]. As part of the campaign, and in addition to the publication of a report dealing with the funding sources of human rights organizations in Israel, the organization published on its homepage and Facebook account, advertisements, web banners and video clips, all directed against private individuals, workers of human rights organizations.
3. Our demand to open a criminal investigation concerns these publications, which include a publication against Adv. Sigi Ben Ari, an employee of HaMoked.

The description of the publications is as follows:

4. Under a large ominous heading, "when we fight terror, the implants fight us", appear the pictures of four workers of human rights organizations. The picture are deliberately deformed, to induce in the viewer demonization of these individuals and the organizations in which they work. At the end of the document and before viewers are urged to support the petition in favor of the Bill against "implants", the following is stated:

Hagai, Yishai, Avner and Sigi – are Israelis like us. And they are implants. They are members of the New Israel Fund organizations. And they act against the State of Israel and IDF soldiers. The “Planted” law will outlaw them.

5. In addition, Im Tirtzu has uploaded to his Facebook page a video clip showing in the opening scene a Palestinian man raising a knife in order to stab, with ominous background music. This is immediately followed by the picture of the four employees of the organizations, with the narrator’s voiceover linking them to assailants and establishing: “before the terrorist stabs you, he already knows that Sigi Ben Ari will defend him in court... Hagai, Avner, Sigi and Yishai are Israelis. They live here with us and they are implants. When we fight terror, they fight us. The “Planted” law can outlaw them. Sign it.”
6. It is beyond any doubt that these publications, targeting private individuals, do not come under the protection of freedom of speech, because this is wild and unbridled hounding and incitement, which puts at risk the personal wellbeing and safety of the organizations’ employees “starring” in the campaign.
7. The presentation of the organizations’ employees as enemies of the public and enemies of the people – especially in a time when ill winds are blowing against those who act for the protection of human rights and against those who express a different view – gains much graver significance, and increases the likelihood that an act of violence would be taken against them; which, alas, has lately become a common occurrence in our parts.
8. Obviously such dangerous publication cannot be left without response and the instigation of enforcement measures on part of the authorities. Failure to take action over these unacceptable messages, is nothing but their legitimation and the abandoning of human rights organizations and their employees to their fate.
9. We note, that simultaneously with the letter to you, a complaint will be lodged with the police against these publications.
10. In view of the above, we demand that you order the opening of an immediate investigation against the incitement.

Respectfully,
Dalia Kerstein,
Executive Director