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Date: October 15, 2015
In your response please note: 31490

To:
The Prime Minister of Israel
Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
1 Ben Gurion Complex
Jerusalem

Urgent!

Dear Sir,

Re: **The decision of the security-political cabinet to revoke the permanent residency status of assailants**

1. I hereby write to you on behalf of HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual (hereinafter: **HaMoked**), a human rights organization which, among other things, protects the rights of the residents of East Jerusalem and their family members, and request your urgent attention and response to the following.
2. Yesterday, October 14, 2015, the website of the Prime Minister's Office reported that in a meeting which was held on the previous night the security-political cabinet had decided to revoke the permanent residency status of individuals who were involved in fatal attacks.
3. As is known, the revocation of the status of permanent residents and the lawful authority to take this measure is a very complex issue, the lawfulness of which is doubtful and is currently pending before the Supreme Court (HCJ 7803/06 **Khalid Abu Arafah et al. v. Minister of Interior**), which even issued an *order nisi* in this matter against the state.
4. We wish to strongly protest against the decision to take this measure of status revocation even if assailants are concerned. It is a very extreme measure, which results in the deportation of a person from his home and homeland, a measure which, not without reason, the state of Israel and other countries traditionally refrain from taking also against individuals who committed very serious crimes.
5. Moreover. As you know, the state has available to it other, more suitable measures, which are specified in the Penal Law that it can use against assailants, and the revocation of a person's status and his deportation from his home and homeland do not constitute part of these measures.



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6. In the case at hand, the taking of this measure is inappropriate many times over in view of the fact that it concerns the revocation of status of permanent residents, the vast majority of whom are residents of East Jerusalem, who were born and raised in this country. These are not foreigners who arrived from other countries, but rather individuals whose city was annexed by Israel in 1967.
7. In order to maintain their rights in their hometown, the residents of East Jerusalem, who are recognized as protected residents under international humanitarian law, were forced to receive permanent residency status and maintain it. The loss of this status results in their deportation from their home and homeland. Furthermore. For the vast majority of the residents of East Jerusalem, the revocation of permanent residency means that they will be left stateless.
8. In view of the above, we request that you take action to revoke the decision which approved the use of this inappropriate measure of the revocation of status in Israel of permanent Israeli residents.

Sincerely,

Dalia Kerstein
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. Yehuda Weinstein, Advocate, Attorney General, Fax: 02-6467001