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[Emblem]

State of Israel

Ministry of Defense

Coordination of Activities in the
Territories

Operations

Division

Public

Liaison

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03-6977957

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General

-

14065

17

Kislev

5776

29

November

2015

To

Att. Abir Joubran-Dakwar

"HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual"

via fax no. 02-6276317

Re: **Receiving information on permits of entry to Israel for family unification purposes –
except for entry to Eilat**

Yours in reference 90004 from Nov. 18, 2015, actually arrived at our offices on Nov. 19, 2015:

- a. Application under the Freedom of Information Act 5758-1998
- b. "Public application concerning banning of entry to Eilat by Palestinians staying in Israel as part of a family unification procedure"

1. We hereby confirm receipt of your above-cited applications on the captioned issue.
2. Having perused the two above-cited applications, we wish to clarify for general benefit that the present response is relevant to both applications, given that an identical issue, referenced above, is at hand, which is – the matter of "banning the entry of Palestinians who stay in Israel as part of a family unification procedure, to the city of Eilat".
3. At the outset, we wish to clarify that the restriction on entry to Eilat does not apply to DCO permit recipients in the framework of family unification, hence, such a restriction should not appear in said permits, and insofar as it does, then it is an error.
4. However, we note that following an application that was received some two years ago at the [offices of the] Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories, which

concerned a policy of limiting the entry of Palestinians to Eilat, staff work was done on the matter.

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5. As part of said staff work, it was found that the restriction has existed for many years and documentation regarding the formulation of the policy was not traced; in addition, the purpose of setting this policy at the time is uncertain, and probably stems from the unique characteristics of the city of Eilat, as it borders the countries of Egypt and Jordan.

In this context, we refer you to the Freedom of Information Act 5758-1998, Article 8(c), stipulating that: "A public authority is entitled to reject a request for information... [if] having made reasonable effort, the public authority discovers that the information cannot be located, or is not in its possession".

6. At the conclusion of the staff work, it was decided to act gradually, so that from July 2015, a pilot project has been underway, as part of which, broad mitigations have been implemented in the review of applications for permits of entry that include the city of Eilat.
7. For your information.

Sincerely,

(Signature)
Lieutenant, Omri Dan
Public liaison officer
COGAT