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State of Israel
Ministry of Interior
Legal Advisor's Office

Jerusalem, 11 Nisan 5756
March 31, 1996

HCJ 7316/95

To
Adv. Malkial Blass
State Attorney's Office

Re: HCJ 7316/95 – Menuhin et al. v. Minister of Interior

In the above-captioned petition, the Ministry of Interior was asked to provide the petitioners and anyone interested with data held by the Ministry of Interior,

Unfortunately, regarding some of the questions, there are no statistical data and regarding others – the data is partial, and is assembled from statistical reports produced over the years, not always consecutively.

The entries in the computerized registry file, in the issues on which we were asked to furnish data, are incomplete, and therefore it is currently impossible to conduct a statistical check through the computer.

As you know, recently, a Freedom of Information Law memorandum was issued by the Ministry of Justice, aimed at establishing by law the right to receive information from public authorities.

I hope that once this issue is regulated and the manpower and budget necessary for that purpose are allocated, the Ministry of Interior will have more complete reports.

Here are the data currently held by the Ministry of Interior concerning each of the questions presented at the beginning of the petition.

A. Number of applications for grant of visa and licence for permanent residency in Israel:

Number of application filed by East Jerusalem residents since 1967 –

Partial data are available for the years 1991-1995 only. The data relate to sponsors who are permanent residents or citizens without distinguishing between them:

1. Total number of applications filed in East Jerusalem in the framework of family unification (this relates to male and female spouses and other relatives – on special humanitarian grounds)

1991: 1054 applications
1992: 1020 applications
1993: 1690 applications
1994: 3470 applications
1995: 2676 applications

2. Total number of applications filed by women residents and citizens living in East Jerusalem for their spouses:

1993: 650 applications
1994: 2550 applications
1995: 1800 applications

It should be noted that in March 1994, the decision of late Prime Minister – Mr. Yitzhak Rabin RIP, was issued, whereby a permanent residency licence would be given to the spouse of East Jerusalem residents without the distinction that existed beforehand whereby the license was given only when the husband was the applicant for his spouse, or when the applicant woman was a citizen and not only a permanent resident.

Following the decision, there has been a steep rise in the number of applications filed for male spouses and the number of applications approved.

3. The number of application approved in East Jerusalem (of the total accumulated applications – processing has not been completed in all applications submitted each year).

1993: 417 female spouses and 36 male spouses
1994: 95 female spouses and 250 male spouses.
1995: 197 female spouses and 775 male spouses.

The total does not include other relatives approved for exceptional humanitarian reasons.

4. There is no available data on the number of rejected applications.
5. Regarding the national data, there are more complete reports.

Attached hereby as annex A. is a table relating to the years 1967-1995, detailing the available data as to the number of applications approved each year, and for the years 1986-1995 the number of applications approved for male spouses and female spouses separately.

In all the data, the sponsors are citizens or permanent residents of the State of Israel and the applications approved each year are of the total number of applications accumulated at the Ministry of Interior.

B. Number of East Jerusalem residents who lost their status –
No statistical data available.

C. Number of applications by former East Jerusalem residents for return of identity card
No statistical data available.

Respectfully and sincerely,

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Moria Bakshi, Adv.
Legal Department

Cc:

Batya Carmon – Head of Visas and Foreigners
Eti Sharon – Head of Registration and Passports
Shlomo Matanya – Population Administration

Family unification applications approved in the years 1967-1995

Summary of national data

Year	Total applications approved
1967	5,000
1968	347
1969	616
1970	620
1971	1,271
1972	884
1973	929
1974	1,152
1975	852
1976	676
1977	751
1978	813
1979	834
1980	669
1981	775
1982	448
1983	534
1984	496
1985	398

Year	Total submitted applications	Total approved applications	Approved Female spouse	Approved Male spouse
1986		543	411	34
1987		368	268	49
1988		212	212	67
1989		390	212	68
1990		423	239	83
1991		455	322	86
1992		602	340	154
1993		1,121	652	325
1994		1,013	319	639
1995	5,416	2,444	796	1,643
Total for 1967-1995		25, 636		