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# HaMoked

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2024



CENTER FOR  
THE DEFENCE OF  
THE INDIVIDUAL

המוקד להגנת הפרט

مركز الدفاع عن الفرد

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# Message from our Executive Director

Dear friends,

Over twenty-two thousand people turned to HaMoked for assistance in 2024. This is four times our usual caseload, and HaMoked staff faced enormous challenges responding to this unprecedented demand for our assistance.

As this reports lays out, alongside the individual assistance, we filed principled petitions to challenge systemic violations of human rights, including the severe deterioration in prison conditions and new restrictions on movement and access. And we joined with partners to raise a principled voice for the universal respect for fundamental human rights, through public statements, joint litigation, and advocacy with the press and policymakers.

The war that raged this entire year exacted a terrible price on so many, Palestinians and Israelis. In a year of immense suffering, loss, and destruction, the HaMoked staff was a rare source of hope: Jews and Palestinians working together to defend human rights — and despite all the obstacles, succeeding to provide tangible assistance to thousands of people. It is an honor to be part of this team.

I want to thank all of our partners in this work — our donors, our supporters, and our colleagues in the human rights community. We could not do this work alone.

Best regards,

**JESSICA MONTELL**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# Snapshot of HaMoked's Work in 2024

In 2024, over **22,000** Palestinians turned to HaMoked for assistance



**21,705** tracing requests for families from Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem searching for their loved ones, including **709** children



**86** habeas corpus petitions against the enforced disappearance of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip



**284** East Jerusalem families struggling to remain together under the family unification procedure



**56** families trying to register their children as residents of East Jerusalem, to prevent statelessness and ensure basic social rights



**13** East Jerusalem Palestinians contesting revocation of residency



**10** Palestinians contesting their forcible transfer from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip



**92** West Bank Palestinians contesting bans on travel abroad



**91** West Bank Palestinians trying to gain access to their lands beyond the Separation Wall



**39** Palestinians demanding accountability for violence and torture



**47** Palestinians challenging inhumane conditions of detention



**25** families contesting punitive home demolition orders in the West Bank and East Jerusalem

# HaMoked's Work in the Shadow of War

## Urgent individual assistance and a principled voice for human rights

HaMoked filed **381 legal proceedings** this past year, both to demand respect for individuals' rights and to challenge harmful laws and policies.

We filed **19 freedom-of-information requests** to expose Israeli policy and practices that violate human rights.

We advanced **15 principled cases**, both independently and in cooperation with partners, to demand, among other things, that:

- All Palestinian farmers have access to lands beyond the Separation Wall;
- Israel closes the unlawful Sde Teiman detention center;
- Israel ceases revocation of Jerusalem residency due to “breach of allegiance”;
- Foreign spouses are allowed to enter and stay in the West Bank;
- Israel facilitates passage of humanitarian aid to North Gaza;
- ICRC access to Palestinian prisoners and detainees is renewed;
- Israel allows the sick and wounded access to treatment outside the Gaza Strip.

## HaMoked's achievements in 2024



**Ended the mass enforced disappearance of Gazans.** *HaMoked habeas corpus petitions led to the establishment of a military information center, which has provided thousands of families with the whereabouts of their incarcerated loved ones.*



**Tangible improvements in prison conditions.** *While conditions are still far from adequate, HaMoked petitions resulted in thousands of inmates receiving vital personal items, like increased quantities of food, improved hygiene conditions, access to a hot shower, excursions in the prison yard, and medical care for scabies.*



**Enabled freedom of movement.** *HaMoked overturned travel bans in 26 cases, enabling Palestinians to travel abroad, including 5 students resuming studies abroad.*



**Farmers re-allowed access to their West Bank farmlands beyond the Separation Wall.** *HaMoked petitions resulted in the military opening 8 agricultural gates for 919 farmers, and in allowing — albeit a limited — olive harvest.*



**Safeguarded human rights in East Jerusalem.** *HaMoked's legal aid has enabled hundreds of Jerusalem families to remain together, prevented revocation of residency rights, and registered undocumented children.*

# The Rights of Detainees and Prisoners

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In 2024, HaMoked provided assistance to tens of thousands of beneficiaries seeking to realize detainee and prisoner rights. This included tracing detainees to determine their whereabouts, prison visits to monitor conditions, habeas corpus petitions, and challenging inhumane treatment, unlawful detention facilities, and enforced disappearance of Palestinians from Gaza.



# The Rights of Detainees and Prisoners

## An alarming rise in the number of detainees and prisoners

In 2022, HaMoked completed 4,481 tracing requests to help families locate loved ones in detention. In 2023, due to the start of the war in October of that year, that number rose to 11,036. In 2024, tracings more than doubled — rising to **21,705**. This included both new and repeat tracings — 9,629 adults and 709 children traced at least once during the year. Of these 10,338 individuals traced, 8,742 (85%) were from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 1,596 were from the Gaza Strip.

Despite the significant increase in arrests in the West Bank, HaMoked was still able to successfully trace virtually all detained Palestinians from the West Bank within 24 hours and quickly inform their families.



## The military's sweeping use of the Combat Detention Clause

One reason for the rise in arrests in the West Bank was the military's sweeping use of the **Combat Detention Clause** (part of the Israeli security regulations) to detain adults and minors for a wide range of alleged offenses. This despite the fact that the clause is intended to only be used in exceptional circumstances. The clause allows holding a person in custody for a full 8-day period before they are brought before a judge and without their being permitted to meet with a lawyer for 48 hours.

In March 2024, HaMoked and others petitioned the High Court of Justice (HCJ) against the sweeping use of the Clause. We requested that the clause be abolished or reduced, and to end the policy whereby all arrests in the West Bank were considered combat detentions, as this policy violated the rights to liberty, dignity, and due process, and exposed every person in the West Bank to arbitrary arrest.

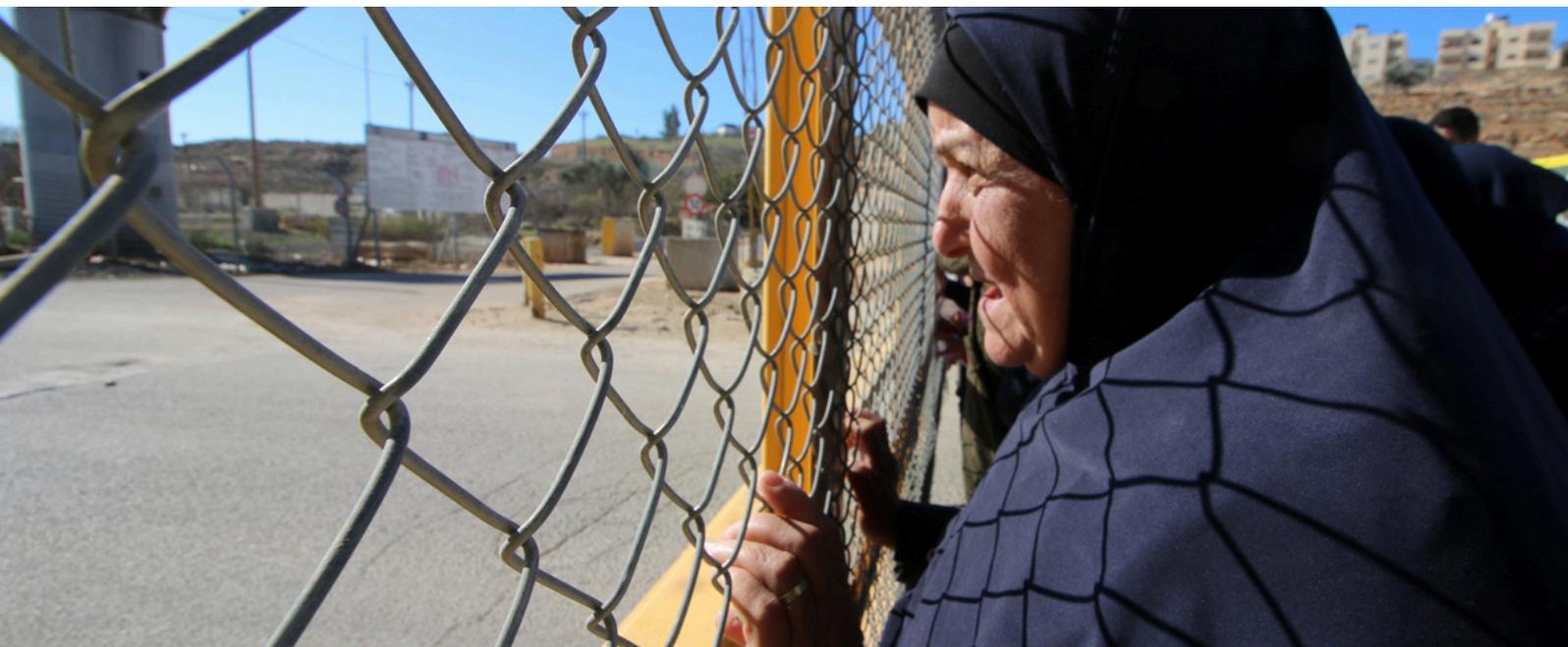
In April, the State filed a notice to the Court, announcing a significant change in the policy of using the Clause, whereby it would only be used for adults arrested on suspicion of committing security offenses who are required for interrogations by the Israel Security Agency (ISA), or for ISA detainees who are to be held in administrative detention. Otherwise, the State announced, suspects detained for interrogation by the Israel Police would be detained for 96 hours or less and not for 8 days, even if it is a security offense. In light of these significant changes, the HCJ deleted the petition.

# The Rights of Detainees and Prisoners

## Fighting enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention of Gazans

For months following October 7, Israel held hundreds of Gazans in incommunicado detention in unknown locations, under conditions that were far from meeting the obligatory minimal standards, with no access to attorneys or the ICRC. Many were held pursuant to an amendment to the [Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law](#), enacted following the outbreak of the war, which allowed the prolonged incarceration of Gazans without any administrative proceeding or judicial review (for up to 45 days and 75 days, respectively), and prevented a meeting with an attorney for up to 180 days.

As a result of a petition filed by human rights organizations, including HaMoked, against the amendment to the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law, the periods without judicial review and without seeing an attorney were both shortened to 45 days.



### *Petition to repeal the ban on ICRC visits to Palestinian prisoners*

In February 2024, HaMoked and other organizations filed a petition to the HCJ demanding that ICRC representatives be allowed to visit Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and that the Israeli military and prison service provide the ICRC with details regarding all Palestinian prisoners. Both visits and provision of information to the ICRC were halted in October 2023.

Our petition noted that Palestinian detainees and prisoners are [entitled to visits by the ICRC under international law and Israeli law](#), and that the obligation to allow the ICRC to visit Palestinian prisoners and provide families with information about those held by Israel becomes even greater during war, when the fear of infringement of the rights of detainees belonging to an enemy population increases.

This petition is still pending, and the ban on ICRC access to Palestinian prisoners and detainees remains in place. The State has asked repeatedly to postpone the first hearing of the petition and has yet to explain the reason for the ICRC ban or why it should be considered lawful.

# The Rights of Detainees and Prisoners

## ***Compelling the military to provide information on Gaza detainees' whereabouts***

In February 2024, the court rejected HaMoked's petition for writs of habeas corpus to reveal the whereabouts of dozens of Gazans. We had no choice but to file individual petitions to demand that in each and every case the State inform the family of the petitioner's whereabouts and the grounds for detention, and that the petitioner be allowed to meet with an attorney to assess the detention conditions and legality.

Time and again the State responded that the petitions should be dismissed outright, on the outrageous claim that Israel was under no obligation to provide information to the family of a Gazan detainee. Finally, in May, in response to one such petition, the State provided an email address to which HaMoked and others could send requests for attorneys to visit detained Gazans, and clarified that scheduling a visit would necessarily also include notice of a detainee's whereabouts.

Since then, HaMoked submitted tracing requests for 1,596 Gazans. We were able to **locate over 1,000 Gazans in detention** and provide this information to their families.

## ***Locating Gazans who disappeared in Israeli custody or after encounters with Israeli troops***

Ever since October 2023, many Palestinians have disappeared while in Israeli custody or following encounters with Israeli troops. Each of these cases is alarming — both out of concern for the well-being of the disappeared and because of the concerning **lack of accountability and transparency** on the part of the military.

In several hundred cases the military said they had “no indication” of the person's arrest or detention. In some of these cases, eye-witnesses had seen the person being detained. HaMoked filed dozens of habeas corpus petitions to compel the military to account for these people. We sent a letter to the Military Advocate General outlining the problems raised in these cases, and issued a report.

## ***A father and 5-year-old girl disappeared after an encounter with the Israeli army***

HaMoked petitioned the HCJ in August on behalf of a father and his 5-year-old daughter. The two were last seen in February 2024, after soldiers raided their family home. Soldiers opened fire, wounding the child and her mother. They forced the mother to move south, leaving behind her daughter and spouse. When members of the Ajur family returned to the home weeks later, they discovered it had been shelled.

HaMoked contacted the military coordination center, which responded that there was no indication that the child and father were held by Israel. We maintained that they had undoubtedly been held by the military, and the Court instructed the State to make additional enquiries. The State again responded that there was “no indication” of arrest or detention, and therefore they could not know the Ajurs' whereabouts. In October, the HCJ rejected our petition and failed to express interest in the fate of the child or instruct the military to record such incidents in future. The Ajur family still do not know the fate of the girl and her father. There is grave concern for their lives.

*Associated Press article on the Ajur family and widespread disappearances of Gazans.*

# The Rights of Detainees and Prisoners

## *HaMoked's work on this issue generated extensive media coverage, including:*

>> The story of a Gazan father and son who died in Israeli custody. Their family only found out about their deaths after HaMoked petitioned the HCJ, demanding to know their whereabouts and conditions.

>> Associated Press article on the widespread disappearances of Palestinians after encounters with Israeli troops in Gaza.

>> Ha'aretz article which featured HaMoked's efforts to locate an 82-year-old woman left with soldiers when her family was ordered to leave the area (Hebrew only).



**These Palestinians disappeared after encounters with Israeli troops in Gaza**



## Challenging inhumane conditions of detention

In 2024, HaMoked advanced both principled and individual cases to contest the widespread **ill-treatment, abuse, torture, and inhumane conditions** in prisons and detention centers across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. We visited detainees and prisoners in every IPS and military facility where Palestinians are held, and filed 26 individual prisoner petitions to challenge inhumane conditions of detention; an additional 5 petitions were ongoing from 2023. We also represented 39 Palestinians demanding accountability for violence and torture inflicted on them.

While the HCJ blocked our principled petition on prison conditions, the individual petitions brought about some tangible improvements in conditions throughout the facilities. While conditions are still far from adequate, HaMoked petitions **resulted in thousands of inmates receiving vital personal items**, such as clothes, improved hygiene conditions, access to a hot shower, excursions in the prison yard, increased quantities of food, and medical care for scabies.

# The Rights of Detainees and Prisoners

## ***Petition to close the unlawful Sde Teiman detention center***

In May 2024, HaMoked and other human rights organizations petitioned the HCJ to stop the holding of detainees in the Sde Teiman detention center and to close the facility. Sde Teiman had been operated by the military since the start of the war as a facility for detaining suspected “unlawful combatants” from Gaza. Reportedly, more than 1,000 detainees were held there in corral-like conditions. **Testimonies revealed an extremely harsh reality**, including beatings and abuse, surgeries performed without anesthesia, holding detainees for days on end in painful positions, extensive handcuffing and blindfolding, and holding some detainees in diapers.

Finally, in September, the State announced that the number of detainees held at Sde Teiman had been reduced to 24 and that the infrastructure there was being upgraded to meet the pertinent legal stipulations. The Court ruled that the State must operate the facility according to the provisions established in the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law and the attendant regulations. It also ruled that the regulations should be amended to comply with Israel’s obligations under international humanitarian law.

## ***Demanding the closure of the Anatot military incarceration facility***

In December 2024, we and other human rights organizations sent an urgent appeal to the Military Advocate General regarding the inhumane conditions in the military incarceration facility Anatot in the West Bank and the abuse and humiliation of inmates in this facility. The letter was based on affidavits collected by HaMoked attorneys from Anatot detainees. According to these accounts, the incarceration conditions are similar to those that existed at the beginning of the war at Sde Teiman and include routine abuse and inhumane treatment amounting to torture.

We demanded that all inmates be transferred from Anatot to regulated incarceration facilities where they would be accorded the conditions they ought to receive according to Israeli and international law. We also demanded that a thorough investigation be initiated into the conduct of the troops, particularly the commanders of the facility, in view of the accounts of harsh and humiliating treatment. This case remains ongoing.

## ***Documenting widespread ill-treatment and abuse of minors in detention***

In 2024, HaMoked took **21 affidavits and 23 testimonies from incarcerated and formerly incarcerated children**. In each case, we asked minors about the details of their arrest, interrogation, and detention. We inquired as to whether their basic rights as detainees and as children were respected. We also inquired about detention and prison conditions, ill-treatment, abuse, and torture. The responses we received suggested patterns of abuse and mistreatment, including: night arrests; lack of access to soap, showers, clothes, and bathrooms; physical violence; prolonged blindfolding, handcuffing, and leg-cuffing; insufficient food; unhygienic living conditions; widespread scabies, without medical treatment; lights kept on at all times, causing sleep disruption; being forced to sign documents written in Hebrew, without translation to Arabic; and denial of family visits. Adult prisoners reported many of these same problems.

In 2024, we filed prisoner petitions on behalf of two minors — one from the West Bank and one from Gaza — who were denied attorney visits. We succeeded in overturning these denials and visited both of the children.

# Residency Rights in East Jerusalem

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In 2024, HaMoked provided assistance to 328 individuals and families in East Jerusalem seeking to realize their residency rights. This included cases of child registration, residency revocation and reinstatement, statelessness, and family unification. Of the cases concluded this past year, 80% were closed successfully.



# Residency Rights in East Jerusalem

## Demanding an equal right to family unification

As part of our ongoing litigation against the [Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law](#) (Temporary Order), we and the other petitioning human rights organizations asked the HCJ to schedule a hearing and issue an order nisi.

In July 2024, the hearing was held. The HCJ then issued an order nisi ordering the State to explain why the law should not be voided. The order was based on some of the organizations' demands, and lists problems relating to those who have lived in Israel for long periods, whether minors, adults undergoing family unification, or those undergoing humanitarian proceedings. The petition is still pending, and we continue our efforts to cancel the law entirely, which we see as advancing a [racist purpose](#).

Alongside this principled challenge to the Citizenship Law, HaMoked provided individual assistance to 284 families to renew the military stay permits that allow them to live together in Jerusalem.

In May 2024, HaMoked joined other human rights organizations in filing a petition to the HCJ regarding the format of processing [applications for legal status on humanitarian grounds](#), submitted by Palestinian women who married Israelis or East Jerusalemites and suffer from domestic violence. The government had effectively been ignoring the format that is required by law: a dedicated committee to handle applications from victims of domestic violence, and a response to each application within three months.

In July, the State submitted a preliminary response, claiming there was no need for a dedicated committee as the current committee members were authorized to review such cases and to do so with the warranted sensitivity. The response also guaranteed that the handling timeframe would be shortened and that an applicant's permit would be renewed until a decision was taken in their humanitarian request, provided it was filed within 3 months of becoming necessary. This petition remains ongoing.



# Residency Rights in East Jerusalem

## Legal status for a widow in a shelter for domestic violence

Ms. A turned to HaMoked in 2022. Originally from the West Bank, she was married to a Palestinian citizen of Israel who died in 2020. Ms. A has two young children, both of whom have Israeli citizenship. However, she had no legal status and was considered an illegal alien in Israel. An inheritance battle with her husband's older children from a previous marriage turned violent, and Ms. A was forced to move to a domestic violence shelter in the north of Israel.

HaMoked filed a humanitarian request to grant status to Ms. A, as the sole parent of two Israeli children. We further argued that her lack of status in Israel made her more vulnerable to violence; her parents' home in the West Bank had also been attacked by her step-children. It took two years of intensive paralegal advocacy and two separate petitions to Israeli courts to compel the Ministry of Interior to consider her request. In 2024, Ms. A received temporary residency status in Israel.

## Challenging residency revocation as a collective punishment or for “breach of allegiance”

The past year has seen an alarming increase in efforts by the Israeli government to revoke the residency of Palestinians — and to use residency revocation as a form of collective punishment. In 2024, HaMoked assisted 13 East Jerusalem Palestinians contesting revocation of their Jerusalem residency.

HaMoked continued its fight against revocation of Palestinians' permanent residency in Jerusalem on the basis of alleged “breach of allegiance” to the State of Israel. In February 2023, HaMoked filed a principled High Court petition against this law. We stated that the law is invalid for several reasons, one being that its purpose does not center on protecting public security or order but rather on imposing additional punishment within the context of status and immigration laws. Further, this law **disproportionately harms East Jerusalem Palestinians**, who constitute an indigenous population, are a protected population under international humanitarian law, and owe no allegiance to the occupying power. In November 2024, Israel's High Court held a hearing on HaMoked's petition. This hearing was the first one on the constitutionality of the law in question.

Also in November, the Knesset passed a new piece of legislation that impacts the rights and residency of Palestinians convicted of security offenses — and their families. The law permits **deportation of family members of individuals designated as “terrorist operatives”** by Israeli authorities (regardless of whether they have actually been charged or convicted).

Following the passing of this draconian law, HaMoked moved to dismiss its own petition on the “breach of allegiance” law, citing a change in circumstances due to the newer legislation. The petition was dismissed without prejudice. HaMoked is now preparing to file a petition challenging the “breach of allegiance” law, along with the new legislation that impacts the residency rights of Palestinians.

# Residency Rights in East Jerusalem

## Advocating for the children of East Jerusalem

Time and again, HaMoked fought arbitrary refusals and severe foot-dragging on the part of the Ministry of Interior in handling applications to grant status in Israel to minors from the **indigenous population of East Jerusalem**. Thus, sometimes even into adulthood, these Palestinians are condemned to remain without any status in the world and without social security rights in their own homes.

In 2024, HaMoked assisted 56 families trying to register their children as residents of East Jerusalem, to prevent statelessness and ensure basic social rights. Of all of the cases concluded in 2024, 80% were resolved successfully.



### Two siblings granted temporary residency status

HaMoked provided assistance to two children who have lived in East Jerusalem and Israel their entire lives. In 2015, following a chaotic family situation, the children were removed by the welfare authorities. Over the years, the father repeatedly applied to have the children registered in the population registry — to no avail. In 2022 and 2023, HaMoked sent reminders to the Ministry of Interior regarding the application, noting that leaving the children stateless was particularly unacceptable given that they were under the care of the state most of their lives and have no substantive tie elsewhere in the world. In May 2024, they were granted temporary status for two years, after which their status will be upgraded to permanent residency. Thus ended the years-long battle, and the children finally have the opportunity to forge a normative life for themselves.

# Residency Rights in East Jerusalem

## Freedom-of-information requests

In January 2024, HaMoked submitted to the Ministry of Interior an application under the Freedom of Information Law for information on revocations of permanent residency status of East Jerusalem Palestinians for the year 2023. The application was sent as part of HaMoked's ongoing advocacy against Israel's "quiet deportation" of East Jerusalem Palestinians, implemented since late 1995.

The Ministry of Interior response received in May indicates that in the year 2023, Israel revoked the residency of 61 East Jerusalem Palestinians, including 34 women and 3 minors. Of the total, 58 people were outside of Israel on the date of the revocation. This is a lower figure compared to the previous year, in which 81 people were deprived of their status.

According to the Ministry of Interior's figures supplied over the years, between 1967 and 2023, Israel revoked the status of 14,869 Palestinians from East Jerusalem on the grounds that their status "expired of itself."

The Ministry of Interior also stated that there was no change to its current policy of not revoking the status of Jerusalemites who "maintain a connection" to the city. This means that policy changes as a result of litigation by HaMoked and others remain in place: permanent residents who live in the Jerusalem "seam" neighborhoods or moved to live in other parts of the West Bank will not lose their status. Nor will those who live abroad — provided they visit Israel periodically.

Additionally, the Ministry of Interior disclosed that in 2023, 30 East Jerusalem Palestinians filed requests to have their residency status reinstated. Over the course of the year, the Ministry approved 67 requests for status-reinstatement that had been submitted in various years.

HaMoked reiterates that the situation of East Jerusalem residents is unlike that of any other permanent resident of Israel, as the area in question was annexed by Israel and its inhabitants were compelled to become permanent residents. They are an indigenous population and their status must not be subject to expiration or to revocation (due to allegations of breach of allegiance or otherwise), and their expulsion from their homeland following a forced change in their status is entirely wrongful.



# The Right to Freedom of Movement

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In 2024, HaMoked provided assistance to 239 beneficiaries to realize their right to freedom of movement. This included cases of farmers barred from accessing their lands in the Seam Zone, travel within the occupied Palestinian territories and abroad, and preventing forcible transfer to Gaza. We also advanced principled cases including challenging restrictions at checkpoints around Jerusalem and allowing the sick and injured to leave Gaza for medical treatment abroad.



# The Right to Freedom of Movement

## The Separation Wall

In the West Bank, **Palestinians remain unable to cross the Separation Wall to reach farmlands in the “Seam Zone.”** The agricultural gates and seasonal gates were completely closed following October 7, despite the need of thousands of farmers to harvest olive trees in the fall of 2023. Those who live in the Seam Zone are also subject to enhanced restrictions regarding crossing the Separation Wall.

In 2024, HaMoked represented 91 individuals trying to gain access to the Seam Zone, either for farming, for business, or because they live there. Of these, 28 were resolved successfully, while 45 are still ongoing. HaMoked also advanced principled petitions against the closure of the Seam Zone.

In May, with farmers denied access to the Seam Zone for over eight months, HaMoked filed a new petition demanding that all the Separation Wall gates be re-opened. In response to the petition, the military announced the re-opening of five gates in the northern West Bank and the granting of special permits to 919 farmers with greenhouses and vegetables so they can access their lands and cultivate their crops. Our petition is still pending, and we are demanding a hearing.

In October, our petition on behalf of merchants in the Seam Zone was closed successfully, with the wide restrictions removed.



## 2024 olive harvest

In July, out of concern that farmers with lands in the Seam Zone would lose out on olive harvesting for the second year in a row, HaMoked wrote to the military demanding that they make all the necessary preparations in advance of the olive harvest to allow Palestinians to harvest their crops. It was soon evident that the state intended to only allow an extremely limited olive harvest. As the 2024 harvest came and went, most Palestinian farmers were still unable to harvest in their lands beyond the illegal Separation Wall. The state limited access by greatly restricting the number of permits, the number of gates open, and the quotas on entry through each gate.

During the olive harvest, we conducted a series of briefings and sent updates to the diplomatic community, to keep them apprised of the situation and the ways that Palestinian farmers were being kept from their lands. In October, *Haaretz* published an article on the olive harvest which highlighted our work on the Seam Zone.

# The Right to Freedom of Movement

## Freedom of movement in East Jerusalem

### *Re-opening the Shu'fat refugee camp checkpoint*

In December 2023, HaMoked and ACRI petitioned the HCJ to allow all Palestinians who live in East Jerusalem by virtue of stay permits issued pursuant to the family-unification procedure to enter the city via the Shu'fat refugee camp checkpoint. After October 2023, police officers operating the checkpoint prevented the passage into Jerusalem of some 300 oPt residents who live with their Israeli-resident spouses and families in the refugee camp and the adjacent Jerusalem neighborhoods.

The petition described the difficulties faced by the individual petitioners, among them those who work outside of the neighborhoods and those who were forced to make their way to the rest of Jerusalem via circuitous routes and had to rely on the kindness of car owners for lifts or pay for expensive taxi rides.

In January 2024, the State responded that the West Bank closure did allow for exceptions for oPt residents with stay permits issued pursuant to the family unification procedure. However, the State admitted the police officers staffing the checkpoint were not implementing the exception. The State informed that this had been corrected on December 12, 2023 (i.e., a day after the petition was filed). The petition was deleted on January 8, 2024, after the petitioners verified that passage at the checkpoint was indeed again allowed for family unification permit holders.

### *Challenging the near-complete closure of the Qalandia checkpoint*

In November 2023, HaMoked, ACRI, and Ir Amim petitioned the HCJ, demanding a return to normal operation at the Qalandia checkpoint, the principle artery through which the inhabitants of Kufr Aqab — a Jerusalem neighborhood the lies beyond the Wall — can reach the rest of the city. Beginning in October 2023, the checkpoint's operation was highly restricted, leaving Kufr Aqab residents under a near-complete closure. In the petition, we clarified that the consequent disruption to the residents' daily lives was severe and disproportionate and could not be justified by Israel's prevailing security needs.

In February 2024, the State responded, asserting that soon the checkpoint would be fully operational. However, HaMoked continued to monitor the situation — and as of the end of 2024, the checkpoint is still not operating normally. Freedom of movement remains overly restricted, especially given that ever since October 7, the military has imposed a checkpoint near the West Bank town of Jaba', leaving Qalandia as the only entry point to Jerusalem for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. For those crossing through Qalandia, it can take upwards of three hours to pass into Jerusalem.

This petition is ongoing. We will continue our efforts until the Qalandia checkpoint resumes full operation.

# The Right to Freedom of Movement

## Exit from the occupied Palestinian territories

HaMoked assisted 50 Palestinians to contest bans on travel abroad. Half of these cases were resolved successfully.

We provided assistance to 10 students banned from leaving the West Bank who wanted to return to their universities abroad. Five of these were medical students, and one was a dental student. Out of these 10 cases, we succeeded in helping 5 students return to their studies.

## Helping a medical student return to his studies in Egypt

HaMoked assisted a 21-year-old West Bank resident who was resuming his studies as a medical student in Egypt. He was refused passage through Allenby Bridge. When we challenged this refusal, we were told there was no security preclusion for him to exit the area. When he re-attempted entering Jordan on his way to Egypt, he was again denied crossing. HaMoked took his case to the Jerusalem District Court. There, we received an answer that his security preclusion had been removed. The judge ordered the State to pay HaMoked 1,500 shekels for the State's misconduct, in addition to covering our legal costs. The medical student managed, on his third try, to return to his medical studies, without ever receiving reasons for his past refusals.

## Preventing forcible transfer of Palestinians to Gaza

Thousands of Palestinians originally from Gaza live in the West Bank as “illegal aliens,” as Israel refuses to change their address from Gaza to the West Bank. In addition, hundreds of Gazans whose work permits in Israel were canceled on October 7, 2023, found refuge in the West Bank. This entire population is at risk of detention and forcible transfer to Gaza.

Over the course of the year, HaMoked assisted 10 Palestinians contesting their forcible transfer from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip amidst the ongoing war. This included several people denied while trying to exit the West Bank to travel abroad. In each of the petitions against the forcible transfer from the West Bank to Gaza, HaMoked raised two principled issues:

1. Under the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority has authority to change Palestinians' addresses from Gaza to the West Bank. Gazans are considered “illegal aliens” in the West Bank only because Israel has refused to recognize these address changes;
2. The international legal obligation of non-refoulement prohibits returning a person to a place where they will be in danger. This principle should apply to the Gaza Strip during the war.

Israeli courts hearing our forcible transfer cases did not accept either of these principled arguments. However, we successfully prevented transfer in six individual cases.

# The Right to Freedom of Movement

## Gazan man denied exit to Tunisia to join his hospitalized wife and daughter

In February 2024, HaMoked filed a petition to stop the removal to Gaza of a Gaza resident and to allow his travel abroad. Israeli authorities detained the man while on his way to Tunisia, where his wife and critically injured daughter were hospitalized. The man had legally entered Israel on October 3, 2023. On October 7, his permit was revoked, as were all entry permits issued to Gazans. He therefore sought refuge in the West Bank. On November 1, 2023, his home in Gaza was bombarded by the Israeli military. As a result, seven of his children were killed, and his wife and only remaining child were severely injured and evacuated for treatment in Tunisia.

While attempting to travel to Tunisia via Jordan, the man was arrested by the Israeli military. HaMoked contacted the Anatot detention facility and demanded that he be allowed to consult with a lawyer. We also contacted the Military Legal Advisor for the West Bank in a bid to postpone his removal — and, receiving no response, filed a petition. Only following the petition did the Jerusalem Attorney's Office notify that the man would be allowed to leave via the Allenby Bridge crossing. He travelled to Tunisia in February 2024 and reunited with his wife and daughter.

## Evacuating Palestinians from Gaza

In 2024, HaMoked assisted 23 Palestinians to exit from war-torn Gaza and enter Israel. Additionally, we participated in a principled case to demand exit from Gaza of the sick and wounded.

In June 2024, HaMoked, PHR-Israel, and Gisha filed an urgent petition to the HCJ to compel the State to swiftly **establish a mechanism for evacuating injured and sick Palestinians from Gaza** to Israel and the West Bank, to receive treatment unobtainable in Gaza. According to estimates, there were some 14,000 people in Gaza who required speedy evacuation, and the numbers were growing daily.

We stressed that at stake were the lives of many Palestinians in Gaza who were in life-threatening situations due to illnesses and injuries. We also noted that the civilian infrastructure of Gaza had collapsed, including the health system. As of May 2024, Israel effectively controlled most of Gaza, including all border crossings, and since that date had all but prevented the exit of sick and wounded Gazans. We clarified that even during war there is a basic humanitarian obligation to protect the health and lives of Gazans who are not involved in the hostilities, and that Israel must abide by international law and the case law of the HCJ, including regarding the obligation to save lives.

A hearing was held in July. The State updated about its ongoing refusal to allow sick and wounded Gazans to enter Israel or East Jerusalem or travel via Israel to the West Bank. The State informed of attempts to establish a mechanism to transfer sick and wounded Gazans to third countries. The State promised to submit an additional update regarding the mechanism — but delayed for months. In November, we asked the Court to order the State to respond to all demands raised in the petition, and the Court issued an order nisi. In December, the State submitted to the Court a secret file containing information regarding a phased process for evacuations of sick and wounded to third countries. The petition is still pending.

# Punitive Home Demolitions

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Israel has a long-standing policy of demolishing the family homes of Palestinians who carry out lethal attacks on Israeli civilians or soldiers. HaMoked has filed hundreds of objections and High Court petitions over the years in an effort to prevent this form of collective punishment, which contravenes fundamental human rights and international law. In 2024, we assisted 23 families in contesting punitive home demolition orders.



# Punitive Home Demolitions

## An alarming expansion of the punitive home demolition policy

In March 2024, the HCJ approved the punitive demolition of an apartment in East Jerusalem. This was the home of the parents and siblings of a 17-year-old who opened fire on a police station in October 2023, wounding two police officers. The military had issued a demolition order of the family's Beit Hanina apartment. The military rejected HaMoked's objection to the order, and the family petitioned the HCJ.

The petition stated that the punitive demolition of a home was prohibited under international law and constituted forbidden collective punishment of innocent people. It also pointed out that this measure had never been proven to achieve deterrence (which Israel claims is its sole purpose), and that it would in this case constitute an expansion of the punitive demolition policy, given that the attack caused no fatalities.

The HCJ approved the demolition order — in deviation from the case law on the punitive demolition of homes, relying on information presented ex parte, citing the realities created by the war, and repeating the unproven recurring claim that the demolition was necessary for deterrence. In the dissent, Justice Amit stated that the punitive order was disproportionate. The family's home was demolished in April 2024.



## A home demolition in contravention of international law and Israeli jurisprudence

In November 2023, a shooting attack resulted in the death of an Israeli soldier. It was not until November 2024 that the military notified the relatives of one of the alleged perpetrators of its intention to demolish their home. The accused had already been killed by Israeli security forces back in May, leaving only his mother, father, and brothers living in the house slated for demolition.

After the military rejected HaMoked's objection to the order, we filed a petition to the High Court. Relying on past jurisprudence of the Court, we argued that the demolition has to be done promptly so as to have a deterrent, rather than punitive, effect. In this case, the year-plus delay was far from prompt. Our petition was rejected, and no further remedies were available to the family to contest the order. Their home was demolished in January 2025.

# HaMoked at a glance

HaMoked is a human rights organization founded in 1988 by Israeli volunteers concerned about Israel's violent suppression of the First Intifada. Today, HaMoked has a professional staff of 27 Israelis and Palestinians. Our priority areas include freedom of movement, residency rights (particularly in East Jerusalem), detainee and prisoner rights, and combatting collective punishment. Providing individual legal aid free-of-charge, and conducting strategic litigation to change policy and better protect rights, HaMoked is funded entirely by institutions and individuals in Europe, North America, Australia, and Israel committed to universal human rights principles.

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***HaMoked thanks its hundreds of individual donors, both in Israel-Palestine and around the world.***

We also gratefully acknowledge the support we received from the following institutions:

Catholic Relief Services  
KAIROS Canada  
Medico International  
Misereor  
Moriah Fund  
Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation  
Embassy of the Netherlands in Israel  
New Israel Fund  
Embassy of Norway in Tel Aviv  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
Presbyterian World Mission  
Spanish International Development Cooperation  
UNICEF  
United Methodist Committee on Relief

# Finances

Expenses	Amount (ILS)
Personnel	5,062,000
Information dissemination and IT	536,000
Court fees and other legal costs	437,000
Administrative costs and overhead	868,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,903,000</b>

Income	Amount (ILS)
Grants from institutional donors	5,833,000
Private and small donations	981,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,814,000</b>

\*Figures are not final. A complete audited financial report will be available in the second half of 2025.



**המוקד להגנת הפרט**

**CENTER FOR  
THE DEFENCE OF  
THE INDIVIDUAL**

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# Help us continue our vital work

All our services are provided free of charge. Our work is funded entirely by individuals and institutions in Israel and around the world who share our commitment to universal human rights.

**SUPPORT HAMOKED**

Your donation enables HaMoked to continue our vital work of defending Palestinian human rights.



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