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The State of Israel
The Ministry of Defense

Coordinator of Activities in the Territories
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20 Sivan 5770
2 June 2010

HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual - Att. Ido Bloom

**Re: Adm. Pet. 2955/02/10 - HaMoked - Center for the Defence of the Individual
v. the Coordinator of Government Operations in the Territories – reply to a
petition under the Freedom of Information Act**

Ref.: your letter dated 31 May 2009

Introduction:

1. In your referenced letter, as well as the petition referred to in the title, the Coordinator of Government Activities (COGAT) in the Territories was requested to provide various statistics on the presence (and removal) of residents of the Gaza Strip from the Judea and Samaria Region (hereinafter: also the Region).
2. Most of the requested information is provided in this document. Firstly, we wish to clarify that most of the statistics detailed hereinafter, are based on the information available in our computer system. Therefore, for technical and other limitations a discrepancy may occur between the statistics provided and the statistics in actuality. Here are the following.

The statistics:

3. An examination of our computer records indicates that within the "**safe passage**" framework, **7919** residents of the Gaza Strip entered the Region and remain in Judea and Samaria to date. These statistics are derived from a query run according to the following parameters:

- a. The registered address of the resident is currently the Gaza Strip, its cities and districts all included.
 - b. There is a record indicating an exit from the Gaza Strip or an entry to Judea and Samaria in the crossings system, marked as a "safe passage" type.
 - c. There is no indication of an exit from Judea and Samaria through any of the computerized border crossings or the "Allenby Bridge" border crossing, or an exit to the Gaza Strip through the "Erez" crossing.
 - d. The resident is in active status (i.e., is not deceased and has not received permanent residency in Israel)
4. We would like to stress that, to the best of our knowledge; this information does not reliably reflect reality, for several reasons: Firstly, at the time, the computer system was not utilized comprehensively. This means not every person passing through a computer-run crossing was registered upon passage. Secondly, in some instances only a single direction of passage was recorded. This means it is quite possible that a resident of the Territories, registered on entering Judea and Samaria, subsequently returned to the Gaza Strip, without the passage being recorded. Fourthly, it may be that some residents of Gaza entered Judea and Samaria through the Allenby Bridge and are not included in the data above. Lastly, it is possible that some of the aforementioned residents have left the Region, through the Allenby Bridge, using foreign travel documents (a Jordanian Passport or a *laissez passer*) and this exit was not recorded in the systems available to the military commander.
 5. Our experience through the years indicates that, at times, the statistics of the international crossing system, in particular those received from the Allenby Bridge, are inaccurate due to lack of diligence in the registration of the passages and/or a lack of full correlation between the Ministry of Interior "Rotem" border control system and those of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories.
 6. An additional fact that results in the inaccuracies of the data above, is that in the year 2000 Palestinian police officers and members of the Palestinian security forces were given the possibility of passing from Judea and Samaria to the Gaza Strip and vice versa, on the basis of lists rather than permits. These lists were not automated and as since then a decade has passed, they are no longer in our possession.
 7. It shall be noted that with regards to an individual person, it is possible to determine all his movements following thorough research, but not in a comprehensive manner regarding all residents of Judea and Samaria or the Gaza Region as requested in the petition.
 8. Therefore, the data detailed above, is, to understate, inaccurate. In view of the characteristics and the partial application of the computer system at the time, it can be assumed that in actual fact, the data is thus considerably different. Let it be stressed, that COGAT officials are not able to estimate whether the numbers of residents of the Gaza Strip who have entered the Region in the framework of the "safe passage" are larger or smaller in relation to the above

supplied data and any comment on this issue should be considered an uneducated guess.

9. Furthermore, **up until the end of 2000**, approximately **935** residents of the Gaza Strip traveled to Judea and Samaria using **individual permits to enter and remain in the Judea and Samaria Region**. These residents, according to the examination, still remain in the Region.
10. **From the end of 2000 and up to April 2010**, ca. **23,348** residents of the Gaza Strip traveled from the Gaza strip to Judea and Samaria, using **individual permits to enter and remain in the Judea and Samaria Region**, and are present in the Region to date. These statistics are derived from a query run on the basis of the following parameters:
 - a. The registered address of the resident is currently the Gaza Strip, its cities and districts all included.
 - b. The resident was issued a permit for the destination of "the Judea and Samaria Region".
 - c. The permit was utilized, i.e. there is a record indicating an exit from the Gaza Strip through the "Erez" crossing.
 - d. There is no indication of an exit from Judea and Samaria through any of the computerized border crossings or the "Allenby Bridge" border crossing, or an exit to the Gaza Strip through the "Erez" crossing.
 - e. That resident is in active status (i.e., is not deceased and has not received permanent residency in Israel)
11. We will clarify that with regard to the reliability of this information as well, there are several reservations. Similarly to the data above, this item does not include residents of the Gaza Strip who left Judea and Samaria through the "Allenby Bridge" and are not currently present in the Region.
12. The statistics regarding the removal of residents of the Gaza Strip from Judea and Samaria are detailed in the attached chart. Also, as requested, the relevant procedure according to which the authorized officials operate will be delivered soon.
13. We will add that our examination shows that **2,479 Palestinians who were born in Judea and Samaria are registered as residents of the Gaza Strip**. We wish to stress, that it is not possible to ascertain how many of the aforementioned residents are in fact present in Judea and Samaria, and some possibly returned with their family to the Gaza Strip after their birth.
14. Finally we will note, that between the year 2002 and May 2010, in ca. 388 cases approval was given for residents of Gaza to settle in Judea and Samaria and change their registered address. Similarly, ca. 629 requests of residents of Judea and Samaria to change their registered address to the Gaza Strip were approved. We note, we do not possess all of the requests submitted, as this information is not kept in the archives of the COGAT and the Civil Administration.
15. At your request,

16. With regards,

Uri Mendes, Colonel
Division Head, Coordination and Operations Directorate
Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories

	Total number of persons removed from Judea and Samaria to the Gaza Strip	Number of persons removed from Judea and Samaria to the Gaza Strip prior to the outbreak of violence	Number of removed persons who remained for ten years and upwards in Judea and Samaria prior to their removal to the Gaza Strip	Number of removed persons who remained for five years and upwards in Judea and Samaria prior to their removal to the Gaza Strip	Number of removed persons issued a deportation order
2004	4	3	0	0	0
2005	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
2006	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
2007	5	1	0	1	0
2008	48	5		7	0
2009	32	2	2*	2	4
2010	5	0	0	0	0

*Note, that the two removed persons who entered Judea and Samaria prior to the outbreak of violence in the year 2000, are the same ones who had remained in the Judea and Samaria Region for more than ten years prior to their removal.