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The State of Israel

Ministry of defense

Office of the Spokesman Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories

20th of Sivan, 5772

10th of June, 2012

Ref.: Gen - 112733

To:

Ido Bloom, Adv.

HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual

Re: Response to your application under the Freedom of Information Act on the issue of deportation and revocation of residency in the Judea and Samaria Area and in the Gaza Strip

- 1) In your application under the Freedom of Information Act, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories was requested to provide information, documents and figures on the issue of deportation and revocation of residency in the Judea and Samaria Area and in the Gaza Strip.
- 2) Our response to the questions and requests raised in your application is as follows.
- 3) Concerning the information sought in sections 1(a) (b) and (c) of the application, we note that the policy on the Gaza Strip is similar overall to the policy and procedures in Judea and Samaria, as were extensively detailed in the response to

you application, issued by the Consulting Officer of the Population Registry Department at the Office of the Legal Advisor for the Judea and Samaria Area, on March 30, 2011, attached hereto as **annex a**. Until 1994, the status was assigned to residents who for seven years had broken contact with the Area or an Israeli diplomatic mission, namely, transferred their center of life from the Area abroad.

- 4) We clarify that since the day of transfer of the population registration records to the Palestinian Authority in 1994, in conjunction with the transfer of the civil powers, no Palestinian resident's status has been changed in the population registry held by the Israeli side.
- 5) Concerning the information sought in section 2(a) of the application, the number of Gaza Strip residents who have ever been assigned the status of "ceased residency" in the population registry is about 106,282.
- 6) Concerning the information sought in section 2(b) of the application, it should be clarified that Gaza Strip residents who were held in detention or incarceration of some form had not attended the censuses, and so, upon their return or release their status was switched back to that of active residents. Therefore, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories is unable to produce this information, as this requires an individual check for each resident whose status was changed to "ceased residency" and who was later given back his residency, which requires the allocation of significant time and manpower resources.
- 7) Considering the information sought in section 2(c) of the application, the criteria for changing a resident's status to that of "ceased residency" is as aforementioned – a center of life transfer by non attendance at a census or departure from the Area for over seven years. Accordingly, the last time a resident became a "ceased resident" was in 1994, with the transfer of the registry to the Palestinian authority following the interim agreements.
- 8) Concerning the information sought in section 3(a) of the application, the number of Gaza Strip residents who switched back from the status of "ceased residency" to active status is 2,296. This figure reflects the number of residents who had ceased being residents and became active once more under the same identity card number. There are an unknown number of residents who had ceased being residents and become active once more with a new identity card number.
- 9) Concerning the information sought in section 3(b) of the application, it should be clarified that given the fact that there were several avenues by which a Palestinian

resident could have regained his identity card, and returned to active status, it is impossible to detail the precise reason due to which the status was restored to the resident, as this entails an unreasonable and unfeasible allocation of resources. The complete information should be available with the Palestinian Authority.

10) Concerning the information sought in sections 4(a) and (b) of the application, the number of Gaza Strip residents who are assigned the status of ceased residency as of January 29, 2012, is 106,582 per the following breakdown:

- a) 44,730 – transfer of center of life.
- b) 54,603 – did not attend the 1981 census.
- c) 7,249 – did not attend the 1988 census.

However, of those, some have received over the years a new identity card in the Area as stated and we have no way of knowing if at the same time, they are labeled under "ceased residency". Furthermore, some may no longer be alive, given that a person who ceased being a resident is not updated in the death records, and we add as a footnote that of the residents labeled under the "ceased residency" status around 15,000 are above the age of 90.

11) Concerning the information sought in section 4(c) of the application, we have no knowledge of anyone under the "ceased residency" status who is currently in detention or incarceration of any form. It should be noted that the military commander has no database in which to query this data.

12) Concerning the information sought in section 4(c) of the application, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories has no information on the subject.

13) At your request.

14) Respectfully,

Guy Inbar, Major
Spokesperson of the Office for
Coordination of Government
Activities in the Territories