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To:
Brigadier General Golan Maimon

Chief of Military Police
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Tel Hashomer
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By Registered Mail and

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Urgent!



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القدس ٩٧٢٠٠
هاتف. ٦٢٨٣٥٥٥. ٠٢.
فاكس. ٦٢٧٦٣١٧. ٠٢.

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Dear Sir,

Re: **The Detention Control Center's refusal to locate detainees from the Gaza Strip**

1. As part of its activity, HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual (hereinafter: **HaMoked**), protects the rights of Palestinian detainees held in Israel. Among its other activities, HaMoked assists detainees' families to locate the place of detention of their loved ones by the regular submission of inquiries to the detention control center at the Chief Military Police Officer's Headquarter (MEKAMTZAR).
2. During the fighting taking place in Gaza, hundreds of Gaza residents have been detained and transferred to Israel. Despite the state of chaos which currently exists in Gaza, which makes it very difficult for the families to ascertain whether any of their loved ones was detained, or alternatively, killed or escaped, HaMoked was requested to locate two brothers from the village of Khuza'a near Khan Yunis: Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Khalit a-Qadih and Mr. Amad Ibrahim Khalit a-Qadih.
3. On Friday, July 25, 2014, around noon time, HaMoked contacted urgently the detention control center, and provided a soldier with the details of the two detainees (full name, place of residence). In a telephone conversation it was clarified, that this was an urgent request, in view of the difficult situation which existed in the area.
4. However, the manner by which the request was handled was outrageous; at first it was claimed that detainees could not be located unless their ID numbers were provided. Thereafter it was stated that a request may not be

processed unless submitted in writing, and that the control center did not have an obligation to locate Gazan detainees. The explanations concerning the severity of the situation and the difficulties experienced by the family members and human rights organizations which assist the detainees, were to no avail. Attempts to speak with the officer in charge of the control center were unsuccessful. Eventually, HaMoked's request remained unanswered.

5. It should be noted that the two brothers were released from detention yesterday evening – which means that they were held in detention for 48 hours in an unknown place, without anyone being aware of their incarceration, in a manner which completely contradicts applicable law.
6. **This state of affairs is unacceptable.** It is inconceivable that the detention control center, which according to repeated judgments of the High Court of Justice, is responsible for the provision of information concerning all Palestinian detainees held in Israel, disavows its responsibilities when it is mostly needed – in a state of fighting in which people are seized and taken to Israel without the knowledge of their families. The law does not cease to apply in times of fighting, and nothing much should be added on this issue.
7. In view of the above, we demand that the **detention control center responds pertinently to the requests which will be submitted to it for the location of detainees from Gaza,** taking into consideration the limitations which arise from the state of fighting (which makes it difficult to provide information such as ID numbers or place of detention, etc.). Future refusal to handle requests will necessarily result in the initiation of legal proceedings.

Sincerely,
Daniel Shenhar,
Advocate

CC:

Advocate Osnat Mandel, Head of HCJ Division, by fax: 02-6467011

Lieutenant Colonel Boaz Meizel, Head of Detention Branch, by fax: 03-7376299