

Date: October 5, 2014
Our ref: 31250

For the attention of
Captain Eliran Sasson
Public Liaison Officer
Civil Administration

By fax: 02-9977341



Dear Sir,

Regarding: Response of the Civil Administration to our communications regarding arbitrary blanket ban imposed on foreign travel via Allenby Bridge by many West Bank residents Your letter 31054 dated October 1, 2014

1. We have received your letter in reference and have found it rather disconcerting.
2. From June to August 2014, HaMoked received many calls from Palestinian residents of the West Bank who live abroad and whose exit abroad was prevented by Israel for about two months. At the end of the two months, they were able to travel abroad as if the travel ban had never existed.
3. On August 19, 2014, [Israeli daily newspaper] Haaretz reported that a blanket ban on foreign travel had been placed on West Bank residents, and that Israeli sources had said this was a new list of at least 27,000 individuals who were denied exit. Haaretz further reported that officials in the office of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories told Ms. Hanna Barag, a member of MACHSOMWATCH, that the blanket ban would be lifted.
4. On August 24, 2014, Lieut. Col. Wisam Hamed, Operations Department Branch Head at the Civil Administration, told the undersigned that 30,000 West Bank residents had been placed under an exit ban and that the ban had recently been lifted.
5. Your letter in reference, particularly paragraph 3b therein, negates all of this information, of which you had been made aware some time ago – none of it ever happened.
6. According to your letter, the exit bans were placed on an individual basis. A simple calculation shows that if you had put even five minutes into examining the matter of each and every one of these newly precluded from travel individuals, it would have taken you 104 days, working around the clock, to accomplish the task. Based on an eight-hour work day, it would have taken 312.5 days. Really?

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Sincerely,

Dalia Kerstein
Executive Director

cc: Brig. Gen. David Menachem, Civil Administration Head
Lieut. Col. Wisam Hamed, Operations Department Branch Head, Civil
Administration
Adv. Nitzan Ilani