

Roni Mikel Arieli (The International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem)

CYCLES OF INCARCERATION FROM A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP TO A BRITISH COLONIAL INTERNMENT CAMP

This paper is part of a larger project exploring the transnational history and memory of the Jewish deportation to Mauritius during World War II. In November 1940, three ships arrived in Palestine, carrying 3,500 illegal Jewish immigrants escaping Nazi controlled Europe. Upon their arrival, 1,580 of the refugees were forcibly deported by the British authorities to a remote colony in the Indian Ocean. After traveling in overcrowded ships for seventeen days, the refugees arrived at Port Louise, the capital of Mauritius, and were later transferred to the Central Prison of Beau Bassin. There, behind iron gates, they were imprisoned for four years and seven months under strict conditions. Among the deportees was a group of 100 Austrian and German refugees, who were imprisoned in Dachau after the Kristallnacht and were released by the Nazis immediately before the voyage on the undertaking that they would leave the Reich at once. Through focusing on this unique group of people and their ongoing experiences of incarceration, this paper seeks to point to the colonial violence inherent in acts of incarceration, and to shed light on an arc of Jewish experiences of incarceration during the war period, by contemplating the transition from the Nazi concentration camp into the British colonial detention camp.

Dr. **Roni Mikel Arieli** is a cultural historian, interested in the intersections between Holocaust memory, contemporary Jewish history, and human rights. She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, working on her research project "Jewish Deportees in Mauritius (1940-1945): A History from the Margins." She holds a PhD in Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), written under the supervision of Professor Louise Bethlehem and Professor Amos Goldberg. Her first authored book, titled *Remembering the Holocaust in a Racial State: Holocaust Memory in South Africa from Apartheid to Democracy (1948-1994)* will be published in 2021 in De Gruyter series "New Perspectives on Modern Jewish History."