Annual Report

REGAVIM Tu B'Shvat 5779

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Chezi Eyal | Field Operations – North













Att. Boaz Arzi



Levona Caspi Office Manager





A Few Words from the Director

Dear Friends, Shalom!

I am pleased and proud to share Regavim's 2018 Annual Report. As in the past, we present this report just before Tu B'Shvat, the day on which we celebrate the Land of Israel. The proximity of this auspicious date to the end of the fiscal year presents us with a unique opportunity to take stock of our activities.

The Annual Report offers a taste of the central items on Regavim's 2018 agenda, presenting our activities through the prism of strategic, rather than tactical, progress. We have attempted to present a sample of our fieldwork as well as our legal, policy and lobbying, and media efforts.

Like a plow that creates furrows in the earth that are long and deep, we at Regavim invest a tremendous amount of thought and energy in groundwork that will eventually bear fruit. At times, our efforts involve short but intensive bursts of activity that yield immediate results; other times, our goals can only be achieved through deliberate, in-depth work that is almost imperceptible on the surface but is crucial to the final product, which takes time to grow and develop at its own pace.

Like the farmer working the field, every so often we allow ourselves the luxury of straightening up from the plow and wiping the sweat from our brow, while casting a glance back over our shoulder at the long, hard row that has been plowed and taking pride and pleasure in a job well done. Our Annual Report allows us to assess our progress, and then to turn, once again, to face the horizon that stretches out ahead, to regroup, and to set our sights on the tasks still not completed.

This stock-taking helps us focus on the many positive changes that occurred over the course of the year - in the fight to protect Israel's land resources, in the battle for implementation of a Jewish, Zionist land-use policy in the State of Israel, in the struggle to protect Israel's environment and natural resources, and in the fight against selective, prejudicial law enforcement. Some of these positive changes bear our clear and unmistakable signature; others are the result of our behind-the-scenes efforts. Nonetheless, our successes have not lulled us into complacency about the many challenges that lie ahead.

Without your support, and the support of other dear friends like you, we would be unable to continue our mission, and the end-of-year report gives us an opportunity to express our gratitude to those who have made this year's progress possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that after many years of intensive work at Reqavim, I have accepted a new and challenging role as Director General of the Binyamin Regional Council. I take leave of Regavim, which has been my second home for over a decade, gratified by the knowledge that I am entrusting the organization and its vital mission in capable hands. Meir Deutsch. who has been at my side since Regavim's first steps, will take the helm, and I hope and pray that he will enjoy continued success.

Together, with God's help, we will continue to invest all our energies and talents in the Zionist objectives of protecting the Land and People of Israel. I thank you for your support and partnership every step of the way.

> Yehuda Eliyah Director General





KEY ACHIEVMENTS - 2019

Khan al Ahmar: No More Excuses!

Khan al Ahmar is an illegal outpost, located on a strategic point that creates a band of Palestinian-controlled territory stretching between Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Jericho. Khan al Ahmar is the flagship of the Fayyad Plan, the Palestinian Authority's blueprint for unilateral creation of a Palestinian State in Area C.

For a decade, Regavim has led the legal battle for Khan al Ahmar in Israel's High Court of Justice, leading to the Supreme Court's recent precedent-setting decision allowing the State to enforce the law at this crucial site. After the Ministry of Defense completed the necessary preparations for relocation of the outpost's residents, Prime Minister Netanyahu postponed the demolition of the squatters' camp indefinitely.



Regavim launched a major campaign, aimed at exerting pressure on the Prime Minister. A long list of MKs accepted our invitation to visit the site, where we, together with influential members of the Likud, showed them the facts on the ground.

We publicized explanatory videos, and participated in Knesset committee hearings. Khan al Ahmar will remain high on our agenda for 2019.

Eradicating Polygamy: The Government Takes Responsibility

The practice of polygamy in the Bedouin sector is fueled, for the most part, by the illegal "importation" of women from the Palestinian territories. The principal victims of polygamy are women and children, but the demographic, national, social, and security challenges it brings in its wake are massive and growing problems that the State of Israel has ignored for decades.

Regavim has been sounding the alarm about this phenomenon for years; this past year, at last, our efforts brought about a significant shift in the government's policy. First, we met with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice to discuss the issues; our meetings were followed up with our in-depth research paper on polygamy, which we presented to key decision-makers. At the same time, we exposed the economic



engine that powers the polygamy machine: National Insurance payments that are costing Israeli taxpayers billions.

The Minister of Justice convened a committee that published a detailed report and recommendations for fighting this scourge. We held a series of intensive meetings with the Minister of Justice and the members of the committee, and our input had a major impact on the quality and comprehensiveness of the report's final draft - most important of which was our recommendation to create a new oversight body dedicated specifically to the fight against polygamy. For the first in Israel's history, this newly-



authorities in the Bedouin sector. The directorate, which includes a Regavim representative, has begun its work, and we congratulate Minister of Justice Avelet Shaked and Attorney Emi Palmor, Director General of the Justice Ministry, for this historic step forward.

formed directorate will coordinate among the relevant

Regavim blocks attempts to create legal 'back door' for polygamy



We produced

major research papers

We conducted



informational tours of the Negev, the Galilee, and Judea and Samaria for Members of Knesset, foreign and local correspondents, and public-opinion influencers, including 7 fly-over tours



2018

"Agricultural Annexation" and The PA's Hostile Takeover of Area C

This year, we exposed the PA's systematic program of strategic land seizure in Area C through mass-scale agricultural activity funded by Arab and European countries. Taking advantage of the outmoded system of law in force in Judea and Samaria, the PA has begun to redraw the map and stake Palestinian claims to huge areas under full Israeli jurisdiction.

We began by collecting information and mapping out the data, as the basis of the detailed study of the problem we presented to the Prime Minister, members of the cabinet, ministers and MKs. We then launched a media campaign and conducted fact-finding tours for Members of Knesset to areas of Judea and Samaria endangered by the PA's "Roots Project." At the same time, we filed a number of Supreme Court petitions. Our "Roots of Evil" report has served as the basis for a series of hearings in the Knesset Foreign

Affairs and Defense Committee's subcommittee on Judea and Samaria, under the stewardship of MK Moti Yoqev.

As a result of our intensive efforts, the Ministry of Defense finally acknowledged the problem, and has drafted recommendations to combat this strategic threat.

This coming year, we hope to create a wave of public-opinion pressure that will spur decisionmakers to take action.



Land Regulation in Jerusalem: Practical Unification of Israel's Eternal Capital

Large sections of East Jerusalem have not been brought under normal regulation procedures since the city was reunified in 1967. Consequently, there is no registration of property ownership in these areas, which has resulted in a virtual free-for-all, enabling and even encouraging illegal seizure of state-owned and privately-owned Arab and Jewish property, illegal construction, and unbearable complications for law enforcement.



חמקי "מעיריביטופהסבונ": כך ההפרק עיריית ייושלים. משיר המשפשים ומיתה להתכנו אחודיות מל בעול מיי צרו אינו בעול מי לקרקעת בגורה מעיר ומל את העצירו אחר ליד פא אשים פוציים: 'בציי שכוות'י עבורת בדרך נקומה שאינם כפונים לכלים ציבורים, משרקם הוצעי נביב בפליים וחייבים בפנים לעיריים בעולה ב- בקבות ממצאי התחקיר, החליט מטה הדיור באוצר להפיא את כל ההחלטות הנוגיעות בנושא



In lieu of organized land regulation and registration procedures, the State of Israel instituted "The Mukhtar Procedure," which gives local dignitaries in the Arab

neighborhoods of East Jerusalem authority to determine land ownership in the area. This "procedure" has spawned wide-scale fraud and corruption, expropriation of staggering amounts of property, and massive illegal construction.

Regavim has been working for years, behind-the scenes and in cooperation with other organizations, to abolish the "Mukhtar Procedure" and to compel the State to complete the necessary survey and registration of properties in Jerusalem.

This year, Minister of Justice Ayelet Shaked began the historic process of land registration in East Jerusalem, which is expected to take between 5 and 10 years to complete. Over the past several months, Regavim and other organizations have invested considerable time and effort, meeting with the Justice Minister, the outgoing Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, the Chairman of the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee MK Yoav Kisch, and key figures in the State's Attorney's Office and the Jerusalem Municipality, in a concerted effort to abolish the problematic "Mukhtar Procedure" which is due to remain in force until the registration process is completed.

The Coastal Plain: Saving the Bilu Pioneers' Land

Over the past number of years, in the Gezer Regional Council's jurisdiction (covering Gedera and Rehovot), we began to track large-scale takeovers of state- and privately-owned land, property of the descendants of the Bilu Pioneers who purchased it in the pre-State era. We discovered a pattern, which has been repeated over and over, with catastrophic results: A small portion of agricultural land is purchased, and the surrounding land is simply overtaken illegally, without the consent (and often without the knowledge) of the owners. Compounds are fenced off, and illegal structures spring up almost overnight.

This year, we concentrated our efforts on pressuring the local municipal authorities to take action against the encroachment and illegal construction, and demanded that the illegal businesses operating on these agricultural plots be shuttered.

Through legal correspondence, court petitions, and media exposure, we brought about a shift in policy, and enforcement is gradually reversing the results of years of complacency. Indictments have been handed down against squatters, a number of illegal structures have been demolished, and the first of these illegal compounds has been cleared.





Field Division

Ongoing Enforcement

Each year, we open hundreds of new case files against illegal construction, encroachment on state land and IDF training grounds, illegal roads, quarrying, and more. As a result of our inquiries, Israel's law enforcement bodies have carried out many dozens of enforcement and demolition operations. Sometimes, the threat of a lawsuit is as effective as an actual lawsuit.

The National Infrastructure Corridor

The land adjacent to the Trans-Israel Highway (Route 6) serves as a narrow corridor for all existing and future national infrastructure projects, including railway lines, a natural gas pipeline, high voltage electrical lines, and more. On the land adjacent to Israeli Arab towns along this route, illegal construction is rampant. Without methodical, systematic law enforcement, this crucial corridor will be unusable, and the infrastructure projects so crucial to Israel's development will hit a brick wall – literally and figuratively.

We are currently mapping the illegal construction that is threatening the national infrastructure corridor. At the same time, we have petitioned the authorities and the courts against particularly egregious cases, in an effort to maintain a clear path for Israel's development and growth.

This year, we opened nearly 50 new files on environmental abuse cases: We petitioned against unlicensed, polluting garbage dumps and illegal quarries that are scarring the countryside, water pollution caused by dumping of raw sewage, destruction of the landscape, and more. In some cases, our activity had immediate results; in others, we battle on.

Our research on the illegal automotive scrapyards that are blighting the north of Israel revealed that there is no official government authority responsible for enforcing the law in cases of environmental crime – and the crimes involved are many: Illegal scrapyards are polluting our soil and water, flooding the used-parts market with sub-standard, undocumented merchandise,

and fostering a hotbed of organized crime. Our report on these scrapyards will serve as the basis for continued activism in the Knesset and the courts in 2019. Illegal Automotive Junkyards in the North of Israel

Promoting Implementation of "The Negev Challenge"

Our Comprehensive Report on the Negev was published in 2017; since then, many of the report's recommendations for the reorganization and regulation of illegal Bedouin settlements have been implemented by the Bedouin Authority. In 2018, we focused on specific areas of the Negev in order to jumpstart the regulation progress with incremental successes in two crucial parameters: Evacuation and relocation to legal settlements, such as the cases of Hiran and Al Misk, and accelerating the regulation process as a whole through marketing of residential plots in settlements such as Umm Batin and Al Sayed.



<8> 2018

2018



Judicial Activity

High Court Petition: Abu Basma Municipal Taxes

This year saw a breakthrough in a case we opened back in 2014, aimed at compelling Bedouin municipalities to collect taxes. In a recent Supreme Court hearing, The Ministry of Interior admitted that Regavim's petition is justified: Bedouin municipalities have never collected residential or commercial taxes as required by law. As a result, the court set a timetable for tax assessment and collection in the Bedouin townships; Regavim will continue to monitor and fight for full compliance.

Index of Judicial Parity

This past summer, we published our "Measure for Measure 2018" report, an analysis of the Supreme Court's treatment of petitions submitted by organizations on different sides of Israel's political divide. Spanning eight years of legal activity and analyzing empirical indicators, the report examined over 100 petitions involving illegal construction filed by Regavim, on one hand, and by non-Zionist or anti-Zionist organizations on the other. The report's findings offer empirical, irrefutable proof that Israel's High Court of Justice discriminates against rightwing petitions.





Bir Hadaj

Bir Hadaj is an illegal encampment, home to hundreds of Bedouin families who have been squatting on land owned by the State and by private Jewish owners. Although the State of Israel built a new, legal town for the squatters of Bir Hadaj and offered them unprecedented incentives to relocate, they refuse to clear the area. In 2013, Regavim, together with some of the landowners, petitioned the Supreme Court to have the squatters removed - to no avail. This past year we submitted a follow-up petition reflecting changes that occurred since the court's earlier decision was handed down. At the same time, we focused on creating pinpointed pressure on relevant enforcement bodies: We conducted monthly surveys of illegal construction using aerial photography, filed a civil lawsuit against the local council, and raised the issue in a variety of media outlets.

Our legal team submitted

27 new petitions and managed 17 ongoing petitions

issued 364 pieces of legal correspondence to government, judiciary, and law enforcement agencies

Protecting IDF Training Grounds

The High Court of Justice issued a temporary injunction in a petition we filed as part of our battle against illegal construction on IDF Firing Ground 918 in the southern Hebron Hills. The injunction blocks further work on the smuggler's route between the southern Hebron area and the Arad Valley. On a parallel track, the High Court heard another Regavim petition against massive illegal construction projects on IDF Firing Ground 917.



Policy and Legislation Division

Police Support for Enforcement Procedures

One of the most persistent obstacles to law enforcement in the Arab sector is the issue of police support. Although a number of authorities are responsible for enforcing Israel's building laws, all enforcement activity must be accompanied by a Police Department escort, and the interface between the authorities and the Police Department is the weakest link in the enforcement chain: Each side points to the other, and blame for ineffective enforcement is shifted back and forth while the situation on the ground remains unchanged.

Regavim analyzed this problematic interface and formulated uniform, transparent, and streamlined procedures for organizing and synchronizing requests for police support submitted by the various enforcement bodies. This set of uniform procedures will also enable the Knesset and the aovernment to effectively monitor the Police Department's role in enforcement of Israel's building code.

Over the course of 2018, Regavim collected and processed data from the relevant enforcement bodies. We then initiated a special hearing of the Knesset Interior Affairs Committee, where we exposed the lack of uniformity and transparency plaquing the process of obtaining police support, as well as the impossibility of evaluating the Police Department's effectiveness and efficiency. We proved that the specialized



taskforce for enforcement support (M.A.T.P.A.) is regularly diverted to non-enforcement tasks, in violation of its mandate and the regulations regarding its assignments. To make matters worse, we pointed out that MATPA often cancels scheduled enforcement sweeps without proper authorization. In light of these findings, the Knesset Committee censured the Police Department, warning that if these irregularities are not corrected, monetary sanctions amounting to millions of shekels will be imposed.

Bedouin town of Bir Hadai. crime capital of the Negev



Grazing Areas: Protecting State Land

Cattle and sheep growers who lease grazing land from the State are an essential element in the preservation of Israel's open spaces for future generations. Regavim has taken an active role in promoting legislation that will enable these herders to reside temporarily in grazing areas. In addition, we are taking steps to arrange grazing stipends for Jewish farmers in Judea and Samaria, correcting the discrimination from which they presently suffer.



Camel Law is Ratified

In 2018. The Knesset ratified the Camel Law amendment we proposed in conjunction with MK Betzalel Smotrich.

The new law is expected to restore the rule of law to the Negev and to put an end to the problem of wandering camels on the roads of the Negev that has caused countless fatalities and injuries.

Monitoring the Implementation of Israel's Planning and Building Code

Last year, the Knesset completed the legislative process for the enforcement section of Israel's Building and Planning Law. Regavim played a central role in framing the issues and in the legislative process that addressed those issues. The new Building and Planning Law includes significant improvements in a number of areas: It limits the ability of offenders to manipulate the judicial process to their advantage; it gives inspectors more effective enforcement and deterrence tools, including the ability to impound equipment and to issue administrative orders and steeper fines; it subordinates local planning committees to the National Unit for Oversight of Construction, and more. However, our most recent research revealed that most municipalities fail to report illegal construction and enforcement activity, as the new law requires. In 2019, we will focus public attention on this systemic problem, and present our findings to the Knesset, the government, and the courts, in order to bolster implementation of the new legislation.





Academia

Adam v'Adamah Center

The Adam v'Adamah Center for Zionism, Jurisprudence, and Society, founded by Regavim, promotes the formulation and dissemination of prosettlement legal doctrine among jurists, academics, media and public figures, and the general public.

The Jurists Coalition

In 2018, the Adam v'Adamah Center created a pool of senior jurists and experts in the field of international law. This coalition of experts has begun to publish opinion papers on current events and issues of international law pertaining to Judea and Samaria, Together, we have launched a new legal discourse that promotes fresh, viable Zionist solutions. Among the members of the coalition: Professor Avi Bell, Professor Haim Zandberg, Attorney Dr. Daniel Reiser, Professor Gabriel Halevy, Attorney Dr. Harel Arnon, and Dr. Hagai Vinitzky.

Academic Courses

The Adam v'Adamah Center has continued its successful academic partnerships in a variety of frameworks, including a course on legal issues pertaining to Judea and Samaria in Shaarei Mishpat Academic Center of Law and Science; a seminar, co-chaired with "Legal Grounds," for outstanding students pooled from several leading academic institutions, and a course at Bar Ilan University, "International Law in Judea and Samaria."

Academic Conferences

In the framework of the Annual Conference on Judea and Samaria Studies at Ariel University, Adam v'Adamah hosted a panel on commercial law in Judea and Samaria. The panel received extensive media coverage, and the issues it raised continue to receive serious consideration and widespread attention. The panel members are among the contributors to our forthcoming series of publications on legal aspects of Judea and Samaria, scheduled for publication in the coming months.

Research: Israeli Sovereignty in Judea and Samaria

The Adam v'Adamah Center's ongoing research project on the legal aspects of extending Israeli sovereignty to Judea and Samaria entered the final stages; our findings are scheduled for publication in 2019. The forthcoming volume will include articles by senior academics and jurists who survey the issues and analyze a wide range of aspects and outcomes of sovereignty, including military, economic, demographic and other considerations.



The International Division

Reqavim's International Division translates and adapts our publications for readers abroad, and circulates relevant materials and information to the English-speaking public around the world. This material has become a valued resource for foreignlanguage media outlets, academics, as well as Israeli MKs and ministers who rely on our materials when addressing foreign audiences and visiting dignitaries.

This past year, Regavim's international media presence expanded, with press coverage in major publications including Fox News, The New York Times, The Financial Times, Sky News, the Jewish News Syndicate, YNet News, The Jerusalem Post, The Times of Israel, Israel National News, World Israel News, ILTV, i24News, Kol Yisrael, The Jewish Press, Arutz 7, and other major English language print, online, television, radio, and internet news services. Interviews, op-ed pieces, news items, and analysis prepared by our International Division were widely disseminated, and our own media platforms were followed closely by journalists and opinion-makers worldwide. In-depth interviews, background opinion pieces, and news items on Regavim and our activities appeared in German, Dutch, Austrian, and other European media.

The International Division conducted dozens of fact-finding tours for foreign journalists, researchers, study groups, political activists, as well as staff members of the US Embassy in Israel. These tours allowed us to present Regavim's research and recommendations first-hand, illuminating the challenges and the facts on the ground.

ARUTZ SHEVA 🍞 Regavim: Moment of truth has arrive 1214

2018









אתם חייבים לראות את הכתבה

. בחדשות עבוץ 20 . שמצליחה

erq את המנהל האזרחי 1.4K views - June 7

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1.9K views - June /

3.1K views - June 27



שטות אש 179: הגע למנ

In today's fast-paced marketplace of ideas, "publish or perish" goes far beyond academia. Although much of our activity takes place behind the scenes, and in may cases publicity would torpedo any chance for success, we work very hard to publicize certain aspects of our work as widely as possible – to raise public awareness, create pressure for change, carve out our niche of activism, and gain support. We rely on a range of outlets, including general print and electronic media, sectoral and local publications, and our own social network platforms.

This past year, we generated over 1000 content and news items, in addition to the many hundreds of citations of Regavim and its work in the Israeli and foreign news media.

Due to changes instituted by Facebook this past year, "organic" (unpaid) exposure for organizations was slashed drastically. Nonetheless, Regavim's Facebook pages expanded by more than 10% over the course of 2018, with more than 37,000 active followers who respond, react, and share our posts.

Our real-time updates from the field, from the courthouse, and from the Knesset are seen by millions of viewers world-wide, bringing them into the conversation and encouraging them to take an active role by communicating on-line with legislators and members of the law enforcement and public service communities. Our Facebook page also enables our followers to report illegal construction, environmental abuse, or other illegal activity in their area.

In 2018, we posted over 100 video clips and mini-documentary posts on our core issues, which were viewed almost 1 million times on our Facebook pages alone, with hundreds of thousands of additional views on other media platforms.

Our Twitter presence is growing rapidly, and has become an important channel for updates and online discussion with politicians, media personalities, and the general public. This fast-paced, dynamic, and less-formal platform allows us the flexibility to react to events and opinions quickly - and straight from the hip.



Regavim's Facebook posts were viewed by over 6 million distinct viewers

ור בז כו נהרב: מחדל הבו

and our videos were viewed over



Statistics views on Twitter and thousand of new followers

המדינה החליטה לרחות את פינוי חאו אל-אחמר



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With God's Help and Your Support -We're Changing the Map





Arab settlement in Israel 2018: The new Partition Plan? Regavim • P.O.B. 4439 Jerusalem 9144203 Tel. 02-6560303 • Fax 02-6560363 Office@regavim.org • http://www.regavim.org r www.facebook.com/regavimeng