




Stop the Palestinian Annexation

Action Points in the Battle for Area C



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 ver the past decade, the Palestinian Authority has been conducting a strategic and methodical program of annexation in Area C, in an attempt to create a new reality that will make continued Israeli jurisdiction and settlement in this territory impossible. The tactics employed in this systematic annexation, which is directed, supported and funded by European concerns, include mass-scale construction on vast swaths of land; incentivized relocation of Arab residents of Areas A and B into Area C; creation of physical infrastructure to support a network of illegal outposts (roads, water systems and electricity networks); widespread agricultural work on Israeli state land, absentees' property and IDF firing zones; creation of the Palestinian Land Registry; and destruction of historical and archaeological sites that bear witness to Jewish ties to this territory.

Currently, the Palestinian Authority controls approximately one quarter of Area C: 20% of the territory (some 700,000 dunams) is taken up by Palestinian agricultural projects (20% of it on Israeli state land, absentees' land and IDF firing zones); an additional 2.5% is taken up by illegal construction, and another 2.5% is comprised of extensive areas overtaken through the creation of illegal infrastructure, including thousands of kilometers of illegal roads. In addition, the Palestinian Authority currently has development and construction plans in various stages of execution for an additional 170,000 dunams, nearly 5% of the total area of Area C. When viewed as a whole, these master plans are a clear statement of intent: This massive effort aims to take control of the major traffic arteries serving the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria, to disrupt Israeli territorial contiguity, to surround and isolate Israeli communities, to establish contiguity of Palestinian settlement between Areas A and B and create a land bridge to the 'green line', to annex the Judean Desert, and to lay siege to the Jordan Valley. The demographic shift that will necessarily result from this Palestinian construction surge poses an imminent threat to the Jewish communities in much of Judea and Samaria.

The Palestinian takeover of Area C is progressing at an extraordinary pace, and without proactive and immediate Israeli countermeasures, in only a few years we will face a hostile and irreversible new reality.

In June 2019, Israel's Security Cabinet officially recognized "the battle for Area C" that is being waged against Israel, but in practice has done nothing to fight back. The legislative proposal that follows, formulated by the Regavim Movement and the Shiloh Policy Forum, outlines the tools that will be needed to fight and win this battle.

The Methods

1. **Issue a Policy Directive**, a government decision classifying Palestinian-European annexation of Area C as hostile activity that contravenes the State of Israel's national interests, and as such requires the Israeli government to take action to halt it, to block foreign involvement in illegal activities that conflict with the Israeli national interest, and to restore the situation on the ground and strengthen Israel's position in the open spaces in this region.
2. **Establish a Directorate for Area C** under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office within 120 days, responsible for carrying out the action points enumerated below. Until the Directorate becomes operational, its duties and responsibilities will be carried out by existing authorities.
3. **Convene a Ministerial Committee** for the protection of Israel's national interests in Judea and Samaria, responsible for execution of this plan of action.

Action Points

1. **Formulate a real-time assessment:** Compile a comprehensive intelligence dossier on the Palestinian Authority's activities and the support system that is enabling the annexation of Area C, including detailed information regarding -
 - a. the pace and scope of annexation achieved through each of the current methods (construction, agriculture, infrastructure), comparing the situation in 2010, 2015 and 2020;
 - b. plans for future annexation projects;
 - c. the parties (both Palestinian and foreign) involved in the process of annexation.
2. **Complete the land registration and regulation process:** Conduct a full survey and complete the registration of all land in Judea and Samaria within 5 years. The Civil Administration presented a proposal on this matter to the Minister of Defense over a year ago, but no government decision has been announced to date.
3. **Intensify enforcement:** Create a specialized, dedicated enforcement unit tasked with protecting the territory, based on the "Green Patrol" model; establish a Border Patrol squadron to provide enforcement support; increase the efficiency of enforcement tools; intensify economic sanctions; remove illegal structures built since 2010 and restore illegally-cultivated land to its former condition.
4. **Prevent foreign funding and all forms of foreign intrusion** in support of Palestinian annexation in Area C.
5. **Protect the open spaces** by granting grazing permits and initiating forestation, agricultural and other productive land-use projects.
6. **Conduct a population census** of all residents living in Area C.
7. **Formulate a regional master plan for Area C**, adjusted for projected population growth through the year 2050, and complete the approval process within 3 years.

Palestinian construction (existing and planned) in Area C

