



Partners' Update from Regavim

Election Results Are In: Is what you voted for what you're going to get?

Regavim welcomed the results of Israel's national elections - and called upon our newly-elected coalition: Keep your commitments to the Israeli public, and establish a Zionist, nationalist government!

[Read more about Regavim's policy outline
for the new government](#)

1. שמירת הנגב והגליל
2. יהודה ושומרון
3. משילות וביטחון
4. מערכת המשפט

זה מה שבחרנו.
זה מה שנקבל?

Setting the wheels of justice in motion: Regavim's campaign bears fruit

In the last two months, the Civil Administration has torn down illegal structures at several different sites where Regavim has applied pressure on the authorities to take action: 2 structures on the outskirts of Bethlehem, facing the northern neighborhoods of Efrat; 3 structures in Teqoa at a strategic location between the Jewish communities of Tekoa and Ibei HaNachal; 1 structure adjacent to Kiryat Arba; 3 structures in the Shomron and another 3 in the Binyamin region.

In each of these locations, the active involvement of residents of the Jewish communities, coupled with our intensive cooperation with land-protection officers in the regional councils, was a decisive factor in bringing about enforcement.

[Click here for a taste of recent media reports](#)



Now we're giving them a schooling...

Over the past several years, Regavim has spotlighted the Palestinian Authority's use of schools as a tool to annex territory and gain international support. Our administrative and legal battles against 'weaponized schools' - in Kisan, at the Herodion world heritage site, in the Jordan Valley, in the Makukh Stream Nature Reserve and in the Binyamin region, among others - are ongoing. We are pleased to report that the Israeli government has begun to take notice: A first-of-its-kind demolition of what the Palestinian Authority describes as an active school - a pre-fab unit erected illegally, virtually overnight, only two weeks ago in an IDF Firing Zone in the southern Hebron Hills area - was demolished.

[See press coverage](#)

[Read our full report on the weaponization of schools](#)

[or sample press coverage of the report's findings](#)

On the new Defense Minister's agenda: Repealing the racist law in force in Judea and Samaria

The High Court of Justice rejected Regavim's petition to repeal Jordanian Law #40 which prohibits the sale of property in Judea and Samaria to Jews, on the grounds that "there is no call for intervening in matters of policy." We call this nothing short of enabling antisemitism, and issued a call to the newly-elected government: This is the first test of your mettle. Legislation must correct this appalling discrimination.

[Read more](#)

How electricity is used to advance the Palestinian takeover

Here's a mystery for you: Who is powering - literally - the 81,000 illegal Palestinian structures in Area C? As we discovered, they're not powered by generators of fairy dust. The vast majority are connected to the electricity grid. Some get their power via illegal hook-ups to Israel's electricity system, whereas others are connected - officially, systematically, through standardized connections - via the Jerusalem District Electric Company, a registered Israeli company that buys electricity from the Israel Electric Corporation and provides electricity to illegal structures. Did you catch that? A legally registered Israeli company that is an active agent of the Palestinian Authority, acting in open violation of Israeli law - and costing Israeli taxpayers millions.

[Read the full story](#)

of how Israel is footing the bill for Palestinian independence in an expose’ in Israel Hayom



High Court of Justice sends ‘Peace Now’ packing

The High Court of Justice rejected a “Peace Now” petition arguing that Israel’s land allocation policy in Judea and Samaria is discriminatory and demanding that territory be granted to Palestinians in Efrat. The vast majority of Peace Now’s claims were rejected out of hand, but the case has opened the door to some dangerous precedents.

For media coverage of the case



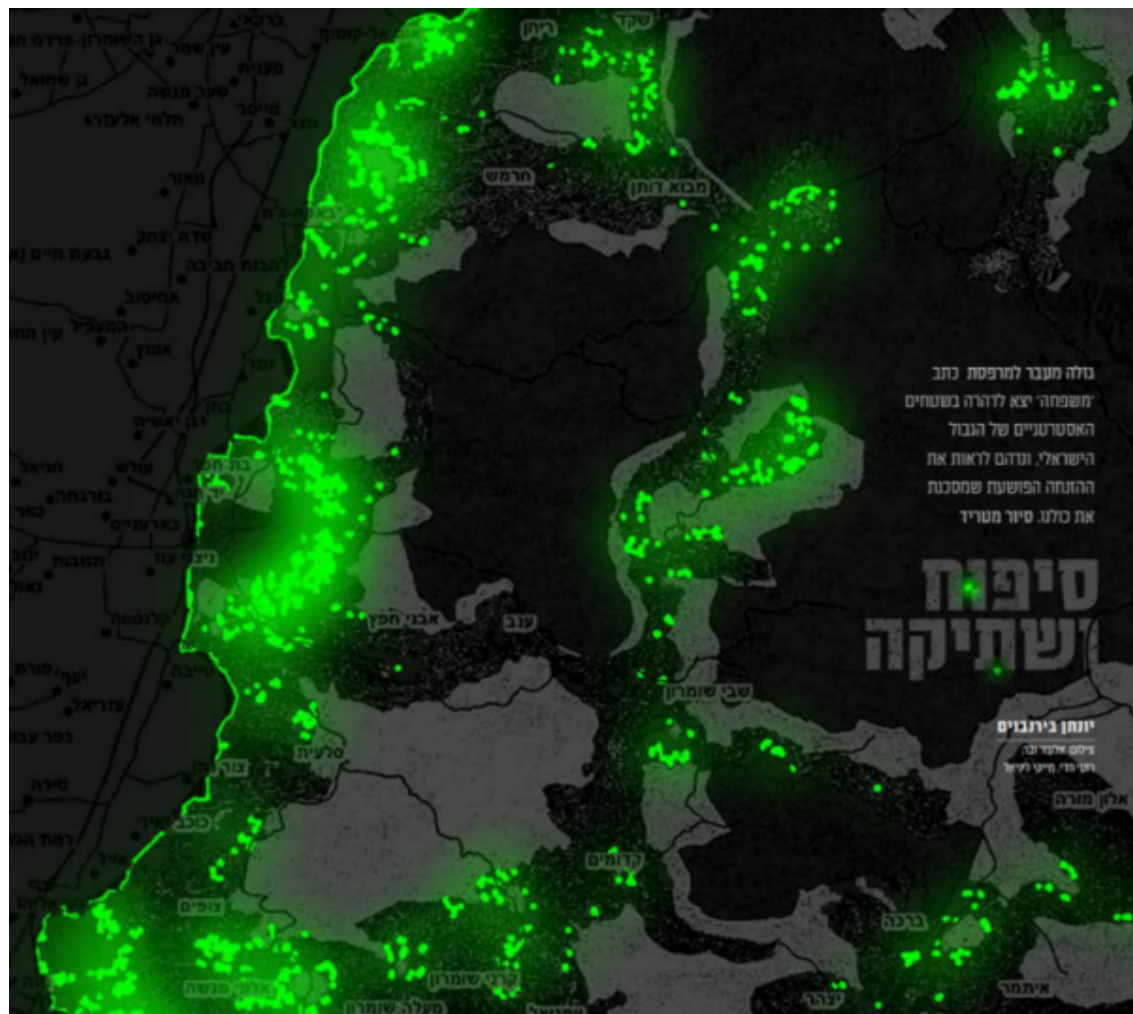
New Petition: Princess Gardens

This week we submitted a new lawsuit against an enormous, breathtaking illegal event venue, built adjacent to the road that connects eastern Gush Etzion to Jerusalem. The compound includes numerous structures, gardens - even a luxurious swimming pool. We know that Israeli courts tend to accept the government's arguments that it carries out enforcement action according to established criteria and priorities, which is why this time we added an appendix to the petition, in which we enumerated no less than 17 instances in which Regavim petitions have been dismissed over the years on the basis of the government's commitment to enforce the law "in accordance with enforcement priorities" - but in each case, not a single brick has been removed despite the years that have passed. Actually, we illustrate that under the protection of the "enforcement priorities" excuse, the state has simply looked the other way, and the illegal structures have grown and multiplied. Watch this space for updates



What do the numbers tell us? Regavim's data on illegal Arab construction in Area C receives international exposure

Our recent findings, published in the War of Attrition 2022 report, received worldwide media attention, including German, French, Norwegian, and a host of English-language media outlets - as well as a major Hebrew-language expose'.



Protection rackets - a national scourge

“What started in the Negev with Bedouin crime families has spread to the whole country - an entire criminal population is making a living on your backs! We’re talking about an unconventional phenomenon that needs to be addressed using unconventional methods, and you, the contractors, must pressure the government to mobilize the General Security Service (Shabak - Shin Bet) to address this issue head-on. The new government was elected to curb the loss of governance, and we must make sure that actually happens.”

Meir Deutsch spoke at the annual conference of the Association of Contractors and Builders of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, in a panel discussion on the impact of “protection” payments on Israel’s real estate market - one of the hottest topics in Israeli public discourse.



Demanding punishment for the Israel governor who refuses to collect taxes

For many years, Regavim has been monitoring the issue of tax collection in the Al Kasum Regional Council. Since its establishment a decade ago, the Al Kasum Regional Council, which consists of 7 towns and around 17,500 residents, hadn’t collected municipal taxes (arnona) - until Regavim filed a petition; as a result, the governor gave the court his commitment that taxes would, at last, be collected. But years have passed, and when we checked in on the situation we discovered that absolutely nothing had changed. Once again, we asked the Al Kasum Council for tax assessment and collection data - and once again...nothing. We were forced to go back to court. Eventually, the court fined the Regional Council NIS 250 for every day that passed without the data being released. The debt that has accrued thus far is over NIS 60,000!

Fines don’t seem to ruffle the feathers of the Al Kasum Regional Council’s head honcho, Salame al Atrash, who continues to thumb his nose at the court - and at all of us. Regavim has now petitioned the court to send al Atrash to prison and to appoint an caretaker council to oversee Al Kasum’s finances.

[Read more](#)



Drug cultivation in the Negev: how criminals make millions

Almost 5 years ago, Regavim exposed the flourishing drug trade in the Negev; our findings were reported in a televised expos - but even that failed to make the necessary waves. This month, our field coordinator discovered a huge cannabis plantation near Yeruham with 1,628 plants - in total, worth approximately NIS 13 million (!).



Following our report, the enforcement authorities acted swiftly and effectively to destroy the plantation - but this was nothing more than a drop in the ocean. It is estimated that throughout the Negev - including on IDF training zones and nature reserves - there are some 2,000 illegal cannabis plantations that provide billions of shekels of income for criminal syndicates each year.

Recently, we've noticed some encouraging signs of change, thanks to efforts led by both the former and current IDF Commanders of the IDF base at Tze'elim.

[Read more](#)



The absurdity of Gantz's make-believe security barrier

We visited the security barrier that is being built in the South Hebron Hills region, along the seam line between Mount Hebron and the Judean Desert. At a cost to the Israeli taxpayer of tens of millions of shekels, the Ministry of Defense has dug a trench and built an ineffective barrier, in an extremely problematic location, that makes ZERO contribution to Israel's security and is causing damage to the Judean Desert and the larger ecosystem.



Watch this video from the field

Dear Friends,
As the tax year winds down, we urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to deepen your connection and increase your support for Regavim's efforts to protect our national land resources.

You're only a click away

