



## Partners' Update from Regavim

***"...commemorating the bravery and the salvation, and the battles You have fought on our behalf – then and now!"***

**Dear Partners and Friends,**

As always, this monthly update reports on our ongoing efforts - in the field, in the Knesset, in the courts and in the media – to promote Zionist public policy and to protect and enhance Israel's national sovereignty. We continue to support the government's strong stance and determination to restore the Israeli public's trust in our judicial system.

Wishing us all a joyous Purim and a healthy, rain-blessed winter-

Regavim

**Purim is a perfect time to partner with Regavim in our battle to protect  
the Land of Israel!  
Make your traditional *Machtzit haShekel* donation today:**

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### **By the People, of the People, for the People?**

Regavim continues to advocate judicial reform - as we have for years - and we salute Minister of Justice Yariv Levin, Judiciary Committee Chairman MK Simcha Rothman and the entire government for their firm stance and their commitment to restoring the balance among Israel's judicial, legislative and executive branches.

Add your voice to those supporting judicial reform! [Learn more here >>>](#)

Want to know why Regavim supports judicial reform? Read our ["Measure for Measure" Index of Judicial Parity" here >>>](#)

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### **Bedouin Authority Boondoggle: On average, only 3 families resettled per month!**

In a hearing of the Knesset Special Committee to Strengthen the Negev and the Galilee, Regavim revealed the miserable track record of the Bedouin Authority: Over the past 15 years, only 486 Bedouin households have relocated from the squatters' camps to legal towns – an average of less than 3 per month, barely a drop in the ocean of tens of thousands of illegal structures that are swallowing up our national lands in the Negev.

Billions of shekels of taxpayers' money have been squandered on development of free plots of land for resettlement, planning and infrastructure, dialogue, negotiations and incentives – but the sprawl of illegal encampments continues to grow.

[Avraham Binyamin, Director of our Policy Division, presented the facts to the Knesset committee \(Hebrew\) >>>](#)

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### **Like mushrooms after the rain? Not exactly...**

We hosted a film crew from Israel's Channel 11 on a tour of the blossoming industry of drug plantations on IDF training grounds in the Negev. Can you guess how many we found in only a few minutes? Do you wonder what can be done when every greenhouse that is demolished by the authorities is replaced by two new ones?

[Watch the news story here \(Hebrew\) to find out>>>](#)

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### Crime in the Arab sector: address the root of the problem!

The Knesset’s National Security Committee recently held a hearing on the “National Program for Curbing Violence in the Arab Sector,” and Regavim was there, with data on the three major areas of criminal activity in the Negev and the astronomical sums of money being made by the crime families. We illustrated how current approaches are cosmetic – and why real progress will require uprooting the weeds rather than simply trimming the grass, as it were. We called for the tax authorities and the National Economic Crimes Unit of the Israel Police to take proactive measures.

See Avraham Binyamin, Regavim’s Director of Policy and Parliamentary Affairs, in action (Hebrew) [here >>](#) or learn more in our best-selling study of the Negev, ["Bedouistan: How the State of Israel is Losing the Negev >>>](#)



### We’re on it: A How-To for Normalization in Judea and Samaria

Regavim’s Attorney Boaz Arzi, Director of Regavim’s Legal Division, was a guest of the 20th Jerusalem Conference, where he participated in a panel of experts to discuss “New Government – New Opportunities: Methods for Development of the Settlement Enterprise Under a Right-Wing Coalition.” Attorney Arzi laid out clear, actionable steps that the government must take in order to advance normalization in Judea and Samaria. [View his remarks here \(Hebrew\)](#) – or watch this space for publication of Regavim’s “Line in the Sand” Program of operational guidelines for normalization.



**“Every person in this room is paying protection money”**

The State of Protection Rackets: Every Israeli is paying the price. How did the Israel Police’s recent operation to catch the racketeers pan out? To watch our Director General Meir Deutsch at the “All Included” panel on the scourge of racketeering at the recent Jerusalem Conference, [click here >>>](#)

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**A birds-eye view: What wil the Negev look like in 2050?**

Over the years, Regavim has hosted hundreds of politicians, public servants and journalists on in-depth fact-finding tours of the Negev, to give them a better understanding of how the "black hole of governance" came to be. In the most recent elections cycle, at long last, the issue of governance in the Negev was at the top of the public agenda and was included in the coalition's founding agreement. Now, the time has finally come to discuss long-term solutions, and our comprehensive plan of action for the Negev was the subject of an in-depth (Hebrew) article by Bat-El Kolman in the Israeli weekly [Makor Rishon >>](#)

[Read the full "Sdeh Boker Initiative: Negev 2050" here>>>](#)

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### For the ninth time: What about Khan al Ahmar?!

As the deadline for the government's response to the High Court of Justice on the matter of evacuating Khan al Ahmar approached, we launched a moving van - to help the matter along - demanding that the Netanyahu government pack up the Palestinian Authority's plans for establishing a state in the heart of Israel. Much to no one's surprise, the government requested another extension, and the Supreme Court justices granted another 60-day delay - although they sharply criticized the state's conduct. For a small taste of the media coverage of the latest installment in the Khan al Ahmar saga, [click here \(English\)](#), [here \(German\)](#), [here \(Russian\)](#), and [here \(Hungarian\)](#) >>>



### Ignore Bedouistan in the Negev – and it will catch up with you in Gedera and Hadera

The horrific rape in Gedera shocked us all. The perpetrator, a resident of an illegal Bedouin squatters' camp in the Negev, was raised in the lawless reality that Israel's government has tried to ignore for years – a reality in which violence and illegality are a way of life. [Meir Deutsch's interview on Kalman Libeskind's program on Channel 11](#) national television (Hebrew) traces the direct line between landgrabs, “off the grid” lawlessness and the shocking case of the Gedera rape.



### Dripping with hypocrisy: Regavim condemns foreign condemnation of Israel

When the foreign minister of the US, France, Germany, Italy and Great Britain published a letter condemning the the Israeli government's announcement that it would approve construction of hundreds of housing units in Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, we published an announcement of our own - proving beyond any doubt that those same foreign governments actively support illegal Palestinian Authority construction and annexation of areas under Israeli jurisdiction. We've been exposing the European hypocrisy for years; here's a short [video clip we produced nearly a decade ago >>](#)

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Click below for our annual video roundup and  
Summary of Activities >>>



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ANNUAL REPORT

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