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Partners' Update from Regavim

Dear Friends and Partners,

This month we dove into summer with record-breaking political activity, both in quality and quantity. We've made impressive progress in record time, and we hope these advances will be sustained and expanded in the weeks and months ahead.

Despite record-breaking heat, we continued our field work, and hosted journalists, MKs and other officials on fact-finding tours in Area C and in the Negev, completed the sixth session of our Legal Grounds course for outstanding law students as well as a special legal seminar for Judea and Samaria's land protection officers.

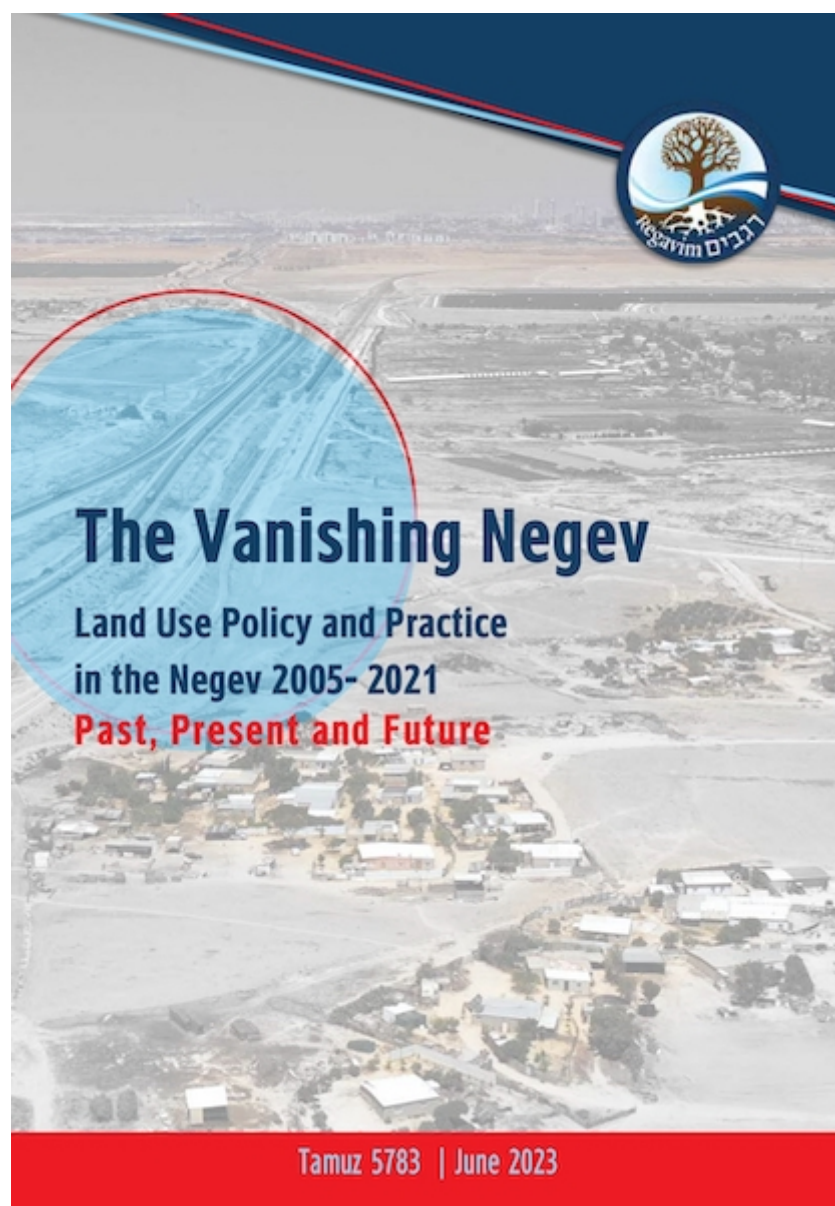
A word about the primary issue on Israel's public agenda, judicial reform: A cacophony of protests, disruptions and refusal of IDF reservists to report for duty has all but drowned out the healthy, animated and even passionate debate on the foundations of our Jewish and democratic State. In these days leading up to the Ninth of Av, as we commemorate the loss of our national sovereignty and the destruction of the First and Second Jewish Commonwealths, it behooves us all to conduct this debate from a place of love and respect. The results of a national survey we commissioned this past May leave no room for doubt: The vast majority of our nation rejects the notion of civil war.

Despite rumors to the contrary, we are a strong, united nation. Together, we will emerge from this debate stronger than ever before.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer-
Regavim

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Regavim's groundbreaking work on the Negev - now in English!

"The Vanishing Negev" is a comprehensive study of the challenges facing the State of Israel in regard to Bedouin settlement and land ownership claims. This report reflects the cumulative fieldwork, research, legal activism and policy initiatives Regavim has developed in the 17 years since its founding, and the **Hebrew version** is quickly becoming the go-to resource for ministers and MKs, journalists and activists across the political spectrum.

"The Vanishing Negev" is a must-read; access the digital version [here >>](#)



Government approval - #1:

Protecting and Preserving Heritage Sites in Judea and Samaria

In an attempt to erase the physical evidence of thousands of years of Jewish history in Judea and Samaria, the Palestinian Authority has been both passively and actively involved in looting, destruction and “erasure” of sites of national and international importance, as well as “reinvention” of countless biblical and post-biblical sites as “Palestinian heritage sites.”

At long last, in a historic step, the Israeli government has approved a NIS 120 million program for the restoration and preservation of archeological sites in Judea and Samaria.

We congratulate our friends from “Preserving the Eternal” who led the struggle, and we are honored to have had a significant role in initiating and promoting this project. [Read more here >>>](#)

Netanyahu: The Bedouin ‘need to be part of Israel’s success story’

The prime minister convenes discussion on issues of education, illegal settlement, crime and polygamy in the sector.



Government Approval #2:

Restoring Governance to the Negev

Introducing "The Focus-Area Program" for regulation of Bedouin resettlement in the Negev, led by Minister for Social Equality Amichai Chikli. Regavim has spent years researching the unique challenges of land -use policy in the Negev, publishing reports, participating in Knesset debates and connecting elected officials to the reality on the ground, and our efforts are beginning to effect real change: the government is moving forward with a strategic five-year plan to regulate Bedouin settlement and restore governance for the benefit of all the residents of the Negev. [Read more here >>](#)



Regavim in the Knesset: Laying the Facts on the Table

This month we participated in many Knesset committee hearings, focusing on a range of issues impacting the Negev, Judea, Samaria, and Israel as a whole:

Negev Day - Regavim was an important voice in a special Knesset hearing attended by Arab MKs, representatives of the Bedouin sector, opposition MKs - and not a single representative of the coalition. Despite attempts to prevent our voice from being heard, we were the only ones to speak for the Negev, presenting facts and data to refute the lies that were being peddled, well-documented studies to debunk the myths, and aerial photographs and documentation to expose the false narratives. [Watch this excerpt of the hearing \(in Hebrew\) >>](#)

Land and Security Arrangements for Private Farms - We spoke in support of the farmers, and demanded that the state reach proper, balanced arrangements with them. [Learn more in this excerpt of the hearing \(Hebrew\)>>](#)

Green Energy - We addressed a hearing on green energy initiatives, in which we tried to explain what is preventing Israel from achieving its green energy development goals (hint: it's illegal construction!). Unfortunately, the committee chairman went to unrecended lengths to silence us, but we will continue to present the data and the facts, even when they are "inconvenient."

An end to environmental chaos in Judea and Samaria? - The Knesset Land of Israel Caucus initiated a special Environmental Protection Day session of the Interior Committee, focusing on environmental protection in Judea and Samaria. At the hearing, which was attended by Minister of Environmental Protection Idit Silman, we presented bleak data, spotlighted the lack of environmental legislation and drew attention to the vast gap between the Civil Administration's bombastic declarations and actual implementation.

We applaud Minister Silman, who came to the hearing with commitment and determination to learn about - and to correct - the problems. [Learn more about Regavim's environmental protection agenda >>>](#)



Negev 2025: What's the forecast?

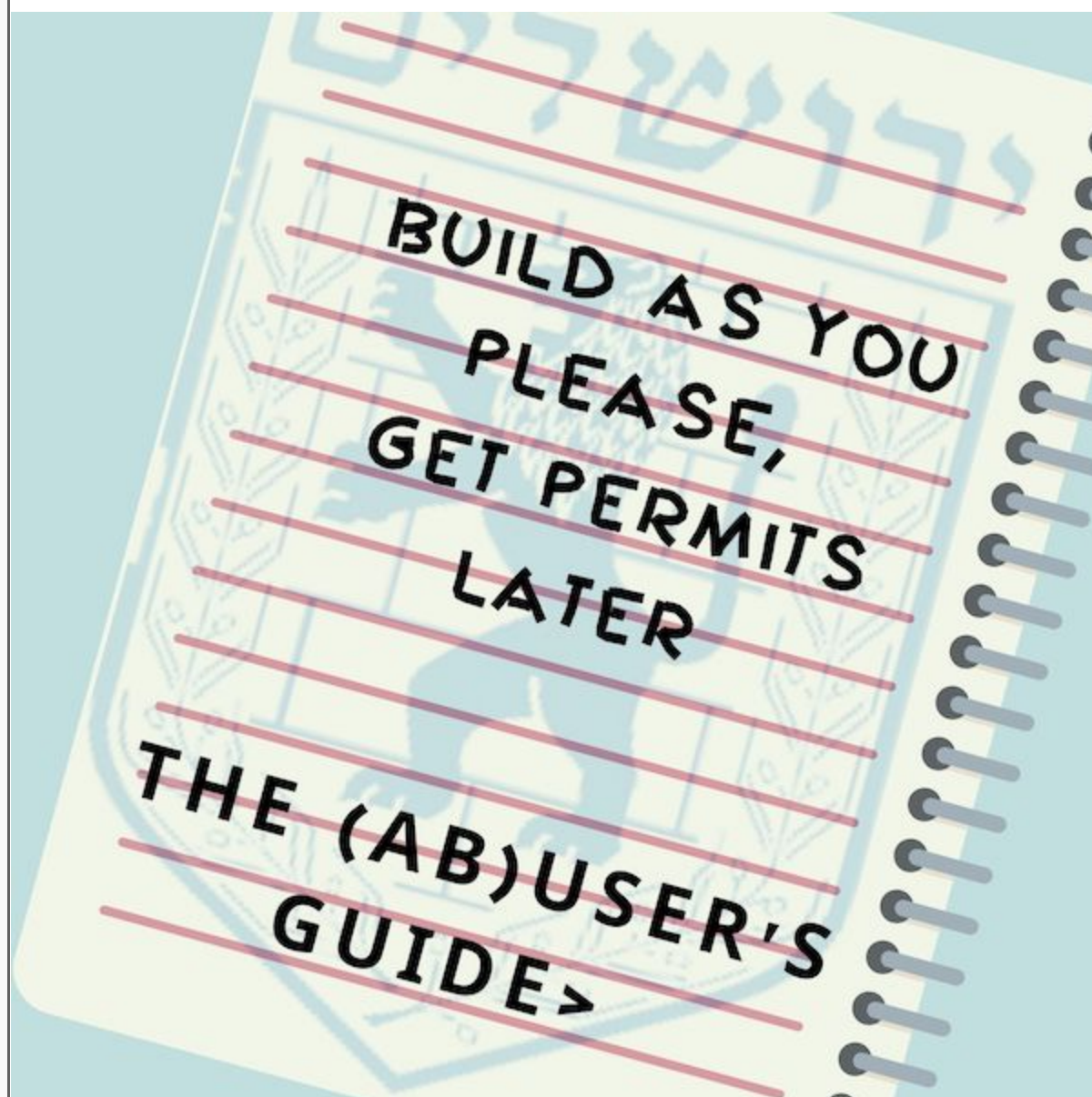
At Makor Rishon's Ben Gurion Conference in the Negev, we participated in a fascinating panel discussion, moderated by Hodaya Karish-Hazoni, on demographic growth, settlement, education and employment in the southern region.

Avraham Binyamin, Director of Regavim's Policy and Parliamentary Affairs Division, said: "What is needed is a government decision, allocation of resources - and above all else, a willingness to look at reality and contend with it. It is not possible to accept the current situation of sprawling squatters camps that cover more than 600 square kilometers when we understand that land is Israel's most precious and limited resource." [Learn more here >>](#)



27 Weeks of Anarchy, 0 Indictments

We initiated an important discussion in the Knesset on the subject of "tolerating road blockages" in which we demanded that the Israel Police and the State Attorney's Office provide details of law enforcement activity against illegal demonstrations and those who organize them. Although these wildcat disruptions of public order have harmed millions of Israeli citizens and set the Israeli economy back significantly, the police displayed unmistakable preferential treatment toward illegal anti-government activity. As a result of the hearing we initiated, the State's Attorney was required to present enforcement data to the Cabinet; not surprisingly, the data reveal a very stark picture of selective enforcement. [More >>>](#)



Planning and Construction - or Construction and Planning? It depends...

The Jerusalem Municipality is proceeding with approval of a master plan for Issawiya, a neighborhood in the eastern section of the city. In fact, the plan was drafted and submitted by Bimkom, an extreme left-wing non-profit dedicated to Palestinian independence in Jerusalem. The Municipality intends to approve a neighborhood that has existed for decades, legalizing hundreds of illegal structures with the stroke of a pen, in a method we call "build first, plan later."

There are cases in which legalization ("whitewashing") of structures built without permits is a necessary reality, and we do not oppose it when it happens after careful and thorough case-by-case consideration. On the other hand, what might we deduce from the fact that there are plans for whole neighborhoods in Jerusalem – Atarot, for example – that have been stuck in limbo for years due to considerations that have absolutely nothing to do with planning? Why is there one sector of Jerusalem's population that builds according to the law – and waits endless years for approval of plans that meet all possible planning and construction codes (in that order), while another sector of the population builds illegally, according to the "construction (first) and planning (later, if ever...)" method?



No Sano? Buy Bano (from Qalqilya) Instead...

Over the past year we have been closely following massive illegal construction that is disrupting plans to expand the the Tzofim community. The illegal structures, as well as an illegal farm and industrial area, are all built on state land, in Area C.

Among this businesses in this rapidly growing cluster of illegal industries we discovered a factory producing household cleaning materials and disposable goods – all in third world conditions, without any oversight, supervision or quality control by health or environmental authorities responsible for inspection and regulation of hazardous substances. [Have a look inside this factory here >>>](#) or watch this [video about another illegal commercial zone we've been fighting for years >>>](#)



ISRAEL HAYOM
This is where we stand

Right slams IDF general for preventing crackdown on illegal Palestinian construction

GOC Central Command Yehuda Fuchs not heeding requests to send enough troops to secure enforcement operations. Sources: He fears being accused of selective action in light of lax policy toward Jewish communities.



By Amir Ettinger

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Social Studies 101: Who's governing the government?

According to a report in [Israel Hayom](#), Major General Yehuda Fox, head of IDF Central Command, recently reduced deployment for enforcement operations against illegal Palestinian construction in Judea and Samaria, effectively bringing enforcement to a standstill. This may be a good time to remind ourselves of some basic principles of citizenship: When we vote “right,” we shouldn’t get “left.” [Read more >>>](#)

Garage or Terrorist Hideout



Structures in the complex, Ariel. Credit: Regavim

Service provider - or terrorist?

Exposed: The owner and operator of a business located in the illegal strip mall at the Ariel Junction is a declared supporter of terrorism.

Why are we not surprised?

Back in 2019, we discovered that the terrorist who went on a killing spree at the intersection and murdered IDF soldier Gal Kaidan and Rabbi Achiad Ettinger took refuge in one of the shops at this very same spot.

What's true in the Negev and the Galilee is also true in Judea and Samaria: Where there is no rule of law, where lawlessness is celebrated - crime, violence and terrorism grow.

Who is the supporter of terrorism who owns the garage at the Ariel Junction (Hebrew)>> and what does this say about the big picture? [Read our op-ed here>>>](#)



Attention 'Peace Now': Your Partner for Peace is Showing His True Colors...

After PLO activist and avowed terror supporter Rasan D'Glass recently received a warm embrace from Peace Now, which presented him as "a full partner on the path to peace", our research department uncovered a shocking, inflammatory speech he delivered - accompanied by a convicted terrorist. [Click here to see his hate-filled speech in full >>](#)



PA Prime Minister Confirms Official, Unapologetic Support for Illegal Construction and Terrorism

Only one day after the Israeli government's announcement that it would act to prevent the economic collapse of the Palestinian Authority, PA Prime Minister Ashteyeh rejected the proposed bailout and announced that the PA refused the conditions stipulated by the Israeli government, including halting illegal construction in Area C and supporting terrorism and incitement. It's high time we take the PA at its word: pay-for-slay, antisemitic incitement and illegal annexation of Area C will continue to be official Palestinian Authority policy; the question is, what will Israel do about it? Watch the video of Ashteyeh's remarks, with [Hebrew translation by Regavim's research department >>](#)



Regavim at The Hague: Brainstorming for Israel

In March 2023, the Director of Regavim's International Division, Naomi Kahn, gave at a presentation at a conference hosted by Thinc. , The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation. The conference, title "Israel on Trial," brought together some of the most important voices in the world that speak about Israel's legal rights, for a focused discussion regarding international tribunals currently convening to condemn Israel. It was an outstanding opportunity to share, brainstorm and build a strategy to fight back against anti-Israel lawfare. [View the full presentation here >>>](#)



Legal Grounds: Fighting Back Against BDS

This month, we completed the sixth cycle of our Legal Grounds course, a seminar for exceptional law students and public sector jurists. The course hosts iworld-renowned scholars of international law who examine underlying assumptions and accepted wisdoms regarding Israel's legal rights and standing from a position of critical, legal analysis, providing them with "ammunition" for international advocacy and anti-BDS legal activism. Registration for the next cycle will begin soon.



Some 90% of the vehicles stolen in Israel end up in Judea and Samaria - but unlike the car thieves, the Israel Police and insurance companies do not cross the "green line." The Israel Broadcasting Corporation (Kan 11) launched an investigation of their own to track down the stolen vehicles. We hosted them on a field tour of the huge illegal scrap yards that are just one symptom of the lawlessness and lack of governance in Judea and Samaria that are poisoning the environment - in every sense.

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