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Partners' Update from Regavim

Dear Friends and Partners,

In these intense and intensive days, as we move past our national days of remembrance and as Yom Hazikaron, Memorial Day for Israel's fallen, gives way to Independence Day, we invite you to join us as we pause briefly to look back at the past month's efforts and achievements – in the field, in the Knesset, in the courts and in the media.

This past month, some members of the Regavim team finally returned after extended military reserve service, only to discover that even as the war rages on, the challenges to Israel's sovereignty and security at the heart of Regavim's ongoing battle for the Land of Israel have not abated.

Meanwhile, some of the members of our team are still in uniform - and others have been re-called to duty. We wish them a safe and victorious return to their families.

This past month, we opened dozens of files on new illegal construction, participated in numerous Knesset hearings and achieved some very significant successes: The High Court of Justice upheld our arguments in a number of cases, important law enforcement action against illegal construction was carried out, and to wrap up the month, we publicized the findings of an important opinion poll of IDF reservists.

All this, and more, below. Happy Independence Day!

Regavim

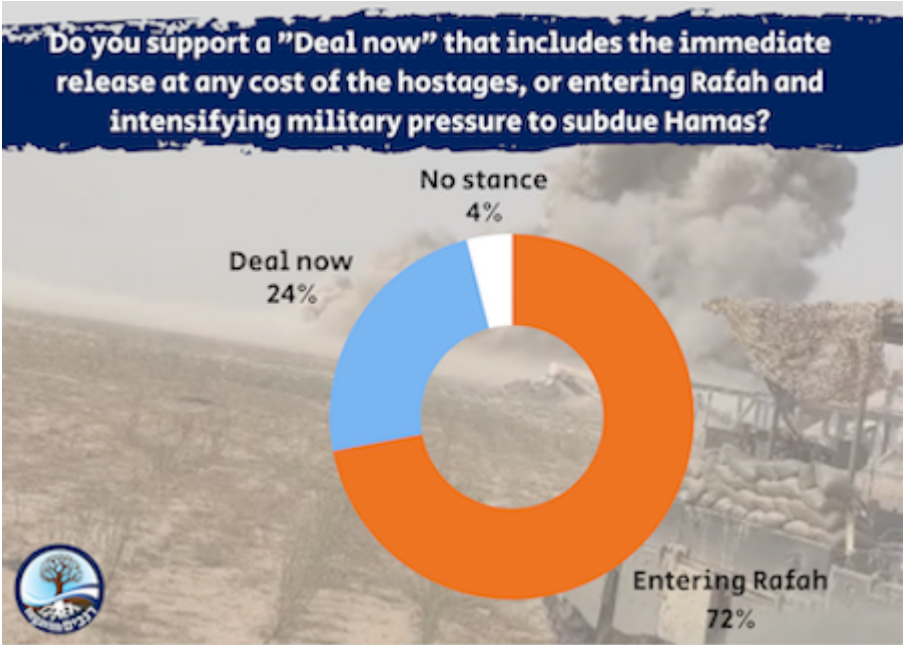
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Raising the flag, holding our heads high, and saluting our soldiers!

As we celebrate our national days of commemoration, and as Yom Hazikaron, our national memorial day for Israel's fallen heroes and victims of terrorism, segues into Yom Ha'atzmaut and we celebrate our independence, we at Regavim continued our tradition of distributing free jumbo-sized flags throughout Israel. Our magnetic morale-boosters have been spotted everywhere, from north to south - and even in Gaza and on the northern border. [Here are some recent sightings >>.](#)

Our message - today, more than ever, is clear: Our committment is absolute, our resolve is unshakable. *Am Yisrael Chai!*



What do IDF reservists *really* think?
We published the findings of a large-scale poll of IDF combat reservists who served in the Swords of Iron War.

The poll enabled 512 de-commissioned reservists from every sector of Israeli society to express their views on a range of hot topics, including the necessity of a ground operation in Rafah, a ceasefire agreement with Hamas, humanitarian aid - and even the not-forgotten judicial reform. The results were decisive, fascinating - and affirming. **Read more here >>**



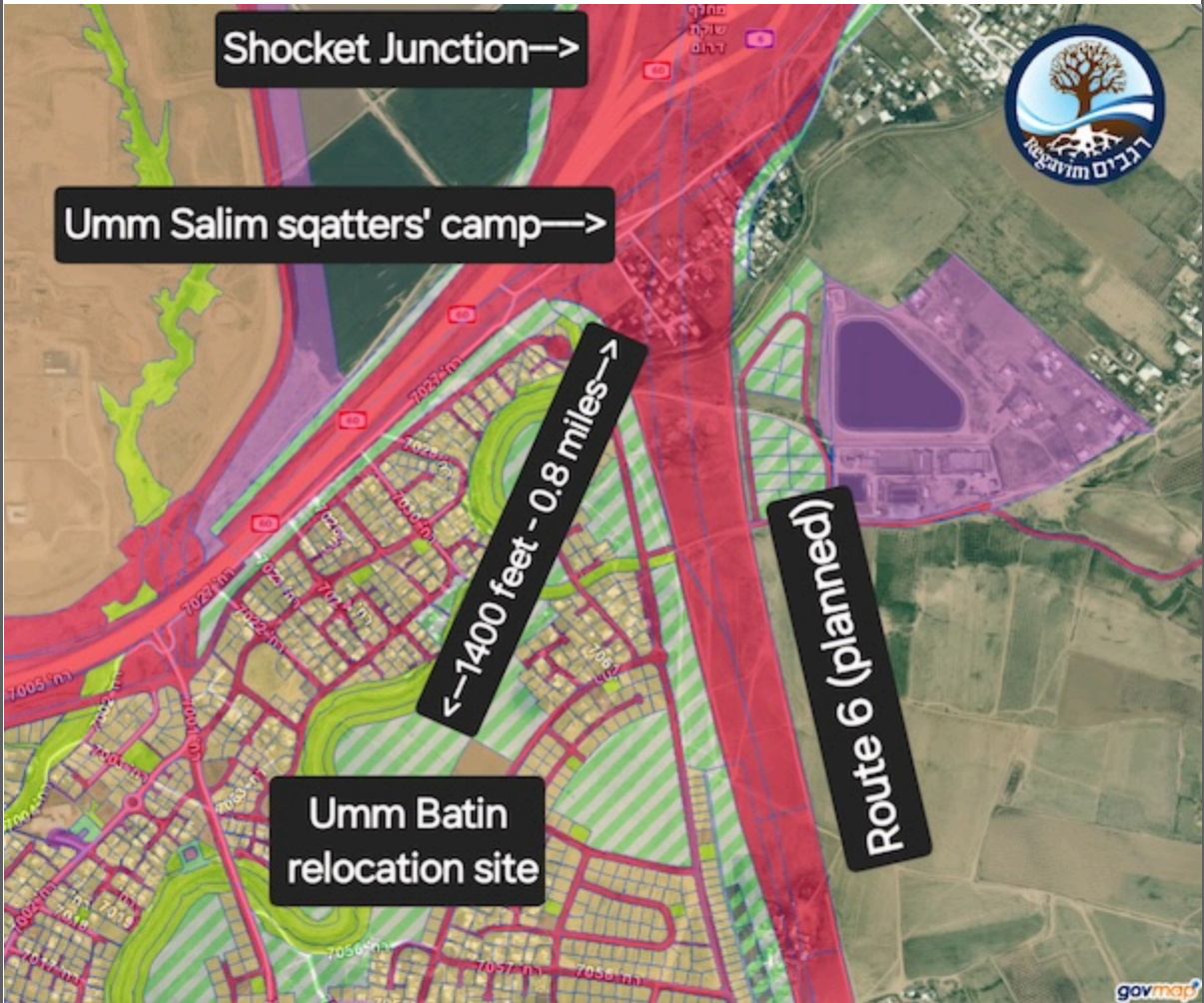
An important success: Regavim’s petition compels the authorities to enforce the law
The Jerusalem-Tekoa road, a central traffic artery known as “the Leiberman Route,” has been suffering from massive illegal construction in recent years. Palatial Arab villas and other structures have sprung up on both sides of what was created as a bypass road, forming a stranglehold on the route traveled by thousands of Israelis daily.

Regavim has been monitoring the construction carefully, together with the Gush Etzion Municipality’s Land Division; recently, we filed a High Court petition against one of the structures, a multi-story villa built only some 100 yards away from the road.

Last week, the structure was demolished.

We congratulate the Ministry of Defense’s Settlement Directorate and the Gush Etzion Council on this important enforcement action.

Slowly but surely, Regavim is making a difference, and with your partnership we will press on and turn the tide! See media coverage of the case **here>>** and **here >>**.



What's jamming Route 6 South?

After years of backpedalling and stalling, a Bedouin squatters camp on state land at the Shoket Junction was finally cleared. The illegal encampment had commandeered a key intersection on the route designated for the continuation of the Trans-Israel Highway (Route 6) southward - and had held up development for years.

After a long and convoluted legal battle, the High Court of Justice rejected the squatters' objections and ruled that the government's generous relocation and compensation offers were more than adequate.

We congratulate Ministers Amichai Chikli and Itamar Ben Gvir for this important breakthrough and significant law enforcement precedent. [Read more here >>](#) and [here >>](#)



In broad daylight: Jerusalem of Gold is being turned into Jerusalem of ...Garbage

Our new Jerusalem Field Coordinator shares shocking documentation of one of the massive dumping operations that is destroying the environment and strangling our Eternal Capital. [Watch here >>](#) and follow this space for more Jerusalem updates.



Regavim Expose': Former Homefront Command officers head company that produces protective structures for the Ministry of Defense - in illegal factories located in Area C!

The findings of our research were presented in a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee hearing. [Watch it here \(Hebrew\) >>](#)

Bedouin businessman charged with providing intelligence to Iran

[ynetnews.com/article/hky00jhpv](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hky00jhpv)
Ynet July 12, 2021

Israeli Bedouin businessman Yaqoub Abu Al-Qia'an was indicted on Monday on a series of national security offenses, including contact with a foreign agent and providing information to Iranian intelligence through a Lebanese-Iraqi agent.

Abu Al-Qia'an, a resident of the southern Bedouin town of Hura, has been linked to former defense minister Moshe "Boogie" Yaalon's TELEM party as well as a key activist for the Ra'am party in the Negev during the last election, according to The Jerusalem Post.

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Bedouin businessman Yaqoub Abu Al-Qia'an
(Photo: Amit Shaal)

He was arrested on June 10 after a joint Shin Bet and Israel Police investigation, which revealed that in addition to the Lebanese-Iraqi angle also has a direct link to Iranian intelligence.

According to the indictment, the information Abu Al-Qia'an conveyed included the detailed schedule and whereabouts of Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Is spying for Iran a slap-on-the-wrist offense?!?

Negev businessman Yacoub Abu Algiyan is one of the wealthiest people in Israel. In the recent sentencing hearing (Abu Algiyan was found guilty of providing sensitive security information to Israel's worst enemy) Abu Algiyan described himself as penniless - and, unbelievably, the State's Attorney fell for it, and asked for only a 1-year prison term and a fine of NIS 15,000 (just over \$4000)! The message this ridiculous sentence sends to Israel's Bedouin communitiy is probably the worst of it: Crime pays, and the cost of getting caught aiding and abetting Israel's enemies is no big deal. Our Southern Region Field Coordinator laid it all out for Israeli viewers on **Channel 14 (Hebrew) >>**



..and where does the Civil Administration choose to enforce the law after the brutal murder of an Israeli teen?

In a Knesset hearing a few short weeks ago, the Civil Administration claimed that its failure to demolish illegal Arab construction in Area C was due to a lack of manpower.

This month, the truth came out - the hard way.

Immediately after the brutal murder of 14-year old Israeli shepherd Binyamin Ahimeir, the Civil Administration showed the world just how capable it is of demolishing structures - but instead of enforcing the law against the villages that raised and harbored the murderers, they tore down structures on the farm that was home to the victim.

The village of Duma, home of the terrorist who murdered Binyamin Ahimeir in cold blood, is also home to 324 illegal structures, according to Regavim's research. Not one of them has ever been touched by the Civil Administration.

Selective enforcement (especially while we're at war) disembowels the concept of law and order, empties it of meaning and erodes the public's trust in the government and its institutions. This wasn't the first time ([see more ..](#)) but we're working to ensure that it's the last.



Smoke gets in the eyes of the High Court of Justice

In a recent High Court of Justice hearing of our second petition against the illegal garbage dump near our Shaar Binyamin offices, the judges were duped by the Civil Administration's claim that they had taken enforcement action at the site.

The facts behind the toxic smokescreen tell a different story: The Civil Administration has done next to nothing to address the environmental catastrophe at this site and dozens of others. Our Field Coordinator Moshe Shmueli, who documents these and other cases in Judea and Samaria, shared footage of the situation on the ground. [View it here >>](#)



Unbelievable but, sadly, true: Indictments are filed for only 3.5% of agricultural crimes in Judea and Samaria

The outbreak of the war on October 7th sharpened our national awareness of the importance of Israeli agriculture, and there is no question that wheat fields are an important aspect of the battle field, in every sense of the word. The abysmal data – only 3 indictments out of 87 reported incidents of agricultural crime in the Judea and Samaria district – indicate a lack of motivation and failure to grasp the seriousness of the problem on the part of Israel’s law enforcement system. There is a battle being waged against the Zionist enterprise that is threatening the Israel’s agricultural sector, economy and security, and the threat must be addressed through more energetic law enforcement, more serious investigation of crimes that lead to arrests, indictments, trials and convictions.

This is the only way to strengthen and support our farmers, who are contending with crushing challenges and frustrations. This is the way to preserve the Zionist vision, which continues to be based on our connection to the land and to Jewish agriculture that makes the desert bloom and makes the State of Israel strong and independent. As Joseph Trumpeldor said over 100 years ago, “The spot where the Jewish plow digs the farthest furrow of earth is the spot where the borders of the State of Israel will be marked.”

Avraham Binyamin, our Director of Policy and Parliamentary Affairs, was interviewed on the Knesset Channel after a recent hearing on agricultural crime in the Knesset’s National Security Committee. [Watch here \(Hebrew\) >>](#)



**We've raised the call that is resolute and resounding:
To Jerusalem, the Eternal Capital of Israel!**

Only a few days before Passover, Regavim co-hosted an uplifting and emotional field tour in conjunction with the Kfar Etzion Field School. Guided by Yosef Shpizer, we followed the pilgrimage path to Jerusalem, retracing the footsteps of our ancestors who ascended to Jerusalem for the Festival of Freedom.

One high point (both literally and figuratively) of the tour was a stop along the route where Yehuda Noam, Regavim's Jerusalem Field Coordinator, updated his colleagues on our efforts to establish the Mount Scopus National Park, a crucial historic and strategic asset that connects the Judean Desert to Jerusalem.

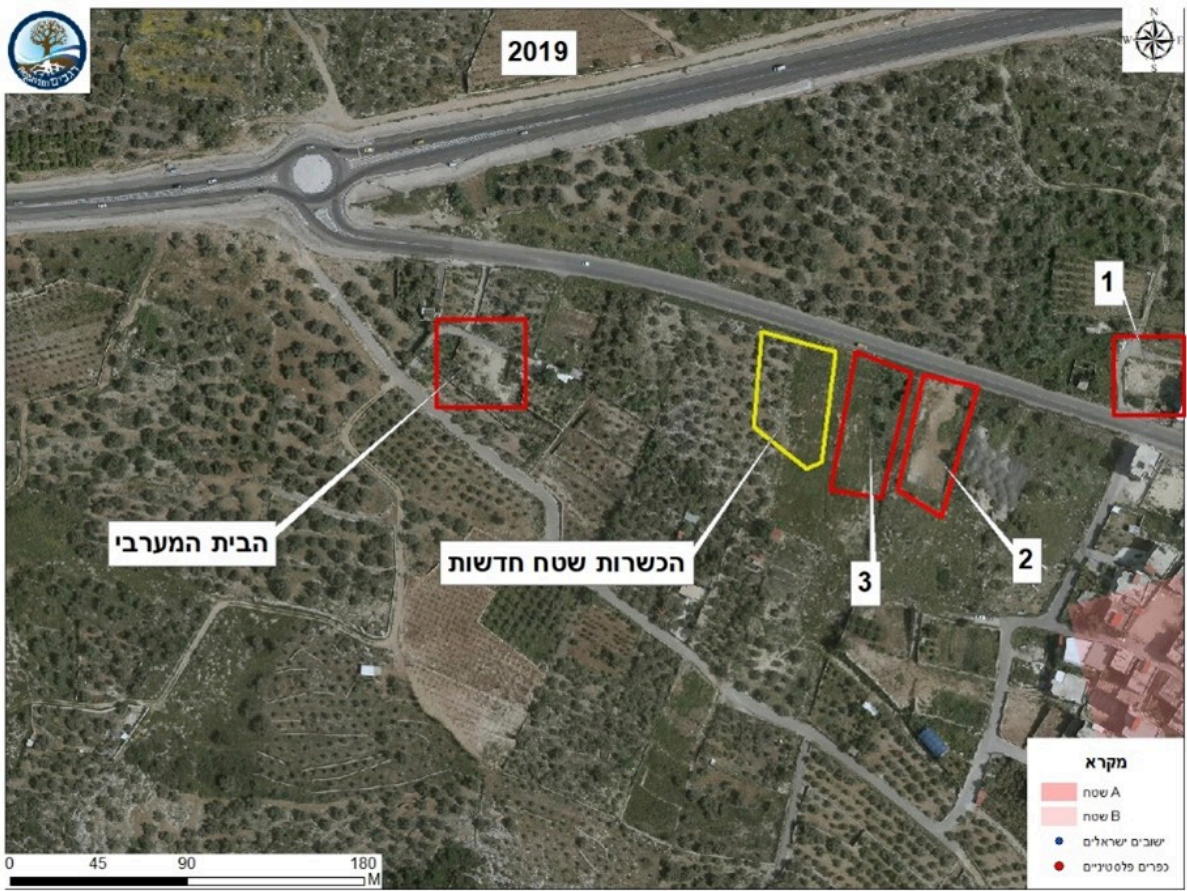
Look forward to exciting updates on progress in this important project, as we work toward establishing the Mount Scopus Slopes National Park!



Terrorists in Uniform: The Count Continues to Rise

Last month we published our shocking report on Palestinian Authority’s direct involvement in terrorism, “Officers by Day, Terrorists by Night.” This comprehensive and detailed report on the well-oiled machinery of Palestinian Authority terrorism has sparked a major reassessment of Israeli policy, and clear statements by the government rejecting the viability of the PA as a legitimate leadership after the Swords of Iron War.

In the few weeks since we presented our findings in the Knesset, the number of Palestinian Authority Security Officers apprehended or eliminated in the act of terrorism has continued to rise. In the last 3 years alone, at least 83 officers of PA security services – all of them trained, armed and funded by Israel’s US and European allies – have turned their weapons on Israeli civilians and soldiers. [Read the full report here >>](#)



The Civil Administration and Law Enfocement: It's not that they can't, it's that they won't.

Regavim has been pounding away at the Civil Administration - countless letters, complaints, lawsuits that led the court to hit them with an official reprimand for failing to uphold and enforce a no-construction order at the crucial junction adjacent to Nebi Elias. Nonetheless, the illegal structure that is threatening the safety of motorists - on a bypass road created because the Civil Administration didn't enforce the law and allowed the original route to be engulfed by illegal Arab construction!! - is still standing, untouched. [Learn more >>](#)



Another day, another minaret off the assembly line ...

This month, we documented another newly-minted mosque, identical to the previous 8 illegal mosques that have sprung up in the Bedouin squatters camps in the Negev. The newest one, 9th in the series, is located in the sprawling illegal encampment near El Sayyed, and it conveys the same worrying message as the other 8: radicalization and Islamization of the Israeli Bedouin sector, and another nail in the means through which the squatters camps gain permanence and legitimacy. Regavim’s official complaint against this newest mosque has already been filed, and we will pursue enforcement; updates to follow.

Regavim

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Preserving Israeli Sovereignty

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