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Partners' Update from Regavim

Dear Friends and Partners,

While we continue to face extraordinary, unrelenting challenges, Regavim, like the rest of the nation, has much to be proud of. Despite the multi-front war that continues to rage around us, we're wrapping up a year of extraordinary achievements in our battle to protect the Land of Israel.

Our annual survey of activities will be landing in your inbox soon, but meanwhile we wanted to share our last monthly newsletter for 2024 with a brief update on important recent developments: a dramatic decrease in illegal construction starts in Area C, significant steps that have begun to restore governance in the Negev, resolute action against the malign influence of UNRWA, and all-new Regavim projects that have hit the ground running.

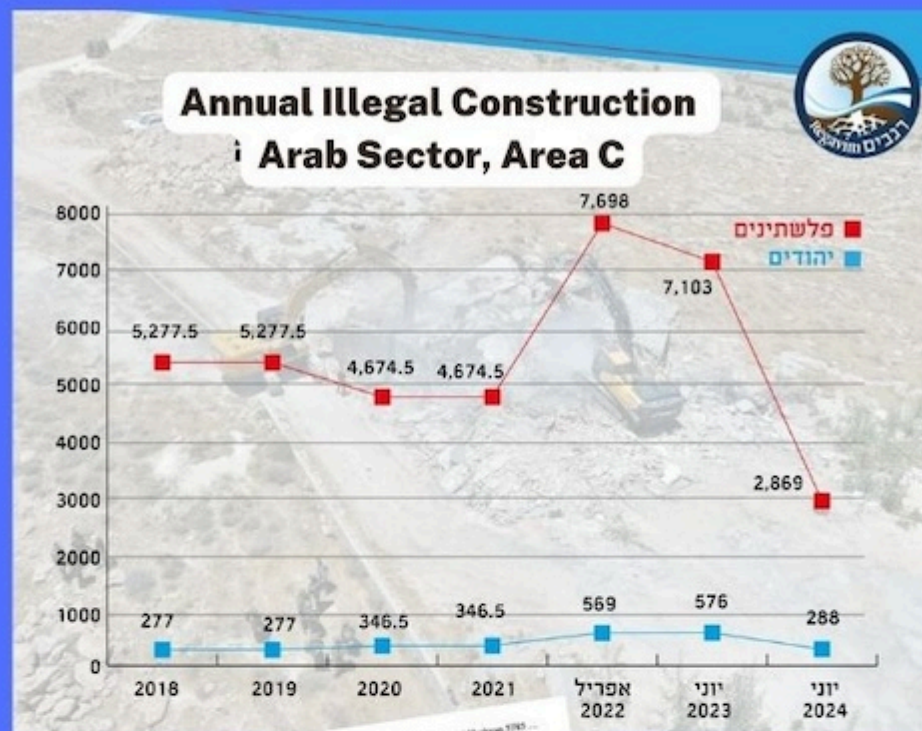
As the month of Kislev begins, the month of light and heroism, we thank you for your partnership and support throughout the years, and especially this year. Together, we pray for miracles and for salvation, for the safe return of our hostages, for the return of all our displaced families to their homes, and for a full and speedy recovery in body and spirit for all our wounded.

Best wishes for a month of good news, and a bright and joyous Hanukkah.

Regavim

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ACHIEVEMENTS



12/24, 2:00 AM

Unprecedented Drop in Judea and Samaria Illegal Arab Construction | The Jewish Press - JewishPress.com | David Israel | 16 Yehovan 5785 ...

Unprecedented Drop in Judea and Samaria Illegal Arab Construction

By David Israel - 16 Yehovan 5785 - November 17, 2024

Photo Credit: CDGAR

Civil administration bulldozers bring down illegal Arab construction in Judea and Samaria.

The research department at the Regavim movement has completed an analysis of the latest aerial photographs for May 2024, in which new construction was measured since June 2023, a total of 11 months. According to the findings, new construction this year stands at only 2,868 new buildings, less than half the

הנבחרת

אחרי שנים של גידול עקבי בקצב הבניה הפלסטינית הבלתי חוקית - מהפך | קלמן ליבסקינד

הנתונים המדהימים של הריידיה בהשתלטות הפלסטינית על שטחי 'C' לפי תצ'ירגביס', הסיבות שהביאו לשינוי. תרומת 'מנהלת ההתיישבות' החדשה במ'להיפוך המגמה. ואין ראויים את כל זה ב'שלום עמנו'

קרמן ליבסקינד
15/11/2024 10:00

A turning point! The battle for state land is changing direction. Our most recent study of illegal construction reveals a reversal of the trend: the data indicates a sharp decline in new illegal Arab construction in Area C of Judea and Samaria. Regavim's incessant battle - in the field, in the Knesset, in the courts and in the media - amplified by our partnership with the local and regional councils of Judea and Samaria, has begun to turn back the tidal wave of Palestinian construction and annexation of our national land assets in Area C.

Read more [here \(English\) >>>](#) and [here \(Hebrew\) >>>](#)



UNRWA: UN(R)WANTED

Just deserts: UNRWA, a terror-supporting arm of the UN that has been fanning the flames of conflict for generations, has been banned from Israel at last!

For years, Regavim has been on the front lines of the battle against UNRWA – a battle that intensified during the Swords of Iron War. When we learned that UNRWA was under consideration for a Nobel Peace Prize, we shifted into high gear: Teaming up with families of hostages, we launched a public campaign, published articles in the international media and helped support legislation to put UNRWA in its place – and beyond Israel's borders. See more [here >>>](#) and [here >>>](#)

NEW AT REGAVIM:

ERETZ: ENGINEERS FOR A ZIONIST FUTURE

Mazal Tov! Regavim's new division, dedicated to Zionist planning policy, is up and running.

"Eretz" is made up of architects, planners and consultants from various planning fields who have come together to advance actualize the most basic tenets of Zionism - planning and building the Jewish Homeland - through participation in planning committee processes and hearings, promoting plans or submitting objections, writing position papers, studies, reports and other publications on current planning-related issues.

ERETZ aims to bring the Zionist vision back into public discourse, and from there, into the State of Israel's decision-making and implementation mechanisms.



The first item on the ERETZ agenda: Exposing the government's approval of plans for a massive new neighborhood – only 10 meters away from Highway 25.

We shined a spotlight on "how the game is played": It took less than 10 minutes for the Southern Region Planning Committee to approve construction of "al Bawadi" – a massive new neighborhood of Abu Tulul that is devouring priceless natural resources and violating regulations for proximity to the longest span of east-west traffic arteries in the country. The Hebrew-language press is beginning to grasp the importance of these outrageous planning failures; [read it here >>>](#)

פרס לעברייני בנייה? ועדת שרים תכריע אם "להלבין" אזור תעשייה פיראטי בכפר-קאסם

העירייה מבקשת לאשר פינוי-בינוי של 800 מבנים לא חוקיים, בשטח של כ-900 אלף מ"ר, שהוקמו על אלפי דונמים המיועדים לחקלאות בשרון ■ אישור התוכנית יעודד הלבנה של עבריינות בנייה נרחבת באזורים אחרים



Item #2 on the ERETZ agenda: The plot to whitewash the gigantic, illegal commercial zone

Since 2019, Regavim has been battling the government’s willful ignorance about the largest commercial zone in the country, the illegal Kfar Kasem industrial park.

Now, ERETZ uncovered a bizarre plan by the municipality to legalize the entire compound – which would have a devastating impact on the environment, on the rule of law and on the economic wellbeing of the neighboring municipalities; quite simply, it would reward the lawbreakers and leave law-abiding taxpayers high and dry. We publicized the story and filed an urgent complaint with the Minister of Environmental Protection to block approval of the plan. [Here's a refresher course >>>](#) and some [early media coverage of the case >>>](#)

RIISING TO MEET THE NEGEV CHALLENGE:



We have not been laboring in vain: This month saw a number of significant steps that are restoring governance to the Negev. Despite threats and accusations, the squatters camp at Umm al Hiran was evacuated and the last few shacks that had been blocking the development of a new community, called Dror, were demolished. [Read more >>>](#)

In another significant and long-overdue move, the Israel Police announced the establishment of a new specialized unit - one of the core recommendations of our **"Sde Boker Initiative"** - dedicated to battling organized crime, racketeering, illegal weapons, polygamy and violence that plague the Bedouin sector of the Negev.

To top it off, the government adopted another core Regavim recommendation, approving measures aimed at stamping out human trafficking that has been the engine behind the illegal practice of polygamy in the Bedouin sector. Our **"PolygaMeToo" recommendations** continue to impact policy and change the reality on the ground.

POLICY AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS



Regavim's Policy Division shifts into high gear: This month, we took part in a particularly large number of Knesset committee hearings, including discussions on the law to ban UNRWA from the State of Israel, regulations to increase punishment for agricultural crime, discussions in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee on the Palestinian Authority's agricultural annexation of Area C, hearings on the need for planning and infrastructure initiatives in Judea and Samaria and more. Regavim's policy initiatives are powering important draft legislation on a variety of issues, and MKs Moshe Saada and Dan Illouz joined us on fact-finding field tours - the former in the Binyamin region and the latter in the Negev - to get a better understanding of the issues.

LEGAL DIVISION

BY MILITARY
ORDER:



SECURITY THREAT ON MAJOR HIGHWAY

Regavim's HCJ petition: Military orders give illegal structure a free pass

In 2020 our Field Coordinator identified groundclearing work adjacent to Route 55 in Samaria. Together with the Shomron Regional Council we alerted the authorities and demanded immediate enforcement – but to this day, not a thing has been done. The construction continued, and a palatial structure now stands only 100 meters from the road – despite the fact that it's right in the middle of an area declared as a military-ordered no-construction zone.

This past year, two terrorist attacks were launched in the vicinity of this same structure; IDF soldiers were wounded – but even that wasn't enough to convince the authorities to enforce the law.

Strange as it may sound, OC Central Command gave the structure a free pass, excluding it from the military no-construction order and shunting enforcement down to the bottom of the list of enforcement priorities. Once again, Regavim will be dragging the state's representatives to court to force them to protect our national interests. [**Read more \(Hebrew\)>>>**](#)

FIELD DIVISION

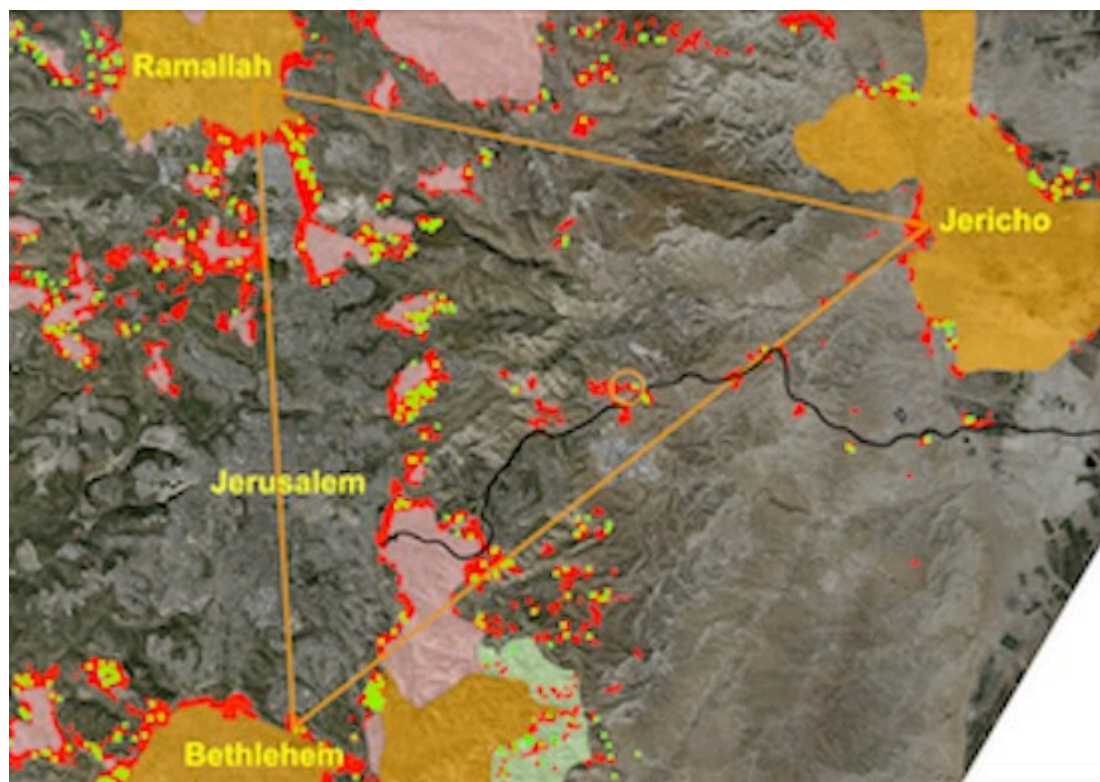


אחרי לחץ כבד: נהרסו מבנים במאחז פלשתיני בלתי חוקי בבנימין

Changing reality – together

A resident of Adam reported it, a municipal land protection officer verified it, Regavim documented it and filed a complaint – and the illegal structure was demolished!

The growth of the illegal squatters' encampment near Adam was halted in its tracks. Israeli media covered the story [here >>>](#)



The missing link in the Palestinian state's chain

It's 'money time'' in the strategic areas that will make or break Palestinian contiguity and the stranglehold of hostile illegal construction that is closing in on Jerusalem. [Read more >>](#)

FEET ON THE GROUND: DIGITAL CONTENT FROM REGAVIM



Have you heard? Our podcast series is up and running, and our webinar series is in full swing!

Would you like to take a deeper dive into the issues? Want to learn more about the “seamline” or get a better grasp of the problems with the security barrier, find out what international law really says, and what it doesn’t? Are you thirsty for in-depth analysis based on facts? We’re here to fill in the blanks – and more!

Regavim’s new Hebrew podcast series grapples with the core issues, bringing the most well-informed and most interesting experts together to look at the many sides of the biggest issues, to get down to the nuts and bolts and share the knowledge and insight that are the heart of what makes Regavim tick.

Our English-language webinar series is wrapping up a year of monthly episodes that have become an online resource for thousands of people who want to cut through the fake news and understand what’s really shaping events and trends on the ground.

Add the Hebrew podcast series to your playlist today: **Spotify**, **YouTube**, or on the **podcast website** or find the full playlist of English-language **Behind the Headlines webinars on our YouTube channel**.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



We're wrapping up a series of field tours on both sides of the "seam line" with Judea and Samaria, offering journalists and public opinion influencers a first-hand look at the findings published in our "Buffer Zone" report.

Dozens of journalists joined us to learn more about the security paradigm that imploded on October 7th 2023 and Regavim's analysis of the facts on the ground today. One leg of the tour traveled through an IDF firing zone – where we observed illegal construction underway, and reported it to the relevant authorities. The journalists got a first-hand look at what Palestinian Authority annexation tactics look like, and what can be done to counter them: later that day, the IDF impounded the heavy machinery. Read some of the media coverage [here >>](#) and [here >>](#).

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