



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Invitation to the High Court of Justice Hearing for Yesh Din's Joint Petition with ACRI to Repeal the Transfer of Powers to the Deputy Head of the Civil Administration

On May 29, 2024, the Military Commander of the West Bank signed a military order allowing the head of the Civil Administration to appoint a civilian as his deputy. A letter of appointment and transfer of powers was also signed by the Head of the CA on the same day - appointing Hillel Roth, a close associate of Smotrich, to the new civil deputy for civil affairs. These orders transferred vast authorities and powers to the new civilian deputy for civil affairs, which - in contrast to his deceptive title - is subordinate to the head of the Settlement Administration and Smotrich and not to the Head of the CA or any military entity. The delegation of powers to the civilian deputy effectively strips the Head of the CA of his authority, thereby neutralizing his ability to exercise governing powers. In July 2024, Yesh Din filed a petition to the HCJ demanding the immediate repeal of the letter of appointment and delegation of powers to the Deputy Head of the Civil Administration for Civil Affairs.

[Learn more about the appointment](#)

[Read the joint petition \(Hebrew\)](#)

*The first hearing for this petition is scheduled for Monday, **February 17, 2025, at 11:30 AM.***

The hearing will be for both our petition and a separate petition against the transfer of powers filed by the Kalai-Rosen law firm.

We highly encourage attending HCJ hearings, and anyone who would like to attend this hearing with Yesh Din is welcome to write Yahav Erez, Yesh Din's International Advocacy Coordinator, at: yahave@yesh-din.org.

Victory in Court for the Abu Awwad Family



In a ruling that includes sharp criticism of the military and the state prosecution, Israel's High Court of Justice ruled today that the Abu Awwad family from the village of Turmusaya must be granted free access to their lands and residential compound. The justices emphasized that the security situation does not negate the obligation to respect the rights of Palestinian residents in the West Bank. The court criticized the state's conduct in the case, noting that the remedy granted to the petitioners, the Abu Awwad family, was accompanied by a "heavy sense" due to the state's false statements to the court, which were only exposed during the legal proceedings.

The only access road leading to the Abu Awwad family's home had been blocked since October 2023 by a mound of dirt and rocks placed by the military. Under the cover of the war in Gaza, soldiers imposed further severe restrictions on the family's freedom of movement, including prohibiting them from working on their agricultural lands, a major source of their livelihood, banning them from leaving their home after dark, and forbidding guests from visiting.

About 25 family members, including 11 children under the age of 18, live in a relatively isolated area about two kilometers from the center of Turmusaya. The family's residential compound was established in the early 1970s on privately owned land. The restrictions dramatically altered the family's life overnight and severely violated their rights, with the ban on farming causing significant financial harm.

Furthermore, in January 2024, settlers attacked the family compound and vandalized property while soldiers stood nearby, despite the entire area being monitored by the military. Shortly afterward, settlers threatened the family, demanding they leave the area. Following Yesh Din's petition on behalf of the family to the High Court of Justice, some of the restrictions were lifted.

The state prosecution denied the existence of additional movement restrictions, including the nightly curfew imposed on the family, and claimed there was no comprehensive ban on the family working their land. During a December 2024 hearing, the state reiterated the army's claim that an alternative route was available for the family to reach their home, and this assertion was repeated by a military representative before the justices. Yesh Din's attorney Shomy Zachary, representing

the family, argued that the alternative route was impassable for vehicles and thus unusable, further noting that the military's closure orders effectively barred passage even on this supposed alternative route. Despite this, the state continued to insist on its position.

A court-ordered site visit revealed that, contrary to the army's claims, the "alternative" route did not exist, as the petitioners had originally stated, meaning the army's claims regarding the existence of an alternative access route were false. As a result of this discovery, the military removed the dirt mound blocking the family's access in late December 2024, replacing it with a gate that now allows the family free access to and from their residential compound and their agricultural lands. The family was also granted permission to harvest their olive trees.

Without the petition, it is doubtful whether such clear instructions from the military commander would have been issued, effectively lifting the nightly curfew and the ban on farming their surrounding plots. In its ruling, the court affirmed the validity of the petitioners' claims and formalized the commitments made by the military during the proceedings. The court ordered the state to cover the petitioners' legal expenses in the amount of NIS 20,000.

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[Read the report on the Abu Awwad Family case](#)

[Join Our WhatsApp Group for Diplomatic Updates](#)

We invite you to join our WhatsApp group for diplomatic updates, in which we send periodic updates on important developments in the West Bank easily and conveniently. It is a 'silent' group, meaning only the administrators can post messages, and there are no conversations or debates. You are welcome to join and share the link with colleagues.

Join Yesh Din's new WhatsApp group

Read more about the petition

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