



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

New HCJ Petition: Force the Military to Allocate Equal Public Land in the West Bank to Palestinians

On November 28, 2024, Yesh Din submitted a petition filed by Attorneys Shlomy Zachary and Lior Tzur challenging the severe discrimination in land allocation in the occupied West Bank. The petition was directed against the Military Commander of the West Bank, the Civil Administration, the Custodian of Government Property, the Judea and Samaria Legal Adviser, and the Civilian Deputy to the Head of the Civil Administration in the West Bank.

Since the 1970s, Israel has declared significant portions of West Bank lands as public or state land, relying on a controversial interpretation of Ottoman Land Law. Over 1.2 million dunams (120,000 hectares) of land, 22% of the West Bank, are now under Israeli military control. However, 99.3% of this public land has been allocated to Israeli settlements, with only 0.7% benefiting Palestinians, violating international law and Israel's obligations as an occupying power.

In August 2020, the Military Commander of the West Bank issued a

military order mandating the Civil Administration to act equally concerning land allocation and contracting in the West Bank. However, section 11 in the military order exempts the Civil Administration from publishing tenders concerning the allocation of public land pending the introduction of appropriate regulations by the Head of the Civil Administration. Though four years have passed since the order was issued, the regulations that make it binding have not been introduced, and land allocation continues almost exclusively for Israeli settlements, denying Palestinians development opportunities. This policy contravenes Articles 46, 52, and 55 of the Hague Regulations and international human rights law.

Yesh Din's petition articulates a strong position against the attempt to cement the Israeli apartheid regime under the protection of the law. The petition demands the enactment of regulations for equitable land allocation and an immediate halt to land transactions until this is implemented. The petition also underscores that the policy actively suppresses Palestinian development and violates the principles of trusteeship and equality under both international and Israeli law.

This is a principled petition addressing systemic inequality, which is characteristic of the crime of apartheid, and therefore carries significant public importance.

[Read more about the petition](#)

**New Transparency for Organizations Supported by
Foreign Entities Bill**

On December 8, 2024, a new bill was filed for the Ministers' Committee of the Knesset. This bill aims to impose rules of transparency and disclosure on human rights organizations and CSOs in Israel, which the bill describes as 'representatives of entities operating in Israel on behalf of foreign political entities'. According to the bill, any organization primarily funded by a foreign government entity will be required to disclose this fact in petitions submitted to the High Court of Justice. Additionally, the Ministry of Justice will be obligated to transfer the petition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if one of the parties involved in the petition is primarily funded by a foreign political entity.

The bill claims to address 'the phenomenon of organizations that represent foreign interests in Israel in a non-transparent manner, under the guise of local organizations advocating for the Israeli public interest'. This is yet another attempt by the current government to restrict the already shrinking space of Israeli civil society, reflecting an ongoing effort to delegitimize foreign funding and create a false political narrative about transparency and accountability.

We encourage the international community to apply pressure on the Israeli government to cancel this bill, as its sole purpose is to attack and intimidate human rights defenders.

[Read the Bill](#)

Update on the Hearing of the Abu Awwad Family's Case

On December 9, 2024, a hearing was held in the HCJ regarding the petition Yesh Din filed [to lift restrictions on freedom of movement and access to lands placed on the Abu Awwad family since October 2023](#).

Here is a summary of the hearing:

1. On Saturday (Dec. 14), there will be an olive harvest in the area coordinated only for the residents of the compound. Further updates regarding additional needs will follow. The military has stated it cannot allocate additional forces to secure the harvest.

2. The military representative had claimed, in addition, that the impassable route was indeed passable, and that they had checked this with a military vehicle. The justices decided that Yesh Din's Attorneys and Military representatives would assess this together on the ground. A joint tour of the site has been scheduled for Sunday (Dec. 15) at 9:00 AM to assess the alternative route's feasibility and examine the situation.

3. The closure order on the area surrounding the Abu Awwad family's residential compound has been amended to permit anyone access (marked red on the map below). This was executed as a result of the State Prosecution's failure to do so months earlier, once they had replied to the initial appeal that prohibiting the family from leaving the compound as part of the closure order was a mistake. This means there is no longer a legal prohibition on using the dirt road leading from the residential compound to the impassible route that was determined as an alternative route (the dirt road is marked in light blue on the map).



Map provided by the State Prosecution (with English added by Yesh Din) as part of the amendment to the closure order, December 9, 2024

During the hearing, the justices criticized the State Prosecution regarding the army's conduct. Justice Barak-Erez aimed to take a "practical", forward-looking approach, and even used the term "protected residents" referring to the Abu Awwad family. We will update the diplomatic community on further developments and thank those who made the effort to attend the hearing.

[Read the notice from the State Prosecution \(Hebrew\)](#)

[New WhatsApp Group for Diplomatic Updates](#)

We opened a new WhatsApp group for diplomatic updates, in which we will be sending periodic updates on important developments in the West Bank easily and conveniently. It will be a 'silent' group, meaning only

the administrators can post messages, and there won't be conversations or debates. This is an efficient way to keep the diplomatic community up to date, and you are welcome to join and share the link with colleagues.

Join Yesh Din's new WhatsApp group

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