



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Plundered Pastures: Israeli settler shepherding outposts in the West Bank and their infringement on Palestinians' human rights

Yesterday, May 11, Yesh Din released a new report which exposes the rapid proliferation of settler shepherding outposts across the West Bank as an increasingly popular method for dispossessing Palestinians of their land and a central threat to Palestinian herding and agricultural communities. In [Plundered Pastures: Israeli settler shepherding outposts in the West Bank and their infringement on Palestinians' human rights](#), Yesh Din reveals that, **between 2017-2021, 35 such outposts were established on land which the State has declared 'State land', leading to the takeover of 100,000 dunams of pastureland**. The report exposes the **direct support the GOI lends** the establishment of shepherding outposts, both through land allocations and financial assistance, and how these outposts exploit the known tactics of settler violence, complicity of the Israeli military and failure of Israeli law enforcement to promote Israeli territorial domination of the West Bank.

[Click for for the full report](#)



Israeli settler from the shepherding outpost Negohot, May 2020. Photo: Suniyeh Taha Jadallah Mohammad.

Israeli shepherding outposts in the oPt are not identical and cannot be characterized uniformly, however, all shepherding outposts were built without an official Israeli resolution for the establishment of new settlement, in breach of the government's declared policy, and as all Israeli settlements and outposts in the West Bank, in violation of international law.

Shepherding outposts normally consist of one young family of just a few individuals and volunteers. By building structures, grazing flocks across vast areas, taking over water resources and oftentimes perpetrating violence against neighboring Palestinian communities, the settlers are able to take control of large swaths of land. Indeed, shepherding outposts reflect a revitalized strategy of taking over '**maximum land with minimum Israelis**', whereby a mere few dozen Israelis have taken control of 100,000 dunam of land in the matter of a few years.

The testimonies and data in the report describe the severe and routine harm that the settlers' activities in shepherding outposts cause Palestinians in the West Bank, as they employ violent tactics against Palestinians and their property in order to expand and increase control over grazing areas.

Furthermore, Israel supports the shepherding outposts by providing them exclusive allocations of pastureland, financial grants and assistance with infrastructure. This **support is administered directly by government offices, the Jewish National Fund (JNF or KKL) and the Israeli regional councils in the oPt, as well as by various bodies who receive public funds (among other sources): the Settlement Division of the World Zionist Organization (WZO), Yesha Council, Amana, and others.**

Israeli shepherding outposts are established on lands declared by Israel as 'State land'. In violation of international law, **Israel uses land declared "state land" almost exclusively for the benefit of the Israeli settlement enterprise** in the oPt and excludes Palestinian individuals and communities from it. Of all "state land" in the West Bank the Civil Administration ever allocated for any type of use since 1967, Palestinians were allocated a mere 0.24%.

Establishing settler shepherding outposts is designed to create substantial and long-term change to the map of Israeli settlement in the oPt, which will lead to diminished living areas for Palestinians in the West Bank and result in severe and extensive infringement on their human rights.

Yesh Din calls on the international community to intervene and stop Israel from building and supporting settler shepherding outposts, which, like all settlements and outposts, inherently infringe upon Palestinians' human rights. The international community must guarantee Israel fulfils its obligation to protect the Palestinian population in the territories under its military occupation as required by Israeli and international law.

[Click for for the full report](#)

[Click for article in YNet discussing new report \(Hebrew\)](#)

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