



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Picture: Oren Ben-Hakun



**Petition to the HCJ - Cancel the
Cabinet Decision to Resume
Settlement of Title Procedures**

On September 11, 2025, Yesh Din, together with Bimkom, ACRI, and HaMoked, filed a joint petition to the HCJ against the Cabinet's decision to resume Settlement of Title procedures^o (land registration) in the West Bank, adopted in May 2025.

Renewing the land registration process constitutes yet another step in the unlawful annexation of the West Bank, and an additional means of stripping Palestinians of their land and property.

The Settlement of Title procedures seek to regulate land rights and to permanently register ownership in the land registry ("Tabu"). Once completed, registration can rarely be altered. In the West Bank, Settlement of Title procedures began under the British Mandate and continued under Jordanian rule. Immediately after Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967, the Israeli military commander declared a freeze on land registration procedures. By then, land ownership registration had been completed for only about one-third of the West Bank territory.

The decision to freeze land registration was based both on Israel's obligations as an occupying power and on practical reasons, such as lack of access to information. Additionally, since the land registration process is irreversible, it constitutes a sovereign act - one that cannot be carried out by an occupation regime, which by nature is temporary.

Renewing the land registration process is expected to cause widespread violations of the property rights of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian West Bank residents who left the territory following the 1967 war and are considered by Israel 'absentees' who will not be able to participate in the process. It will also harm Palestinian residents currently living in the West Bank, since the data held by Israel regarding land registration in many areas and villages is incomplete and obsolete,

making it impossible to reconstruct the information and continue the procedure from the point at which it was frozen.

In effect, Israeli Cabinet ministers have decided to renew procedures that will violate the property rights of Palestinians who are not present in the West Bank and therefore cannot defend their property, as well as the rights of Palestinians who do reside in the West Bank but whose relevant land registration data is inaccessible. The illegality of such a move is stark, and even more so given that the decision will harm residents who lack the right to vote, and cannot thus influence the government or their own future.

Although all these considerations remain valid today - and despite this being a clear breach of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law - the Cabinet resolved to resume land registry procedures, explicitly declaring it to be a sovereign act, and stating that the purpose of renewal is to strengthen Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

The land registry process must accurately reflect ownership and property rights. Yet Cabinet ministers do not intend to accurately and fairly identify West Bank land ownership rights. Instead, they are weaponizing the procedure as a tool to advance their explicit political-ideological goal of imposing Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank, while dispossessing and displacing Palestinians.

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

[Further information on the Cabinet Decision](#)

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.

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