

Yesh DinVolunteers for Human Rights

Urgent: Illegal plan of at least 33 Israeli rightwing organizations to establish at least 10 new outposts in the West Bank on July 20

On May 11, 2022, the far-right Nachala Settlement Movement presented a plan to establish at least 10 new outposts in the West Bank on the night between July 19-20 <u>during a conference</u> attended by right-wing organizations.

This plan is being promoted by at least 33 Israeli right-wing movements and bodies, including regional and local municipalities in the West Bank. In preparation for this 'operation', Nachala has held multiple conferences, as well as a number of surveying tours to scope out potential sites for the outposts. Potential sites include Wadi Kana, Uriyad (potentially to expand an existing outpost), lands belonging to the Palestinian village of Iskaka, Neve Beniya, Givat Ha'or and Ma'alot Halhul. Media reports indicate that over 1,000 settlers are involved in the establishment of these outposts. More recently, Nachala has launched campaigns inviting the public to participate in this operation.

Although Israeli authorities are well aware of the plan, as far as we know, no actions have been taken to stop this operation, and thus to prevent its catastrophic consequences. Furthermore, no public condemnation nor call has been made to the public to refrain from this illegal activity.



Logos of the Israeli organizations involved in the July 20 plan.

Ramifications if implemented

Based on the records of the establishment of more than 145 outposts throughout the West bank, and as demonstrated recently with of the establishment of the illegal outpost Evyatar, it is safe to say that, if successful, such operation will directly result in the establishment of ten new settlements, in violation of international law. These settlements will then be rewarded with military protection, financial support, access to infrastructure, and eventually will be authorized and granted an official status as legitimate, permanent settlements according to Israeli law.

Settlements and outposts cause multi-dimensional violations of the human rights of Palestinians living in the West Bank, and particularly of those living in nearby villages. Tolerating the establishment of new outposts is equivalent to sanctioning continued harm on a massive scale to tens of thousands of Palestinians. Our experience at Yesh Din has shown us that this harm will include both physical injuries and destruction of Palestinian property.

If implemented, this plan will inevitably result in more violence and bloodshed in the region. While Yesh Din is chiefly concerned with the violations of human rights entailed, the international community should also be aware that the establishment of these new outposts would constitute a devastating blow to the territorial contiguity necessary for a Palestinian state or for any just resolution.

Yesh Din responds

On July 3, Yesh Din sent letters to Israel's Minister of Defense, the Minister of Public Security, the Military Commander of the West Bank, the Legal Advisor to the government, the Legal Advisor to Judea and Samaria, the head of the Civil Administration and several other law enforcement officials, informing them of the illegal plan and its severe implications for neighboring Palestinian communities, demanding that they take action to prevent its implementation. Moreover, in light of the intentions to commit illicit activity, the address urged Israeli officials to open criminal investigations against the Nachala Settlement Movement, the regional councils in the West Bank, and other organizations responsible for the plan.

We call upon the international community to take urgent action, calling upon Israeli authorities to prevent the establishment of new outposts.

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Yesh Din is required by law to make the following statement:

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