

**Alternative Report submitted by the  
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality (NCF)**

**to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
on the occasion of the consideration of the  
14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> periodic reports of Israel**

**Israel's violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial  
Discrimination with regard to the Negev Bedouin**

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Negev Coexistence Forum  
For Civil Equality

منتدى التعايش المدني في  
النقب من أجل المساواة المدنية

פורום דו-קיום בנגב  
לשוויון אזרחי



The NCF is an independent non-governmental organization

**Contact Person**

Haia Noach, Executive Director  
Email: [noach30@gmail.com](mailto:noach30@gmail.com)  
Tel: +972 524269011

NEGEV COEXISTENCE FORUM FOR CIVIL EQUALITY (NCF) – In 1997, a group of concerned Arab and Jewish residents of the Negev (the southern desert region of Israel) established the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality to provide a framework for Jewish-Arab collaborative efforts in the struggle for civil equality and the advancement of mutual tolerance and coexistence. The Forum, also known as “Dukium” in Hebrew, is unique in being the only Arab-Jewish organization established in the Negev that remains focused solely on the specific problems confronting the Negev.

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## Summary

This alternative report regarding the State of Israel's combined 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> periodic report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was prepared by the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality. The report focuses on Israel's implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) regarding the Arab-Bedouin population in the Negev-Naqab, Israel's southern desert region, in order to provide the committee with additional information.

ICERD provides a legally-binding framework that indigenous people, such as the Negev Bedouin, can use to call attention to cases of racial discrimination.<sup>1</sup> As a signatory, Israel has a legal obligation to comply with its provisions. As documented in this report, however, the Negev Bedouin are subject to a number of racially discriminatory Israeli laws, policies and practices as a result of the state's determination to increase the region's Jewish population at the expense of its indigenous citizens. For instance, the state unequally distributes services and access to resources and land, attempts to concentrate the Bedouin into specific townships and fails to recognize traditional rights to land. Further, unlike Bedouin villages, not only have Jewish farms in the Negev recently been retroactively approved by the state but ten new settlements have also been approved. Thousands of Bedouin, on the other hand, face forced displacement under the proposed Praver-Amidror Plan that was formulated with barely input from the Bedouin community and approved by the cabinet on 11 September 2011.

Half of the Negev Bedouin population lives in so-called "unrecognized villages" which lack basic services such as running water, electricity, waster removal, telephone lines, paved roads, schools and medical clinics. Residents in these villages have experienced an escalation of home demolitions over the past years by the Israeli authorities which are using increasingly aggressive force. The seven government-planned towns are not equipped, contrary to the state's position, to absorb the influx of an estimated 30,000 new residents in the event that the proposed Amidror-Praver Plan is implemented. These towns rank at the bottom of all social and economic indicators and suffer from the highest unemployment rates in Israel. Most Bedouin reject the proposal in any event and refuse to renounce their claims and abandoned their ancestral land.

In closing, the NCF makes recommendations where the State of Israel could further advance its compliance with ICERD with respect to the Arab-Bedouin of the Negev.

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<sup>1</sup> In General Recommendation 23, the CERD reaffirmed that the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination apply to indigenous peoples. See General Recommendation No. 23: Indigenous Peoples, 18 August 1997  
<[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/73984290dfea022b802565160056fe1c?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/73984290dfea022b802565160056fe1c?Opendocument)> at 22 January 2012.

## Introduction

### Historical developments

The Bedouin-Arabs of the Negev, the southern desert region of Israel, are an indigenous people. They were traditionally a semi-nomadic people. However, by the mid-nineteenth century, the eight Bedouin clans that had populated the Negev for centuries began to settle down. They regarded the Negev as their territory and divided the region between themselves, subsisting on dry farming and small cattle such as sheep and goats. They relied on livestock and cultivated about 2.5 million dunams<sup>2</sup> of land. Following the establishment for the State of Israel in 1948, however, when the desert became part of the newly formed state, the Bedouin were displaced from most of their lands and only 10 to 15 per cent of the original population remained. The majority of the population was expelled to neighbouring countries, while those who remained were forcibly removed from the land that their families had grazed for generations and transferred to the Eastern Negev which has less rain and less fertile soil. Deportations of Bedouins continued until the mid-1950s and only 11,000 were counted in the 1960 census.

The remaining 11 Bedouin tribes were concentrated in an area known as the “Siyag” which means a territory limited by borders, where some seven other tribes were already living. The Bedouin were informed that this was a temporary measure. Until military rule over the Arab population was dismantled in 1966, the Bedouin were not permitted to enter or exit this limited 1,000 to 1,500 square kilometers without a permit from the military governor.

Then the State began to introduce other legal mechanisms in order to concentrate the remaining Bedouin and further their dispossession including through, for example, the Absentee Property Act (1950) and the Land Acquisition Act (1953). Additionally, the state developed three townships in order to concentrate the Bedouin into an even smaller area on the premise that the government was modernizing the Bedouin and improving their standard of living. Pursuant to new laws such as the 1965 Planning and Construction Law, most of Bedouins’ land was zoned as agricultural (meaning no buildings or houses were permitted). Therefore all the existing structures were deemed to be illegal. This is where we can identify for the first time the phenomena of the so-called “unrecognized villages”. All the villages that existed even before the State of Israel was founded had no legal existence.

This process continued in the 1970s when Israel established a process allowing the Bedouin to file land ownership claims. A total of 3,200 claims were registered, however, in 2003 (30 years later) the government also began to file counter-claims. As the Bedouin were required to produce ownership documents such as land registration and formal deeds that most people did not possess, they were unsuccessful in every case that was brought before the court and 88,000 dunams of land<sup>3</sup> was registered as State land. Additionally there were confiscations of land for public purposes pursuant to the Industrial Zone and for the toxic dump in Ramat-Hovav under the Negev Land Acquisition Law of 1981 (also known as the “The Peace Law”).

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<sup>2</sup> Dunams are the measure of landholdings in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. A dunam is equal to 1,000 square meters, a quarter of an acre or 100 hectare.

<sup>3</sup> An interview by Haia Noach, Executive Director of NCF, with Eli Atzmon, former Deputy Director of the Bedouin Administration on 22 January 2012.

### Government-planned towns

Following the end of military rule in 1966, the government began to urbanize the Bedouin, creating townships with dense urban planning. Today there are seven government-planned townships in the Negev which are home to more than 100,000 Bedouin: Rahat, Tel Sheva, Segev Shalom, Lakiya, Arara, Quseifa and Hura. These townships are rife with crime and unemployment and rank among the lowest socio-economic municipalities in Israel. The towns also contributed to a breakdown of traditional Bedouin social structure by combining many different tribes and clans in one city. Further, there is no room inside the city for livestock, considered essential to Bedouin livelihood and identity.

### Newly recognized townships

Over the past decade, the state has recognized ten new villages: Tarabin, Kochle, Makchol, Derijat, Al-Qrein, Moleda (Wadi-Rowein and Tlaa Rashid), Bir Hadaj, Qasser a-Sir, Um-Batin and Abu-Krinat (Um Matnam). Whilst these villages have been officially recognized, however, a gloomy picture is portrayed even by the state's own auditing findings regarding the available services within the Abu-Basma Regional Council.<sup>4</sup>

### “Unrecognized villages”: non-existent and illegal

A further 53,000 Bedouin live in the so-called “unrecognized villages” which are considered by Israeli authorities as simultaneously non-existent and illegal.<sup>5</sup> On the one hand, these villages are non-existent in that they do not appear on any commercial maps or government planning documents and there no road signs indicate their existence. Residents are not even permitted to put the name of their village on their official identification cards. Further, as they do not officially exist they do not have local building plans—a requirement for housing and infrastructure. This means there are no water pipes, homes are not connected to the national electricity grid, there are no phone lines, roads are not developed, and medical clinics and schools are absent. As there is no municipality, basic services such as rubbish removal and sewerage are not provided, nor can the residents exercise their right to participate in municipal elections.

On the other hand, as it is impossible to acquire a building permit, all homes are rendered illegal and face the constant threat of demolition. Since the 1970s the government has routinely demolished thousands of homes in unrecognized villages and in recent years the policy has slowly intensified. In February 2010 the authorities vowed to triple the yearly quota as a means to coerce the Bedouin communities to abandon their ancestral lands.

Housing demolitions illustrate the State's practice of double standards and discriminatory actions because while it demolishes the homes of its Bedouin citizens or at the least, fails to recognize them, it has retrospectively authorized the illegal establishment of several Jewish settlements and farms in the Negev. By way of background, “individual farms” are a tool used by the state to provide individual Jewish families with hundreds and sometimes thousands of dunams of land for their exclusive use, and keep it out of the reach of Arab citizens of Israel in the Negev. An amendment passed in July 2010 retroactively recognized

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<sup>4</sup> State Comptroller Report 2010, pp. 695-697,

<<http://www.mevaker.gov.il/serve/showHtml.asp?bookid=604&id=193&frompage=701&contentid=12085&parentid=12085&bctype=2&startpage=10&direction=1&sw=1280&hw=954&cn=%E4%EE%E5%F2%F6%E4%20%E4%E0%E6%E5%F8%E9%FA%20%E0%E1%E5%20%E1%F1%EE%E4>> at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>5</sup> A Google map of the unrecognized villages, newly recognized villages and planned towns, prepared by the NCF is available at <<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&vpsrc=1&ctz=-120&cvps=2&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=205327981431344849094.0004b031204f174daff35>>

dozens of relatively new individual farms and conferred upon the Negev Development Authority the power to make recommendations to the Israel Land Administration (ILA) to allocate lands for individual settlements. This amendment affords official status to Jewish farms while the unrecognized Bedouin villages are denied status and continue to live without basic services.

## **Article 2(1)(c) – Laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination**

### **The rights of indigenous peoples to own, develop, control and use their communal lands, territories and resources**

In General Recommendation No. 23, the Committee called upon states to recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to own, develop, control and use their communal lands, territories and resources and, where they have been deprived of their lands and territories traditionally owned or otherwise inhabited or used without their free and informed consent, to take steps to return those lands and territories.<sup>6</sup>

The NCF submits that the state has failed to respect this recommendation with respect to the Abu Basma Regional Council. The council only represents Arab localities, however, unlike Jewish regional councils, the Abu Basma Regional Council does not enjoy territorial continuity. Its boundaries are limited to the cluster of houses within the villages. As a result, the Bedouin within the Abu Basma Regional Council cannot benefit from the income generated by industrial zones, quarries or military bases as would be the case for Jewish councils.

According to the State Comptroller report of 20 December 2011, the Abu Basma Regional Council occupies 50,000 dunams, comprising of ten Bedouin villages and approximately 30,000 residents<sup>7</sup> (only 5,000 of which are registered).<sup>8</sup> By comparison, as can be seen in the table below, a sample of surrounding councils reveals that Jewish councils have jurisdiction over much larger tracts of land and have a much lower population.

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<sup>6</sup> General Recommendation No. 23: Indigenous Peoples, 18 August 1997  
<[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/73984290dfea022b802565160056fe1c?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/73984290dfea022b802565160056fe1c?Opendocument)> at 22 January 2012.

<sup>7</sup> State Comptroller Report 2010, 12 December 2011, p 691  
<<http://www.mevaker.gov.il/serve/contentTree.asp?bookid=604&id=193&contentid=&parentid=undefined&sw=1280&hw=954>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p 701.



Council	Demographics	Geographical size (dunams)	Number of villages	Population size	Dunams per person
Abu Basma	Arab-Bedouin	50,000 <sup>9</sup>	10	30,000 <sup>10</sup>	1.66
Ramat Negev <sup>11</sup>	Jewish	4,300,000	12	5,500	781.81
Bney Shimon <sup>12</sup>	Jewish	440,000	13	7,100	61.97
Eshkol <sup>13</sup>	Jewish	1,000,000	32	11,000	90.91
Tamar <sup>14</sup>	Jewish	1,650,000	6	1,300	1269.23

Table 1: Size and population data for a number of regional councils in the Negev.

## Article 2(2) - Social, economic and cultural measures to ensure the adequate development and protection of certain racial groups

### National strategic plans do not adequately benefit the Bedouin

#### National Strategic Plan for the Development of the Negev

At paragraph 102 of the state report to the Committee, it refers to the National Strategic Plan for the Development of the Negev. This Plan was established pursuant to Resolution 4415 in November 2005. The plan includes a 10-year program at the cost of 17 billion NIS. Its four objectives are to increase the Negev population by 70 percent; raise the number of employed people; and reduce wage differences in the Jewish population in the Negev compared to the national average. It aims to develop five key areas in the Negev: economic development, education, housing, infrastructure and environmental development, and community and leadership (article 3).<sup>15</sup>

In paragraph 102, the state also provides that one of the goals of the Plan is the creation of approximately 20,000 jobs for the Negev population within 10 years. Resolution 4415 provided, contrary to the state report, that 17,000 to 25,000 working positions will be created for the Bedouin.<sup>16</sup> In light of the state report to the Committee, it appears that this target has now been reduced to 20,000 for the entire Negev population.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p 702.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p 691.

<sup>11</sup> Ramat-Negev web site, <<http://www.ramat-negev.org.il/main.php?m=1143>> at 25 January 2012. Ramat-Negev also includes 23 farms and three educational settlements.

<sup>12</sup> Wikipedia,

<[http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%91%D7%A0%D7%99\\_%D7%A9%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%9F](http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%91%D7%A0%D7%99_%D7%A9%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%9F)> at 25 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>13</sup> Wikipedia,

<[http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%A6%D7%94\\_%D7%90%D7%96%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%AA\\_%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%9B%D7%95%D7%9C](http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%A6%D7%94_%D7%90%D7%96%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%AA_%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%9B%D7%95%D7%9C)> at 25 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>14</sup> Wikipedia,

<[http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%A6%D7%94\\_%D7%90%D7%96%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%AA\\_%D7%AA%D7%9E%D7%A8](http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%A6%D7%94_%D7%90%D7%96%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%AA_%D7%AA%D7%9E%D7%A8)> at 25 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>15</sup> Government Decision 4415, 20 November 2005, Prime Minister Office,

<<http://www.pmo.gov.il/PMO/Archive/Decisions/2005/11/des4415.htm>> at 29 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>16</sup> Economic Development, Industry and employment attachment, Prime Minister Office

<[http://www.pmo.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/D6CE813E-BB2E-422D-BAB5-EBDF2E6D1D4D/0/dev\\_indus.pdf](http://www.pmo.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/D6CE813E-BB2E-422D-BAB5-EBDF2E6D1D4D/0/dev_indus.pdf)> at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

Furthermore, it appears that the Plan was not implemented and that the financial resources to support it were not invested. Originally the cabinet decided to invest an overall sum of 17 billion NIS in the implementation of the Plan between 2006 and 2015 (article 5).<sup>17</sup> Due to the Second Lebanon War, however, the Plan was frozen in 2006 and resources that were designated for the Negev were diverted to the Galilee.<sup>18</sup> In November 2006, the Government resolved to commence a modified plan with a reduced budget of 400 million NIS per year. The main government institution responsible for the implementation of the plan is the Ministry for the Development of the Negev and the Galilee, created in 2005. From the beginning, however, the Ministry failed to establish a specific body in charge of the National Strategic Plan. According to the 2008 report of the state comptroller, the budget of the alternate plan was only partially invested in the Negev. The figures show that in 2006 the government committed itself to invest 1 billion NIS in the program, however, it was never operational. At the end of 2006, the government decided to invest 400 million NIS in a one-year program (for 2007) but this was only partially implemented.<sup>19</sup>

The National Strategic Plan ostensibly includes the Arab-Bedouin community in the Negev and details a comprehensive proposal for its development. However, the plan neglects to address the very two issues that are central to any improvement in the Bedouins' living conditions: land ownership and the unrecognized villages.<sup>20</sup> Neither solutions nor resources are canvassed to allow spatial development for the benefit of the Bedouins and the allocation of housing.

In contrast, the Plan does address the issue of employment and education within the Bedouin population; however, it fails to take into consideration its current and future needs. For example, taking into account the high unemployment rate within the Bedouin population, the 20,000 planned workplaces for Bedouins was insufficient and even that was not implemented. In Rahat, the largest Arab-Bedouin city, the unemployment rate in 2008 was 30.7 percent whereas the average in the Negev was 57 percent. Segev Shalom had the highest rate of 37.4 and the even 39.1 percent in March 2000.<sup>21</sup> Even though there are no official statistics for the unrecognized villages, it can safely be assumed that the rate is even higher due to the fact that there are even fewer job opportunities and no infrastructure.<sup>22</sup> Moreover the plan focuses on economic branches such as high-tech industries that require a

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<sup>17</sup> Government Decision 4415, 20 November 2005, Prime Minister Office, <<http://www.pmo.gov.il/PMO/Archive/Decisions/2005/11/des4415.htm>> at 29 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>18</sup> Shlomo Swirski, 'Current Plans for Development the Negev: A Critical Perspective', Adva Center, January 2007, p 26 <<http://www.adva.org/uploaded/AdvaNegevJanuary2007.pdf>> at 26 January 2012.

<sup>19</sup> State Comptroller Report 2008, 59 B, p. 813

<<http://www.mevaker.gov.il/serve/showHtml.asp?bookid=545&id=191&frompage=827&contentid=10215&parentid=10213&bctype=1&startpage=14&direction=1&sw=1280&hw=954&cn=%E4%EE%F9%F8%E3%20%EC%F4%E9%FA%E5%E7%20%E4%F0%E2%E1%20%E5%E4%E2%EC%E9%EC>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>20</sup> Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, 'The Bedouin-Arabs in the Negev-Naqab Desert in Israel' (2009), Report to the UN Committee for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), p. 24

<[http://dukium.org/user\\_uploads/pdfs/Response\\_to\\_State%20Report.pdf](http://dukium.org/user_uploads/pdfs/Response_to_State%20Report.pdf)> at 24 January 2012.

<sup>21</sup> Negev Bedouin Statistical Yearbook No. 3 2010, Negev Center of Regional Development, Ben Gurion University, Table D/11: Participation Rates in the Annual Civil Workforce among Persons Aged 15 and Above, by Locality, 2008, in percentages, p. 110. <<http://web.bgu.ac.il/NR/rdonlyres/04BC4DDD-6D60-4B11-A1CA-FE1B107C2535/117066/hebrewbooksideJuly.pdf>> at 24 January 2012.

Israeli Employment Service Website, 18 July 2010 <<http://www.taasuka.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/F48B5F3D-A78E-4A87-BEBF-6093329728A3/0/selecteddata0310.pdf>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>22</sup> Israeli Employment Service Website, 18 July 2010 <<http://www.taasuka.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/F48B5F3D-A78E-4A87-BEBF-6093329728A3/0/selecteddata0310.pdf>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

high level of qualification which is unrealistic. Bedouins comprise only 2.2 per cent of all university students and; there is no allowance in the plan to provide the necessary training for Bedouins to enter these types of professions.<sup>23</sup>

According to a press release of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the new Employment Center for the Bedouin Sector, as part of the Center for Regional Development, was inaugurated in April 2010<sup>24</sup> – a whole five years after the commencement of the Plan. The NCF was unable to determine where, and in fact if, this center had been opened and was operational. Additionally, it appears that the center only offers programs for the recognized villages as it does not provide for any development of infrastructure for employment in the unrecognized villages.

## **Article 5(a) – Equal treatment before tribunals and other organs administering justice**

### **Low success of appealing home demolition orders**

On 6 December 2011 the Magistrates Court cancelled 51 home demolition orders in the unrecognized village of Alsira.<sup>25</sup> The residents of Alsira anticipate, however, the state will appeal this decision. Further, in 2008 the case of the Ali Abu Scheta family the Magistrate Court decided to postpone the demolition of houses as there was no alternative housing solution for the owners. The District Court, however, overturned this decision.<sup>26</sup> These are the only cases known to us where there was some success in appealing to the courts. The only advantage in this course of action is the fact that people gain more time of shelter for their family.

### **State practice of counter claims**

In 2003, the Ministry of Justice began the practice of filing counter land claims against the original land claims of the Arab-Bedouins in order to force them to leave their ancestral lands. Instead of allowing the Arab-Bedouins "equal treatment before the tribunals and all other organs administering Justice" required under Article 5(a) of the ICERD, the Israeli state uses its judicial system as a tool against the Arab Bedouins.

In the early 1970s, the government declared the Northern Negev, including the *Siyag* area where all Negev Bedouin live, subject to the land arrangement process. All Bedouin citizens were asked, in accordance with the 1969 Land Settlement Ordinance, to file any land rights claims they have. A total of 3,200 claims were registered over approximately 991,000 dunams

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<sup>23</sup> Adalah, 8 July 2010, 'Negev 2015: A National Strategic Plan for the Development of the Negev' <<http://www.adalah.org/features/naqab/naqabplan2015-28jan07.pdf>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>24</sup> Ministry of Industry and Trade Labour, <<http://www.moit.gov.il/NR/exeres/32402B39-D0D6-4CF4-B6E7-D02AFDA8C8EC.htm>> at 22 January 2012.

<sup>25</sup> 'Court cancel demolition orders against the village of Alsira', The Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, 7 December 2011 <<http://www.dukium.org/eng/?p=1312#more-1312>> at 22 January 2012.

<sup>26</sup> Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, Newsletter March 2008, <[http://www.dukium.org/user\\_uploads/News-Letters/NL11\\_HEB3.pdf](http://www.dukium.org/user_uploads/News-Letters/NL11_HEB3.pdf)> at 24 January 2012.

(247,000 acres) of land.<sup>27</sup> From then until around the year 2008, there were land settlements regarding 150,000 dunams of land.<sup>28</sup>

The Albeck Committee, established in 1975 by the government to address Bedouin land claims, determined that Bedouin have no legal rights to the land and expected the government not to approve of the eviction of the Bedouin without compensation. Thus it recommended that the government act in “good will” and go beyond the strict formal law,<sup>29</sup> by granting Bedouin some compensation through negotiations, on the condition that claimants give up any claim to the land and move to one of the state-planned townships.<sup>30</sup> The government acted in accordance with the committee’s recommendations, started a process of negotiation and concurrently froze all land claims.<sup>31</sup> The negotiations were conducted by the Israeli Land Authority (ILA) using the Albeck compensation scheme as a base for negotiating the Bedouin claims.<sup>32</sup>

As of 2008, according to the Goldberg Committee report,<sup>33</sup> 380 land claims out of 3,220 (12 percent of the total land claims) had been settled, covering an area of 205,670 dunams (about 18 percent of total claimed lands). Thousands, however, remained unsettled. A large number of the ‘settled claims’ (80,000 dunams) were forcibly settled in accordance with a law known as the Peace Law, following the peace agreement with Egypt and the relocation of a military airport to Tel Malchata a Bedouin area.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Haia Noach, *The existent and non-existent villages* (2009), p. 64, Pardes (in Hebrew).

<sup>28</sup> Goldberg Committee Report (2008), p. 14, Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure, <[http://moch.gov.il/SiteCollectionDocuments/odot/doch\\_goldberg/Doch\\_Vaada\\_Shofet\\_Goldberg.pdf](http://moch.gov.il/SiteCollectionDocuments/odot/doch_goldberg/Doch_Vaada_Shofet_Goldberg.pdf)> at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew)

<sup>29</sup> Albeck Report (1975:1).

<sup>30</sup> By this point, there were two Bedouin townships.

<sup>31</sup> Shlomo Swirski and Yael Hasson, ‘Invisible Citizens: Israel Government Policy Toward the Negev Bedouin’, Adva Center, February 2006, p 24 <<http://www.adva.org/UPLOADED/NegevEnglishFull.pdf>> at 26 January 2012.

<sup>32</sup> Roughly speaking the Albeck compensation scheme offered a variety and a combination of compensation by alternative land, money and water for agriculture. Claimants are entitled to receive monetary compensation equal to 65 percent of their claimed land (Land value is assessed based on its value in 1948, not in the time of the payment). Alternatively, for a claim above 400 dunams, claimant may get 20 percent of the claim in alternative land and 30 percent monetary compensation or receive 4 dunam with water rights; for claims between 100-199 receive 1 dunam with water rights; 2 dunams of claims between 200-299; or three dunams for claims 300-399. Albeck Report (1975: 2-3). The recent official proposal is within resolution 1028 of the council of ILA. Previous resolutions were, 813; 932; and 996, see, Israel Land Administration, [www.mmi.gov.il](http://www.mmi.gov.il) (accessed 11 July 2011).

<sup>33</sup> A committee founded by the Israeli government to recommend on solutions to the land and housing issues of the Negev Bedouin-Arabs, see Israel Government Resolutions 631 (July 15, 2007), 1999 (July 15, 2007), and 2491 (October 28, 2007). On the Goldberg Committee, see Amara Ahmad (2008b), “The Goldberg Committee: Legal and Extra-Legal Means in Solving the Naqab Bedouin Case,” 8:2 *Hagar Studies in Culture, Polity and Identities* 227-243; see also, Goldberg Committee Report (2008). See Goldberg Committee (2008) Final report of the Committee to Propose a Policy for Arranging Bedouin Settlement in the Negev, December 11, <http://www.moch.gov.il/spokesman/pages/doverlistitem.aspx?listid=5b390c93-15b2-4841-87e3-abf31c1af63d&webid=fe384cf7-21cd-49eb-8bbb-71ed64f47de0&itemid=42> (Hebrew; accessed April, 15, 2010);

<sup>34</sup> See Goldberg Committee (2008) Final report of the Committee to Propose a Policy for Arranging Bedouin Settlement in the Negev, December 11, <http://www.moch.gov.il/spokesman/pages/doverlistitem.aspx?listid=5b390c93-15b2-4841-87e3-abf31c1af63d&webid=fe384cf7-21cd-49eb-8bbb-71ed64f47de0&itemid=42> (Hebrew; accessed April, 15, 2010); see also, The 1980 Negev Land Acquisition Law (Peace Treaty with Egypt); see also, Hasson & Swirski (2006: 19-21). The government then used the land to build, in addition to the Nevatim airbase, the state-planned townships of Kseife and A’ra’ra for Bedouin families displaced from the site. The Law included a compensation formula, but the amount of compensation offered for the expropriated land was much less than

The state has amended the offered compensation several times; however, it was clear to the government that Bedouin claimants viewed the compensation as insufficient and unjust.<sup>35</sup> Although the Israeli government determined not to decide on these 3,000 land claims, it treated these disputed lands as state land, and not lands under ownership dispute.

In 2004, following a government decision<sup>36</sup> and the adoption of a new development plan for the Negev, the State Attorney's office of the Southern District and the ILA began pursuing a strategy of "counter-claiming" in court against the 30-years worth of (approximately) 3,000 unsettled land claims left frozen after 1975, that is, the State submits a land claim to the same land that was claimed by other Bedouin claimants since the 1970s. According to the ILA, the counter-claim strategy is part of a "strategy of protecting state resources...[and] safeguarding its land reserves for the benefit of the whole population."<sup>37</sup> The 2015 Negev Development Plan included "an arrangement for the land issue to be resolved through counter-claims of ownership by the government using the courts."<sup>38</sup>

When a land claim is counter-claimed, the land officer is required under article 43 of the 1969 Land Settlement Ordinance to transfer the conflicting claims to the relevant District Court, in our case the Beersheba District Court.<sup>39</sup> Although state land rights are being considered by the land settlement officer regardless whether the state did submit a claim or not, the state, through the ILA and its organ the Bedouin Development Administration, submit counter land claims. It seems that the State prefers that the District Court examine its land rights rather than the land settlement officer, or rather to make its objection apparent to granting land rights to the Bedouin claimants. Legitimation considerations might be at play as well. Having the court denying the land rights to the Bedouin, or more accurately confirming the state's position of denying land rights to the Bedouin, legitimates the state's position on this front. The burden of proof lies on the Bedouin in the event that the state files a counter claim.

The official ILA figures from 2007 indicate that that the ILA has submitted 401 counter land claims, covering an area of 175,000 dunams, and by then won cases over an area of 50,000 dunams.<sup>40</sup> As appears from the testimony of Ilan Yishoron, former Director General of the Bedouin Development Administration of the ILA, on May 2008 before the Goldberg Committee, the state had submitted about 450 counter-claims (of the about 2,840 remaining land claims) to the land settlement officer, who transferred 223 of them to the Be'er Sheva District Court. The court, by 2008, had ruled in 80 cases all in favor of the state, leading

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that given to Jewish settlers removed from the Sinai at the same time. The GOI designated an amount of NIS 245 million (at 2005 value) for the evacuated 7,000 Bedouins, while the cost of the evacuation of approximately 5,000 Jewish settlers from Sinai was NIS 3.4 billion (at 2004 value) for paid compensation and another NIS 2.1 billion for their resettlement in about 19 agricultural localities.

<sup>35</sup> The recent official proposal is within resolution 1028 of the council of ILA. Previous resolutions were, 813; 932; and 996, see, Israel Land Administration, <[www.mmi.gov.il](http://www.mmi.gov.il)> at 11 April 2011.

<sup>36</sup> Government Decision no. 216 (Arab 1) "A plan for the Bedouin sector in the Negev" 14.4.2003

<sup>37</sup> Israel Land Authority (2009). ILA web site , 19 January 2012, [http://www.mmi.gov.il/static/HanhalaPirsumim/Beduin\\_information%20hebrew.pdf](http://www.mmi.gov.il/static/HanhalaPirsumim/Beduin_information%20hebrew.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Off the map: Land and Housing Rights Violations in Israel's Unrecognized Bedouin Villages* (2008) p. 19 <[http://www.hrw.org/en/node/62284/section/4#\\_ftn26](http://www.hrw.org/en/node/62284/section/4#_ftn26)> at 24 January 2012.

<sup>39</sup> Under the British settlement process as dictated by the 1928 Land Settlement Ordinance, it is the land officer who examines the conflicting claims and gives a decision. The Israeli Ordinance requests the land officer to refer the conflicting claims to the District Court.

<sup>40</sup> ILA Annual Report (2007), p.76.

<http://www.mmi.gov.il/Osh/Aspx/DownloadTofes.aspx?Maarechet=71&TofesId=109&UserId=-1&RO=true>

many Bedouin to lose faith and boycott this judicial process.<sup>41</sup> According to a recent statement by Ilan Yishoron, under his new position as the Deputy Director of the Authority responsible of Bedouin land and housing matters (which replaced the Bedouin Development Administration), in a lecture the State has won about 200 counter-claims over about 70,000 dunams.<sup>42</sup> Eli Atzmon, former Deputy Director General of the Bedouin Development Administration of the ILA reports that the state won 88,000 dunams through this harsh mechanism.

Under the counter-claim policy, the Israeli government switched from the “negotiation” approach to the confrontational one with the Bedouin. Bringing the claims to the court does not only help legitimate the state’s actions and policies, but aims at exerting serious pressure on the Bedouin to accept the solution offered by the government. As noted by Havatzelet Yahel, the head of the Land Unit in the State Attorney Office in the Negev regarding the counter-claim policy, “as history shows, and according to my experience, the parallel method of implementing the legal procedure is essential as it encourages compromise and agreed-upon settlements.”<sup>43</sup> According to the Israeli State Comptroller, the government sought to speed up the process to increase the chances of gaining title to the Bedouin lands, stating that “the greater the delay in registering the lands in the name of the state, the greater the risk of losing the titles to such lands”<sup>44</sup>

Thus far, the Israeli courts have confirmed the Government’s legal position, leading to a 100 percent success rate in favor of the state. The counter-claim strategy has had “severe implications” for the Bedouin, many of whom have withdrew from (or avoided altogether) court hearings due to the little possibility to challenge the State’s legal position, the high legal costs, “lack of trust in the legal system”, or lack of formal documentation.<sup>45</sup> The counter-claim strategy served the interests of the Israeli government by both increasing the speed of resolution for Bedouin land claims and encouraging a perception in the Bedouin community that the Israeli court system would offer little or no opening to Bedouin claims.

Finally, in conjunction with a variety of other tactics, the counter-claim measures reinforced the image of the Bedouin as illegal claimants without title to the land or appropriate ‘modern’ evidence of ownership. The construction of a legal argument that makes it impossible for Bedouin to prove his land rights, and the 100 percent success rate of the State in cases in the court, alienates the Bedouin from the law, the judiciary and from a state that

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<sup>41</sup> The counter-claims cover an area of 180,000 dunams, and the 80 decisions that the state won (62 through court rulings and 18 through out-of-court agreements) brought 50,000 dunams under state control. See testimony of Ilan Yishoron before the Goldberg Committee, General Director of the Bedouin Advancement Administration before the Goldberg Committee, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, P.123-126, minutes of the Goldberg Committee (copy with the author). According to Havatzelet Yahel, as of 2006 the State won about 40 cases over 25,000 dunams and in few cases there was a settlement outside the court over an additional 4,000 dunam, see, Havatezelet, Yahel (2006) “Land disputes between the Negev Bedouin and Israel.” 11:2 *Israel Studies* 1–22, pp.13-14. An interview by Haia Noach, Executive Director of NCF, with Eli Atzmon, former Deputy Director of the Bedouin Administration on 22 January 2012.

<sup>42</sup> At the annual conference of the planners union, Ilan Yeshoron, Deputy Director of the Authority responsible of Bedouin land and housing matters spoke during a special panel, “Going forward to solve the Bedouin problem” at Ben-Gorion University, February 10<sup>th</sup> 2011.

<sup>43</sup> Yahel (2006:14).

<sup>44</sup> Israel State Comptroller, Report 52B, 2001, at 116.

<<http://www.mevaker.gov.il/serve/contentTree.asp?bookid=235&id=153&contentid=&parentid=undefined&sw=1366&hw=698>> at 12 April 2011(in Hebrew),

<sup>45</sup> Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, “The Bedouin-Arabs in the Negev-Naqab Desert: Response to the Report of the State of Israel on Implementing the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights” (Aug. 2009), at 17-18.

should serve them equally as citizens. In the described scenario, a British colonial rule proved historically to be more favorable to the colonized Bedouin than their own “democratic” state.

### **Article 5(c) - The right to participate in elections - to vote and to stand for election**

#### **Failure to hold elections for the Abu Basma Regional Council**

On 9 February 2011, the Supreme Court ruled on a petition jointly filed by the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), residents within the council area and the NCF challenging the Abu Basma Bill on Regional Council Elections which allowed the Interior Minister to postpone the council’s first ever elections since its establishment in 2003. The Abu Basma Regional Council includes ten villages with a collective population of about 25,000 Arab Bedouin. The Supreme Court declared that elections for the Abu Basma Council should be held no later than November 2012 and the Minister of Interior was ordered to facilitate the elections. The court claimed that the law represented a grave infringement on the democratic values and the specific obligation Israel holds to ensure regular and transparent democratic elections. As far as the NCF is aware, minimal preparations for such elections have been undertaken, and knows of only one meeting to explain what is required of the local committees. Additionally, ACRI has sent three letters to the Director of Ministry of Interior and the Director of the Abu Basma enquiring what steps have been taken to hold the elections and requesting a copy of the program. ACRI pressed the fact that it was vital to hold the election as it is a right to elect and be elected. To date none of these letters have been answered.

The NCF submits that the state should do more to ensure that Arab communities participate genuinely and effectively in their own local governance including land-use, planning and public service – particularly in light of the fact that elections have never before been held in these villages.

### **Article 5(d)(vii) - The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

#### **Conversion of the Big Mosque of Be’er Sheva into an Islamic museum**

The NCF refutes paragraph 435 of the state report in which it asserts that “Israeli Law grants freedom of worship and ensures the safekeeping of and access to holy places to members of all faiths” following events in Be’er Sheva. In June 2011, the High Court ruled that the Big Mosque in Be’er Sheva (dating back to 1906) should be converted into an Islamic museum consequently denying the Muslim community the opportunity to practice

their religion and use it as a place of worship.<sup>46</sup> The court rejected the council's request that the building be used as a general museum.<sup>47</sup>

The Be'er Sheva Municipality's opposition to designate the mosque as a building for the purpose of praying or for the purpose of a Muslim cultural center is a matter of racial discrimination against the Muslim population of the city. Approximately 6,000 Muslims live in Be'er Sheva today and thousands from across the Negev visit the city on a daily basis. However, as a result of this ruling, not a single mosque operates in Be'er Sheva today. In sharp contrast, there are more than 200 synagogues for the Jewish community.

Furthermore, contrary to the court's ruling, the NCF has observed that the activities of the new Islamic museum are, in reality, general in nature and not focused on the Islamic culture. For instance, its first exhibition, which opened on 20 November 2011, featured photographs of the city of Be'er Sheva during Ottoman Times, the British Mandate and modern times. There was little, if any, relevance to Islamic culture. Furthermore, the NCF received reports from students that during a tour of the mosque in which they participated it was inaccurately recounted by the guide that the building had never been used for praying. Such comments are offensive to the Muslim community.

The NCF also notes that the graveyard in the Old City in Be'er Sheva is neglected and in a poor state, as shown in these pictures below, and it is not sufficiently marked as a Muslim cemetery. The location of the cemetery between the Old City and the new city holds a very high real estate value. As a result, over the years, the area of the cemetery has been reduced and transformed into main roads and parking lots.



Figure 1: The neglected Muslim cemetery in Be'er Sheva (photograph taken in January 2012)

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<sup>46</sup> 7311/02 Association for Support and Defence of Bedouin Rights in Israel and others vs. the Be'er Sheva Cityhall and others.

<sup>47</sup> Jack Khoury, 'High Court rules Be'er Sheva mosque to be used as Islamic museum', *Ha'aretz*, Israel, 23 June 2011 <<http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/high-court-rules-be-er-sheva-mosque-to-be-used-as-islamic-museum-1.369278>> at 19 January 2012.



### **Mosques in the unrecognized villages are not funded by the state**

There are more than 100 mosques in the unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev. However, none of these mosques are funded by the state and are entirely supported by private donations from the villages' residents. This practice is discriminatory in so far as synagogues are partly built with state funds. The only opportunity for state funding lies in small donations for texts and cleaning for the mosques. Further, the salaries of approximately 24 imams and muezzin serving all the Arab-Bedouins in the Negev are paid by the state in the last couple of years.

The NCF also draws to the Committee's attention to the fact that as there are no legal avenues for authorized construction in the unrecognized villages, mosques are built without permits and are therefore subject to the risk of demolition. On 25 December 2008, a mosque in Wadi Al Na'am, which also served as a community center, was demolished following a demolition order dated 21 August 2008.<sup>48</sup> In November 2011, an additional mosque was demolished by its owners in order to avoid demolition costs.<sup>49</sup>

## **Article 5(e)(iii) - The right to housing**

### **Demographic statistics**

As of the end of 2010 there were an estimated 149,000 Bedouin living in the planned townships according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. This includes 25,000 people living within the boundaries of the Abu Basma Regional Council who, the NCF notes, suffer the same poor living conditions as those in the unrecognized villages. There are a further 53,000 people, according to this data, living in the unrecognized villages.

### **“Encouragement” to relocate to the Bedouin townships**

The state's method of “encouraging Bedouin relocation”, as described in paragraph 550 of the state report, to the approved townships is actually an intimidating three pronged policy in the so-called “unrecognized villages”: home demolitions; denial of access to basic services; and state demands to cover cost of demolition operations. In other words, rather than encourage the residents to relocate, it exerts pressure.

#### **Home demolitions**

The state issues demolition orders to houses that were built without permits, however, it fails to provide an avenue for authorized construction within the unrecognized villages (except for a handful of schools and clinics). As the villages are not acknowledged by the state, there are no building plans. As result, the Negev Bedouin must resort to illegal construction. In fact, according to a recent study by Dirasat, the Arab Center for Law and Policy, about a

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<sup>48</sup> Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, 'House demolitions in the Negev', <[http://www.dukium.org/user\\_uploads/pdfs/demolitions\\_archive.pdf](http://www.dukium.org/user_uploads/pdfs/demolitions_archive.pdf)> at 26 January 2012.

<sup>49</sup> ILA web site, [http://www.mmi.gov.il/HodaotmmiInt/show\\_h.asp?key=1069&CodeMaarecet=1](http://www.mmi.gov.il/HodaotmmiInt/show_h.asp?key=1069&CodeMaarecet=1) at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

quarter of Arab towns and villages lack detailed development plans and have no hope of receiving building permits.<sup>50</sup>

In 2011, more than 1,000 Bedouin homes in the Negev were demolished;<sup>51</sup> double the number in the previous year.<sup>52</sup> Please refer to Attachment 1, which is a record of the home demolitions documented by the NCF in 2011. This is a record of the demolitions directly documented by the NCF and as such represents only a portion of the total demolitions. Many families make the difficult decision to demolish their own homes under threat of being charged the cost of the demolition by the state. Data for such owner-demolitions are known only by the state and thus explains the discrepancy in total figures recorded by the state and the NCF.

#### Denial of services

In its efforts to exert intense pressure on the residents of unrecognized villages, the state does not provide basic services including electricity, water, sewage, garbage disposal, health care and education. Nor does the state develop roads to the villages (thus preventing ambulances from entering), provide public transportation or erect signs marking the existence of such villages.

#### State litigation and proposed bills to recover cost of demolition operations

The Negev Bedouin are under increasing pressure to demolish their own homes to avoid charges and salvage personal belongings.

In July 2011, the state filed a lawsuit against 34 residents of Al Arakib (an unrecognized village demolished 30 times since July 2010) to recover the sum of 1.8 NIS million (more than \$500,000 USD) being part of the costs of the demolition operations.<sup>53</sup> Nuri Al Oqbi faced a similar demand and was charged in June 2010 with 300,000 NIS (\$85,000) for the state's expenses (police and "green patrol") for the demolition of his shack and tents and his eviction.<sup>54</sup> Ultimately he was ordered by the court to pay 37,000 NIS.

In late June 2011, Member of Knesset, Dr. Hana Sweid advised the NCF that a proposed bill will see the full costs of home demolitions imposed on homeowners and that this will in effect apply predominately to Arabs and Bedouin within the internationally recognized

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<sup>50</sup> Fadi Eyadat, 'Study: Gov't policy prevents building permits in Arab communities', *Ha'aretz*, Israel, 30 July 2010 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/study-gov-t-policy-prevents-building-permits-in-arab-communities-1.304894>> at 22 January 2012.

<sup>51</sup> Einat Paz-Frankel "Operation Determined Arm": 33 buildings of Negev Bedouin destroyed', *Globes*, Israel, 6 July 2011 <<http://www.globes.co.il/news/article.aspx?did=1000695383>> at 15 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>52</sup> Haia Noach, *A Report on the Right to Housing: Housing Demolitions of Bedouin Arabs in the Negev-Naqab* (2010) Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality <[http://dukium.org/user\\_uploads/pdfs/NCF\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Day\\_2010\\_report%207Dec2010\\_v4.pdf](http://dukium.org/user_uploads/pdfs/NCF_Human_Rights_Day_2010_report%207Dec2010_v4.pdf)> at 15 January 2012.

<sup>53</sup> Joanna Paraszczuk, 'State sues Bedouin of al-Arakib village for NIS 1.8m', *Jerusalem Post*, Israel, 27 July 2011 <<http://www.jpost.com/NationalNews/Article.aspx?id=231200>> at 26 January 2012.

<sup>54</sup> Koriel Ilana, 'The symbol of the Bedouin struggle will compensate the state for his eviction', *YNet*, Israel <<http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3916385,00.html>> at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

Nasser Rago, Nuri Al Oqbi and the race trail Na Lehakir web site, <<http://baduannaqab.wordpress.com/2011/01/06/%D7%A0%D7%A8%D7%A9-%D7%A2%D7%A5%D7%A7%D7%A9-%D7%A9%D7%A4%D7%A8-%D7%A4%D7%A2-%D7%A0%D7%A1%D7%A8-%D7%A8%D7%A9%D7%A2%D7%A5/>> at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

borders of the State of Israel. The bill was approved by the Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee of the Knesset for the first reading and it must be approved again for the second and third readings and then go to the plenum. The bill is expected to be presented to the Knesset plenum for the second and third reading this year.

Under the existing law, only the court has the authority to issue a demolition order coupled with an order for the cost of the operation to be incurred by the homeowner. This proposed amendment, however, concerns the second type of demolition order, that is, those issued by the head of the Planning Committee and known as Administrative Demolition Orders. Presently, the head of the Planning Committee is not authorized to impose the cost of the demolition upon the homeowner. The proposed amendment, however, will enable the head of the Planning Committee to seek an order from the court that the owner be held responsible for the full demolition expenses.

The costs of demolition operations can range from the clerical work involved, to the cost of the police force to secure the demolition, to the trucks and bulldozers. Such expenses will undoubtedly amount to tens of thousands of shekels for a single demolition and hundreds of demolitions occur each year in the Negev. It is well known that the socio-economic status of the Bedouin is already the lowest in the country with a majority of families living well below the official poverty line.<sup>55</sup> If approved, this law will have a debilitating and tangible effect on a community that is already struggling to live in dignity.

Additionally, the NCF further learnt that as a result of intervention by MK Ze'ev Elkin (Likud), this amendment will not apply in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with respect to the demolition of illegal outposts established by Jewish settlers. This reveals the true objective of the proposal—to further oppress the Bedouin population in the Negev which faces the constant threat of demolition. The NCF asserts that this proposed law in effect discriminates on the basis of race and thus contravenes domestic anti-discrimination laws and ICERD.

During the week-long “Operation Determined Arm” carried out by the Israeli Land Authority in November 2011, of the 33 Bedouin homes demolished, 14 were destroyed by the owners out of fear of being charged for cost of demolition and having property seized by the state.<sup>56</sup>

#### Recognition does not protect against home demolitions

The village of Al Forah (El-Foraa) was recognized by the state in 2006,<sup>57</sup> however, this has not protected its residents from the home demolition policy. On 25 May 2011, a large double-story house where three families lived was demolished. The owners had recently successfully appealed to the court for an injunction rendering the demolition illegal.

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<sup>55</sup> Suleiman Abu-Bader and Daniel Gottlieb, ‘Poverty, Education and Employment in the Arab-Bedouin Society: A Comparative View’, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and National Insurance Institute, June 2009, <[http://www.btl.gov.il/Publications/research/Documents/mechkar\\_98.pdf](http://www.btl.gov.il/Publications/research/Documents/mechkar_98.pdf)> at 22 January 2012.

<sup>56</sup> Einat Paz-Frankel ‘“Operation Determined Arm”: 33 buildings of Negev Bedouin destroyed’, Globes, Israel, 6 July 2011 <<http://www.globes.co.il/news/article.aspx?did=1000695383>> at 15 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>57</sup> Government Decision 4704, 19 February 2006, Prime Minister Office, <<http://www.pmo.gov.il/PMO/Archive/Decisions/2006/02/des4707.htm>> at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew).



Figure 2: Photograph taken in Al Forah the day following the demolition of a double story house (26 May 2011)

### Inadequate compensation to relocate to Bedouin townships

At paragraph 551, the state claims that,

[a] family that destroys its unlawful construction and relocates to the planned towns can receive up to 400,000 NIS (U.S. \$108,108) per family. The average sum received is estimated at 200,000 NIS (U.S. \$54,054), which is exceedingly higher than the actual loss.

This is an inaccurate and inflated description by the state of the level of compensation that can be received by a family relocating to one of the planned towns. According to Resolution 1028, passed by the Israeli Land Authority in May 2005 and still in operation today, a family can receive up to 100,000 NIS.<sup>58</sup> This includes a lump sum of 7,500 NIS for transferring and further 1,100 NIS for each child in the family.

Whilst the actual sum received may indeed be higher than the actual loss as the state indicates, the relocating families have no opportunity to build a house in the towns from the compensation that they receive from the state. The cost of construction is far greater than the compensation received. Therefore, the state must significantly increase the levels of compensation in order for relocation from the unrecognized villages to the Bedouin towns to be a feasible and realistic option. Furthermore, in return for compensation the Bedouin must withdraw their ownership claims, vacate the area in full and agree to register the land in the state's name.<sup>59</sup>

The Bedouin families who did not have land claims and relocated from Omer to Tarabin in 2005 received an exceptional compensation package of 250,000 NIS and a lot.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Resolution 1028, 11 May 2005  
<<http://www.mmi.gov.il/MoatzaWeb/InterHachById.aspx?HachId=1028&SearchWords>> at 26 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>59</sup> Shlomo Swirski and Yael Hasson, 'Invisible Citizens: Israel Government Policy Toward the Negev Bedouin', Adva Center, February 2006, p 24 <<http://www.adva.org/UPLOADED/NegevEnglishFull.pdf>> at 26 January 2012.

<sup>60</sup> An interview by Haia Noach, Executive Director of NCF, with Eli Atzmon, former Deputy Director of the Bedouin Administration on 22 January 2012.

### **Establishment of Jewish settlements in the Negev at the expense of the Bedouin**

These policies and actions against the Negev Bedouin illustrate the State's practice of double standards and discriminatory actions because while it demolishes the homes of its Bedouin citizens or at the least, fails to recognize them (and approves the Praver-Amidror Plan that will demolish dozens of villages), it has retrospectively authorized the illegal establishment of several Jewish settlements in the Negev-Naqab and has approved plans for several more.

By way of background, “individual farms” are a tool used by the state to provide individual Jewish families with hundreds and sometimes thousands of dunams of land for their exclusive use, and “keep it out” of the reach of Arab citizens of Israel in the Negev. An amendment to the Negev Development Authority Law (1991) that passed in July 2010 retroactively recognized dozens of relatively new individual settlements (established without approval) and conferred upon the Negev Development Authority the power to make recommendations to the Israel Land Administration (ILA) to allocate lands for individual settlements.<sup>61</sup> This amendment affords official status to Jewish farms while the unrecognized Bedouin villages are denied status and continue to live without basic services.

In September 2011 it was announced that ten new rural Jewish villages would be developed on the outskirts of Arad in the Negev. Around 1,500 housing units are anticipated in each settlement. The Prime Minister’s Office described the project as part of a “Zionist vision for making the Negev flourish, and in line with the government’s policies of development, progress, attracting the population to the periphery and increasing the availability of housing.”<sup>62</sup> While the publicly stated reason for the decision is to promote and develop the peripheral regions and lower the cost of housing, the absence of alternatives and the abundance of other already planned housing units, reveals that the true discriminatory intention behind the decision is to prevent the Bedouin from assuming occupation of the area. Research data from the ILA and several municipalities shows reveals that there are already more than 30,000 new housing units planned for the area so there is no pressing need for these villages. This is in addition to the approval of a number of other Jewish establishments over the past few years. For example, in Kasif 10,000 new housing units will be built for the Orthodox Jewish community.<sup>63</sup>

The Knesset’s Research and Information Center conducted a study of the decision to approve the ten settlements around Arad and quotes Mr Yaron Ben Ezra, Director-General of the Jewish Agency’s settlement division as saying,

The goal of the plan is to grab the last remaining piece of land and thereby prevent further Bedouin incursion into any more state land and the development of an Arab

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<sup>61</sup> Refer to pps 591-3 <<http://www.knesset.gov.il/Laws/Data/law/2250/2250.pdf>> at 26 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>62</sup> Zafir Rinat, ‘Government to okay plan for 10 new Negev communities’, *Haaretz*, Israel, 18 September 2011 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/government-to-okay-plan-for-10-new-negev-communities-1.385066>> at 9 January 2012.

<sup>63</sup> Ranit Nahum-Halevy, ‘Judaization of the Negev at any cost’, *Haaretz*, Israel, 9 January 2012 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/business/judaization-of-the-negev-at-any-cost-1.406251>> at 26 January 2012.

belt from the south of Mount Hebron toward Arad and approaching Dimona and Yeruham, and the area extending toward Be'er Sheva.<sup>64</sup>

### **Existing townships unable to accommodate the Bedouin population**

The current population residing in the unrecognized villages, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, stands at 53,000 across a total of 35 villages. The NCF rejects the state's position (at paragraph 556) that the existing towns (Lakia, Hura, Kssaife, Arara, Tel-Sheva, Tarabin and Segev Shalom and Rahat) are able to accommodate the needs of the Bedouin population. According to current calculations, an additional 25,700 lots within the existing townships would be required in order to absorb the population currently living within the unrecognized villages – not even taking into account population growth.<sup>65</sup> This is assuming that the population voluntarily moves to the townships and are not forcibly relocated.

### **Townships do not accommodate the Bedouin's cultural and traditional needs**

The seven existing towns, established without consulting the Bedouin community about their wishes, fail to accommodate the cultural and traditional needs of the Bedouin. As a result, the townships were built without taking into account the Arab-Bedouin traditional livelihood and particular cultural needs. Forced urbanization and prolatereization obliterated their nomadic traditions and their rural way of life. Those now living in these government-planned townships no longer have adequate space to maintain traditional practices such as agriculture and herding. The towns have disrupted the social fabric and hierarchies of Bedouin communities.<sup>66</sup>

### **Poor infrastructure in the Bedouin towns**

The NCF notes that while the state does provide basic infrastructure such as schools, health clinics, water and electricity in these townships, there is considerable disparity in the standard of service between them and similar Jewish settlements. This discrepancy is most apparent in the education sector. The education system in government-planned Bedouins towns is chronically under-resourced. Not only are the classrooms typically in a dilapidated stated due to prohibitively expensive maintenance costs but also schools lack laboratories, playgrounds and other equipment and special facilities.<sup>67</sup>

Forced urbanization is not a viable solution but an element of a policy of dispossession that threatens both the Arab-Bedouin rights to land and resources and their way of life. Additionally, it will only serve to perpetuate the vicious cycle of poverty that plagues the Bedouin communities.

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<sup>64</sup> Ranit Nahum-Halevy, 'Judaization of the Negev at any cost', *Haaretz*, 9 January 2012 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/business/judaization-of-the-negev-at-any-cost-1.406251>> at 9 January 2012

<sup>65</sup> An interview by Haia Noach, Executive Director of NCF, with Eli Atzmon, former Deputy Director of the Bedouin Administration on 22 January 2012.

<sup>66</sup> Catherine Weibel, *The Bedouins: Squatters on their own land* (2010) Oxfam International <<http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blog/10-02-16-bedouin-squatters-their-own-land>> at 15 January 2012.

<sup>67</sup> Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, 'The Arab-Bedouin in the Negev-Naqab Desert in Israel: Response to the Report of the State on Implementing the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights', October 2012, p 11 <[http://dukium.org/user\\_uploads/pdfs/Dukium\\_Final\\_Shadow\\_report\\_1Nov10.pdf](http://dukium.org/user_uploads/pdfs/Dukium_Final_Shadow_report_1Nov10.pdf)> at 29 January 2012.

Discriminatory policy establishing new Jewish settlements while ignoring the urgent needs of its Bedouin citizens

At paragraph 554, the state notes its decision to build eleven additional Bedouin towns and to expand existing towns on state owned land with government funding. As noted by Dirasat, the Arab Center for Law and Policy, while over 1,000 Jewish settlements have been established since the establishment of Israel in 1948, these seven Bedouin villages in the Negev are the only new Arab towns or villages that have been created in Israel. This is despite the fact that the Arab community has grown in population approximately eight times since 1948 yet its land area occupied by the community has been halved during the same period.<sup>68</sup> In the Negev, the Bedouin population represents 32 percent of the population yet it is living in less than 5 percent of the area. Thus, while the state rapidly creates new Jewish settlement, it discriminatorily disregards the urgent housing needs of its Bedouin citizens and gives preferential treatment. This discriminatory policy has resulted in a much higher population density in the Bedouin villages compared to the Jewish villages as can be seen from the table below.

	Jewish community	Bedouin community
<b>Number of rural settlements</b>	112	45
<b>Total population of rural settlements</b>	~34,500	~80,000
<b>Population of smallest settlement</b>	~50	~300
<b>Population of largest settlement</b>	~1,300	~5,000
<b>Average population of settlements</b>	309	1,740

Table 2: Jewish and Arab communities in the Be'er Sheva District.<sup>69</sup>

Furthermore, the NCF notes that the state is primarily constructing schools in these new Bedouin towns. It is not resolving the urgent issue of lack of building permits in order to allow for authorized construction by the Bedouin residents. To date, not a single building permit has been issued in any of the new Bedouin villages.

At paragraph 558, the state describes the following new towns in the process of planning and development: Abu Krinat – located on 7,320 dunams and designated to accommodate around 15,000 people by 2020; Bir Hadaj – an agricultural town located on 6,550 dunams, and designated to accommodate approximately 12,500 people by 2020; Kaser A-Sir – located

<sup>68</sup> Dirasat, 'Housing in Israel: The unique situation of Arab-Palestinian Citizens', 16 September 2011 <<http://www.dirasat-aclp.org/index.asp?i=691>> at 22 January 2012.

<sup>69</sup> Association of Civil Rights in Israel, 'Principles for Arranging Recognition of Bedouin Villages in the Negev', (Position Paper, May 2011), Chapter II <<http://www.acri.org.il/en/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Prawer-Policy-Paper-May2011.pdf>> at 29 January 2012.

on 5,000 dunams and designated to accommodate around 8,000 people by 2020; Makchul-Marit – three neighborhoods spread over 6,300 dunams and designated to accommodate approximately 12,000 people by 2020; Um Batin – located on 6,700 dunams and designated to accommodate around 8,000 people by 2020; Moleda – located on 11,000 dunams; and Darijat. Further, an additional three towns are undergoing statutory approval procedures are Ovda, Abu-Tlul, and Al-Forah.

Since the state submitted this report, these villages have been recognized, however, in reality on the ground not much as changed in terms of standard of living. Despite formal recognition by the state, these townships still lack infrastructure, running water, sewerage or electricity or the ability to apply for building permits. Furthermore, there is little security of housing as illustrated in Abu Basma. The state did not demolish houses within the zones planned for the townships (referred to as the “Blue Line”) until a decision issued in February 2010 by District Judge Sarah Dovrat, which ended this state of affairs. Judge Dovrat issued orders to demolish 65 houses within the jurisdiction of the settlements in the Abu Basma Regional Council.<sup>70</sup> In April 2011, Abu Basma filed a petition to the Supreme Court against the decision by the District Court.<sup>71</sup>

The NCF notes that Abu-Tlul and Al-Forah were recognized in 2006 pursuant to Government Decision 4704.

#### Insufficient vacant lots in the Bedouin towns

The towns are neither attractive nor offer acceptable residential options, as little has been invested by the government in their development.<sup>72</sup> In 2008–2010 only a fraction of government budgets for planning and development was allocated for the development of existing and new Bedouin towns.<sup>73</sup> Consequently, these towns are among the most socio-economically disadvantaged in Israel. They suffer from high rates of poverty, unemployment, crime and low levels of education and poor health. Most of the towns are overcrowded and ill equipped to absorb new residents.

At paragraph 561, the state claims “there are more than 2,800 vacant lots available for occupancy by Bedouins living in the Diaspora throughout the existing permanent towns and in addition more than 6,900 lots which can be developed upon demand”. Nevertheless, the NCF is aware of hundreds of families in Lokia (including the Abu-Bader, Abu-Abayed, Abu-Rtayosh, Zbarga families and others) who have been waiting for several years for lots within the Bedouin townships and are presently living in very poor conditions. Additionally, there are approximately 2,000 newly married couples each year who must live with their families while they wait for vacant lots.

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<sup>70</sup> Ilana Koriel, ‘Judge: demolish the Bedouin houses in the Negev, and where is the legal advisor of the government?’ 16 February 2010, *YNet* <[www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3849450,00.html](http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3849450,00.html)> at 29 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>71</sup> Re-appeal an administrative petition 2219/10 Head of Abu Basma planning committee vs. Regavim NGO

<sup>72</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Off the map: Land and Housing Rights Violations in Israel’s Unrecognized Bedouin Villages* (2008) p. 17 <[http://www.hrw.org/en/node/62284/section/4#\\_ftn26](http://www.hrw.org/en/node/62284/section/4#_ftn26)> at 24 January 2012.

<sup>73</sup> Mossawa Center, *Report on the state budget suggestions for the years 2009-2010* (2009) <<http://www.mossawacenter.org/files/files/File/budget%202009/State%20Budget%202009-2010.pdf>> at 15 January 2012 (in Hebrew).



### **Discrimination against Bedouin to live in Jewish villages**

The principle of maintaining “the special character” of a neighborhood, as described in paragraph 562 of the state report, is equally applied in the Jewish settlements.

#### **Rejection of Tarabin family to live in Moshav Nevatim**

For instance, in April 2010 the Admissions Committee of Moshav Nevatim rejected the request of a Bedouin family to move into a rented home. The Tarabin family’s application was rejected on the grounds that the family was “incompatible with the community”. A *moshav* is a Jewish agricultural community. Legal proceedings were filed by Adalah to demonstrate that the decision was based on discriminatory considerations.<sup>74</sup> On 21 March 2010, the Supreme Court ordered the Tarabin family to appear before an admissions committee. It overturned the District Court’s decision which was that the family was allowed to live in Nevatim provided they complied with all the *moshav*’s conditions.

#### **Rejection of Bedouin family to live in Gva’ot Bar overturned**

On 29 April 2007, the Appeal Committee in the Israel Land Administration accepted an appeal against the rejection of a Rahat resident to possess a lot in Gva’ot Bar settlement. The Court allowed his acceptance in the settlement.<sup>75</sup>

#### **Admission Committees Law**

In March 2011, the Admission Committees Law was passed by the Knesset authorizing the activity of “admission committees” in rural villages in the Negev and the Galilee that have fewer than 400 families. The law also legitimizes the use of “social suitability” criterion to determine whether to accept or reject individuals who wish to live in these towns. The purpose of the legislation is to protect the “unique character of rural villages and to maintain social cohesion”.<sup>76</sup> In other words, the practical effect of the new law is that Arab-Bedouin families, such as the Tarabin referred to above, can be effectively barred from living in rural villages on discriminatory grounds.

A group of civil society actors, including Adalah, is challenging the law in the Supreme Court, demanding its cancellation (HCJ 2504/11, Adalah, et al v. The Knesset, et al).<sup>77</sup> As recently as 26 January 2012, the Attorney General defended the law, asserting before the court that it is proportionate and that there is no basis on which to invalidate it. Further, it “balances the needs of small communities in the periphery to accept like-minded people who will preserve the towns’ social cohesion, with the obligation to assure that land is allocated in a non-discriminatory manner”.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Adalah, ‘Admissions Committee of Moshav Nevatim Rejects Arab Bedouin Family Request to Move into House Rented from Jewish Family’ (Press Release, 22 April 2010) at <[http://www.old-adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=22\\_04\\_10](http://www.old-adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=22_04_10)> at 15 January 2012.

<sup>75</sup> Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality, ‘The Negev Coexistence Forum Newsletter, September 2007, <[http://www.dukium.org/user\\_uploads/News-Letters/NL9E-web.pdf](http://www.dukium.org/user_uploads/News-Letters/NL9E-web.pdf)> at 26 January 2012.

<sup>76</sup> Ron Friedman and Rebecca Anna Stoil, ‘NGOs to petition against “racist laws”’, *Jerusalem Post*, Israel 24 March 2011 < <http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=213560> > at 15 January 2012.

<sup>77</sup> [http://www.adalah.org/upfiles/2011/Adalah\\_Litigation\\_Docket\\_August\\_2011.pdf](http://www.adalah.org/upfiles/2011/Adalah_Litigation_Docket_August_2011.pdf)

<sup>78</sup> Tomer Zarchin and Jack Khoury, ‘Israeli AG defends controversial law on admissions panels’, *Haaretz*, Israel, 26 January 2012 <<http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/israeli-ag-defends-controversial-law-on-admissions-panels-1.409233>> at 26 January 2012.

## **Discrimination in planning processes**

### **Be'er-Sheva Metropolis District Plan**

In 2000, the authorities began the planning procedures for part of the Be'er-Sheva Metropolis District Plan (No. 23/14/4).<sup>79</sup> The Plan seeks to regulate the planning situation of the greater Negev area, with consideration being given to the population's needs, restrictions, environmental affects etc. Several objections to the plan were submitted.

The NCF opposes the Plan, which identifies the zones where villages can be recognized, on the grounds that there are areas designated for Bedouin villages and there are areas where Bedouin villages will not be recognized and ultimately demolished.

Adv. Talma Duchan was requested by the National Planning and Development Committee to investigate the objections and submit a report. Duchan recommended, among other things, that the plan recognize the need to include the category of “rural settlement”; arrange planning status for additional settlements; and to recognize the villages of Atir, Um Al Hiran and Tel Arad. On November 17, a day after the decision of the Committee to recognize these three villages on the basis of Duchan recommendation, the Prime Minister’s Office intervened and reversed the decision.<sup>80</sup> For one day the villages were recognized, however, the exceptional intervention by the Prime Minister’s Office in the Committee’s decision revoked this recognition. At the date of this report, the plan has not been approved by the Minister.

### **The development of infrastructure and the establishment of public facilities**

At paragraph 564 the state inaccurately asserts that an “additional sum of 1.1 Billion NIS (U.S. \$297,297,297) was invested over a period of six years (2004-2010) for the development of infrastructure and the establishment of public facilities and the reorganization of ownership in southern Israel”. According to the State Comptroller report of 2010, this sum was never invested as a result of Government Decisions 881, 3956, 4088 and 1210.<sup>81</sup> Government Decision 881 related to the development of infrastructure, the establishment of public facilities and the reorganization of ownership in southern Israel. However, in 2004 the Abu Basma Regional Council was established<sup>82</sup> and pursuant to Government Decision 3956, this budget was transferred to its development. Then, following Government Decision 4088, the expenditure of the budget was prolonged until the end of 2009. As of the end of the state comptroller’s reporting period, the sum had still not been invested.

## **Dispossession under the Praver-Amidoror Plan**

### **Praver-Amidoror Plan fails to implement Goldberg Committee recommendations**

With respect to the Governmental Plan referred to in paragraph 574 of the state report, and known informally today as the Praver-Amidoror Plan, the NCF rejects the state’s claim that it

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<sup>79</sup> Bimkom Planners for Planning Rights, Objections to the partial district outline plan 14/4/23, October 2007, p. 3, Bimkom, <<http://www.bimkom.org/dynContent/articles/ObjectBeerSheva.pdf>> at 19 January 2011 (in Hebrew).

<sup>80</sup> ‘Prime Minister’s Office intervened and prevented committee’s recognition of two Bedouin villages’, *Haaretz*, Israel, 17 November 2010, <<http://www.haaretz.co.il/news/politics/1.1230339>> at 29 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>81</sup> State Comptroller Report 2010, 12 December 2011, pp 752-3 <<http://www.mevaker.gov.il/serve/contentTree.asp?bookid=604&id=193&contentid=&parentid=undefined&sw=1280&hw=954>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>82</sup> Abu Basma Regional Council, <<http://abubasma.org.il/index.php?m=text&t=10721>> at 19 January 2012 (in Hebrew)

“is based on the recommendations of the Goldberg Committee and on intensive staff work that was conducted in the past year and included consultations with representatives of various segments of the Bedouin community”.

The Praver-Amidor Plan departs significantly from the findings and principles of the Goldberg Committee and ignores central recommendations. For instance, the Goldberg Committee stated that the government should “recognize, in so far as possible, every one of the unrecognized villages” provided that the decision does not contradict the official plans for the southern district of Israel (Article 110). The first solution offered by the Praver-Amidor Plan, however, is the transfer and concentration of the population into the government-planned towns and the recognition of new villages is the lowest priority.<sup>83</sup> Additionally, the Goldberg Committee recognized the Bedouin’s historic ties to the land and that it is incumbent upon the state to treat the Bedouin as equal citizens with full transparency and involving them as partners in the planning process that will determine their future. Regrettably, the Praver-Amidor Plan contradicts these recommendations of the Goldberg Committee which, at the time, represented a fundamental turning point in the attitude of state institutes towards the Negev Bedouin.

There was no consultation process with the Bedouin community regarding the formulation of the Praver-Amidor Plan. In other words, despite the strong recommendations of the Goldberg Committee, there was no opportunity for the affected indigenous community to provide their input. Any implementation plan that is forcefully and unilaterally imposed upon this already disadvantaged community will only further undermine the delicate social fabric of the Negev and inflame Arab-Jewish relations.

The NCF further notes that the plan, which was originally released in May 2011 and referred to in the state’s follow-up report, was later revised by National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror before its approval by the Israeli’s cabinet on September 11, 2011. The amendments were the result of political pressure from the right, which perceived that the plan was too generous towards the Bedouin population.

#### The Praver-Amidor Plan is discriminatory

The resulting plan is unsatisfactory and discriminatory on a number of levels.

- Disputed land ownership claims must be settled as a precondition for any of the planning solutions offered to the residents of unrecognized villages.<sup>84</sup> Much less than half of current land claims will be recognized by the state. The land claims represent 5 percent of the entire Negev area which is negligible in light of the fact that the Bedouin represent 32 percent of the Negev population. We estimate that eventually the Bedouin will receive compensation for 10 percent or less of their remaining land claims and not necessarily for their original.<sup>85</sup>
- The compensation will equal up to a maximum of 50 percent of any ownership claim. Most of this compensation will be monetary and not in-kind compensation of

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<sup>83</sup> Association for Civil Rights in Israel, ‘Summary of the Implementation Outline to the Goldberg Report for the Arrangement of Bedouin Settlement in the Negev’, p 3.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid, p 5.

<sup>85</sup> An interview by Haia Noach, Executive Director of NCF, with Eli Atzmon, former Deputy Director of the Bedouin Administration on 22 January 2012.

alternative lands.<sup>86</sup> Additionally, it will be paid only after half of the area claimed has been relinquished to the state.

- The right to receive compensation is based upon ownership claims filed by Bedouin under the 1971 land arrangement. Additionally, contrary to the Goldberg Report, compensation is only available to those whose claim was not rejected by the registrar or the courts and those who were not served with counter-claims and subsequently lost.<sup>87</sup>
- If the land is not currently under the control of the claimant, they have no opportunity to receive compensation in the form of land. This entirely disregards the Negev Bedouin's history of decades of forced displacement and discriminates between those who are currently living on their land and those who are not.
- Considerable and arbitrary geographical limits are also imposed by the plan. No settlement west of Route 40 will be permitted and no compensation in the form of land will be granted in this area. The plan is clearly seeking to concentrate the Bedouin into a confined region.
- The criteria set out in the plan as to which towns will be recognized (population density, size and economic capacity), is unclear and will not equally apply to Jewish towns in the Negev.
- The plan deliberately lacks details – it fails to specify the names of the villages which will be affected. However, the former director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Eyal Gabai, estimated that 30,000 people will be removed from where they are living now.<sup>88</sup>
- The level of compensation offered under the plan is unrealistic and applied uniformly. It is unrelated to the actual value of the land as it does not take into account its location and the level of supply and demand in the market. As a result, the compensation is well undervalued. According to ILA Decision 1028, those with or without land claims who relocate from the unrecognized villages will receive a lot and approximately 100,000 NIS which will only allow them to build sub-standard housing or shacks.

The plan is intended to be implemented within five years. This is an unduly limited period of time which will coerce the Bedouin to abandon their rights and claims to their land. It is highly unlikely that satisfactory solutions and compensation will be reached and implemented within this timeframe. Further, the policy that after the 5-year timeframe any remaining land claim will be immediately registered in the name of the state is unprecedented.

#### Inadequate compensation

There are an estimated 200,000 people currently living in both recognized and unrecognized villages. If the Praver-Amidror Plan were to be implemented, the NCF understands that

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<sup>86</sup> Association for Civil Rights in Israel, 'Summary of the Implementation Outline to the Goldberg Report for the Arrangement of Bedouin Settlement in the Negev', p 9.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid, p 7.

<sup>88</sup> Jack Khoury, Zafrir Rinat and Oz Rosenberg, 'Cabinet approves plan to relocate Negev Bedouin', *Ha'aretz*, Israel, 19 September 2011 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/cabinet-approves-plan-to-relocate-negev-bedouin-1.383842>> at 22 January 2012.

there will be a shortfall of approximately 27,000 lots.<sup>89</sup> The state is unable to meet the demand of new lots in the government-planned townships as it is today without the additional accommodation burden that will be generated by the implementation of the Praver-Amidor Plan.

In Negev today, approximately 830,000 dunams of land are subject to ownership claims by the state. Of this figure approximately:

- 455,000 dunams will not be recognized by the state for compensation;
- 250,000 dunams will receive only financial compensation and not compensation in the form of land;
- 42,000 dunams of sloping land will be compensated with money and deducted from the remaining 125,000 dunams;
- half of the remaining 83,000 dunams (that is, 41,500 dunams) will be compensated with land (only part of which will be the original land).

Furthermore, the NCF understands that there are approximately:

- 200,000 dunams of land claims in the central Negev, however, as the land was registered in the name of the state, no compensation will be offered;
- 88,000 dunams are subject to counter claims by the state so no compensation will be offered.
- 130,000 dunams have already been confiscated by the state with no compensation;
- 250,000 dunams in the Western Negev will only receive financial compensation as there are presently no Bedouin living there;
- 37,000 dunams of land were registered as in the state's without compensation even though there were Bedouin present on the land; and
- 120,000 dunams are inside the townships but as the compensation is unrealistic people are not accepting the offer.<sup>90</sup>

The NCF submits that such compensation is merely symbolic and unrealistic. Most of the land in dispute will not be included in this arrangement but left for future generations to resolve. The Praver Bill only deals with a small portion of the 830,000 dunams in dispute and registration in the name of the state will not bring an end to the conflict. Further, it offers no solutions to lots within residential zones in the recognized townships and the level of compensation in terms of recognition rights and level of compensation in land and money is much worse today than in 2006. The market value of the land, in transactions between the Bedouin, is ten times higher than that offered by the state.<sup>91</sup>

There is little incentive under this bill to evacuate the villages and no support to for the villages. What is being offered in the economic plan is only providing for the minimal needs.

### **Means of control: Leasing land for agricultural use**

At paragraph 576, the state asserts, “the Bedouin population is eligible to receive tens of thousands of dunams for agricultural use and shepherding”. The criteria for leasing land for

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<sup>89</sup> An interview by Haia Noach, Executive Director of NCF, with Eli Atzmon, former Deputy Director of the Bedouin Administration on 22 January 2012.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

agricultural and shepherding purposes are not only unclear but it also appears that the state is relying on this mechanism as a means of controlling the Bedouin population. The state is determining on arbitrary grounds who is, and who is not, allowed to lease land. Furthermore, the general lease period is for nine months and the the spring lease period is for a maximum of three months. Jewish herders, however, are able to lease land for a long period.

### **The Authority for the Regularization of the Bedouin Housing Situation in the Negev**

In reference to paragraph 566 of the state report, the NCF asserts that the Authority for the Regulation of the Bedouin Housing Situation in the Negev (responsible for regulating land ownership claims, regulating permanent places of residence, providing assistance in finding employment and coordinating education, welfare and community services), is another means by which the government exerts control over the Bedouin population. The activities of the Authority prevent direct ties being established between the townships and the various ministries.

## **Article 5(e)(iv) - The right to public health, medical care, social security and social services**

### **Discrimination in access to health**

According to a position paper by our colleagues at Physicians for Human Rights (PHR-Israel), dated 23 November 2011, there continues to be basic disparities in the allocation of health resources and inequalities in basic health indicators within the Bedouin sector.<sup>92</sup> This results from the fact that the principle of non-discrimination in medical treatment is not extended to the unrecognized Bedouin villages. The state denies access to adequate health services as a means to coerce the residents of the unrecognized villages to relocate to the government-planned townships and to relinquish ownership of their land. The state fails to provide adequate infrastructure in the unrecognized villages and offer essential services including healthcare clinics.

PHR-Israel reveals the following alarming facts and statistics:

- Currently only 12 health clinics serve a population of approximately 83,000 residents.
- In 34 of the unrecognized villages there are no medical services whatsoever.
- There is one nurse per 3,751 residents of the unrecognized villages, compared to the ratio of one nurse per 657 Jewish residents in nearby *kibbutzim* and settlements.
- There is one doctor per 3,116 residents of the unrecognized villages, compared to a ratio of one doctor per 892 Jewish residents in nearby *kibbutzim* and settlements. The worst example is the unrecognized village of Talha Rashid where PHR-Israel discovered that the ratio is one doctor per 5,110 residents.
- The average number of reception hours of physicians for every 1,000 residents in the unrecognized villages is 13 hours per week, compared to 21 hours per week in the nearby Jewish settlements.

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<sup>92</sup> Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, 'Position Paper: Discrimination in Access to Health', 23 November 2011

- More than 50 percent of the medical staff do not speak Arabic, creating a dangerous language barrier between the medical personnel and the patients, especially women and children, and part of the information leaflets and handouts are available only in Hebrew.
- Only 90 percent of infants born to Bedouin families are vaccinated as part of the Health Ministry's vaccination program, compared to 99 percent of babies born to Jewish parents.
- The rate of Bedouin babies born weighing less than 1.5 kg was higher than the rate in the general population: 1.4 percent compared with 1.1 percent.
- Research from 2008 found that 14.1 percent of Bedouin eighth-grade schoolchildren suffer from asthma, compared to 7.2 percent of Jewish eighth-graders. A second survey dating from 2009 found a slightly lower rate among the Bedouin students, of 10.7 percent.

### **Infant Mortality Rate in Israel**

At paragraphs 605 and 606, the state outlines that the infant mortality rate among Bedouins in 2008 declined from the rate recorded in 2005 and that it has funded several special projects to improve the health of, and expand the health-care services provided to, the Bedouin living in unrecognized villages. Additionally, it provides that it continues to open Mother and Child Health Clinics in unauthorized villages and new Clinics are being built to serve the population. The reality on the ground is vastly different to that painted by the state.

According to the Ministry of Health southern division, among Bedouins the infant mortality rate in 2010 was 13.6 per 1,000 live births.<sup>93</sup> According to the 2010 Comptroller Report, the rate in 2009 was 12.2 per 1,000 live births.<sup>94</sup> The same report also reveals that the state failed to complete its own program of establishing maternity care stations in the unrecognized villages and although the plan was prolonged until the end of the auditing period, the state did not complete building the stations.<sup>95</sup> In fact, the state closed the stations in Abu-Tlul, Wadi Al-Na'am and Qasr al-Sir in 2009 because there were insufficient medical personnel to staff the clinics.<sup>96</sup> The people of Abu-Tlul and Wadi Al Na'am appealed to the Supreme Court which ordered that they be reopened. The three clinics were reopened, however, the clinic in the village of Wadi Al Na'am, for examples, that serves thousands of people is open only one day a week.

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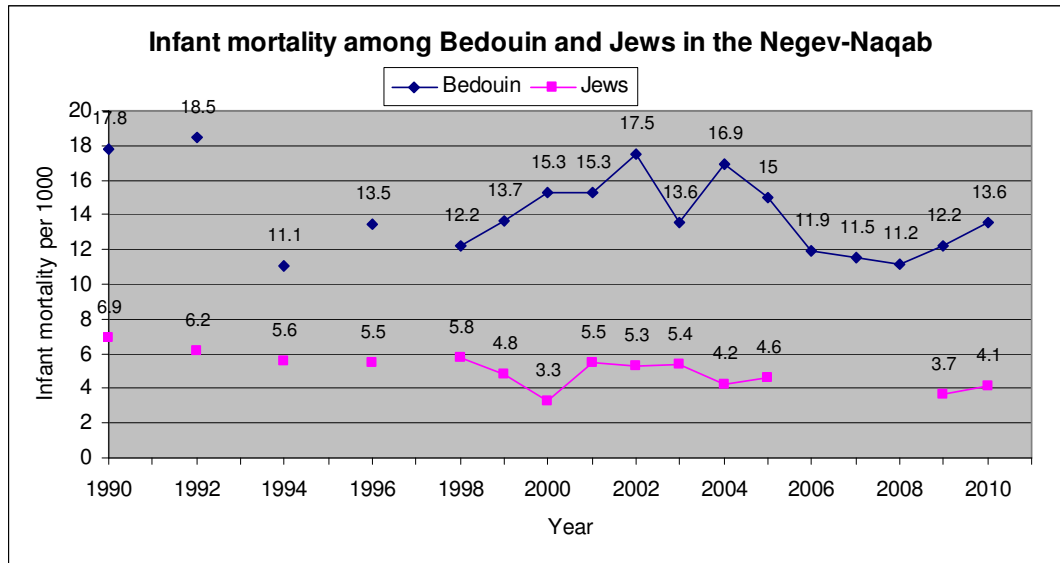
<sup>93</sup> Dan Even, 'Increase in Bedouin infant mortality', *Haaretz*, Israel, 24 April 2011  
<<http://www.haaretz.co.il/news/health/1.1172018>> at 29 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>94</sup> State Comptroller Report 2010, 12 December 2011, pp 751

<<http://www.mevaker.gov.il/serve/contentTree.asp?bookid=604&id=193&contentid=&parentid=undefined&sw=1280&hw=954>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>95</sup> Ibid, pp 753-4.

<sup>96</sup> Adalah, 'Following Adalah's Petition Israeli Health Ministry Reopens Mother and Child Clinics in Unrecognized Arab Bedouin Villages in the Naqab', (Press Release, 11 August 2010)  
[http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=11\\_08\\_10](http://www.adalah.org/eng/pressreleases/pr.php?file=11_08_10)> at 24 January 2012.



### **Lack of water**

#### **Insufficient water in the Bedouin towns**

An incident in January 2012 illustrates why the NCF rejects the state's assertion at paragraph 615 that "the Bedouins living in existing Bedouin towns enjoy the same services provided to all Israeli citizens". It was reported, and not for the first time, that for two-weeks the residents of Lakia, one of the government-established Bedouin towns, were only receiving water for one to two hours per day from the region's water company, Neveh Midbar.<sup>97</sup>

Further, according to the state's 2010 Comptroller Report, water is only supplied to a fraction of the residents in the Abu Basma Regional Council. The residents of Kochle and Makchol, two newly recognized villages, have no running water at all (either from the council or from private suppliers) and in other villages water is scarce and runs in pipes on the ground and stored in water tanks.<sup>98</sup> Except for the village of Tarabin, there is insufficient infrastructure to supply water.<sup>99</sup> Most villages have only one access point to water and it is intended to supply the whole village.<sup>100</sup>

#### **Denial of water in the unrecognized villages**

The state holds the position, as stated in paragraph 617 of its report, that it is "practically impossible to supply ... services [such as water] to sporadic places which disregard the national construction and planning programs". As a result of this, there are today an estimated 60,000 Bedouin in the unrecognized villages with no access to running water. The NCF provides the following remarks to this statement.

<sup>97</sup> Ranit Nahum-Halevy, 'Negev Bedouin town left without water after repeated theft of central pump', *Haaretz*, Israel, 9 January 2012 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/negev-bedouin-town-left-without-water-after-repeated-theft-of-central-pump-1.406219>> at 9 January 2012.

<sup>98</sup> State Comptroller Report 2010, 12 December 2011, p 692 <<http://www.mevaker.gov.il/serve/contentTree.asp?bookid=604&id=193&contentid=&parentcid=undefined&sw=1280&hw=954>> at 24 January 2012 (in Hebrew).

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid*, p 706.

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid*, p 707.



First, several of the “sporadic places” referred to by the state consist of hundreds of residents such as Sawawin which has a population of around 1,500 people.

Secondly, the state does not merely fail to act to provide water to the unrecognized villages but, as was seen in Twayel Abu Jarwal in 2008 (see Figure 3) and Al Arakib in 2010 and 2011 (see Figure 4), in fact it actively destroys and confiscates water containers, free-standing water tanks and tractors and trailers which transport water to the villages. During the repeated demolitions of the unrecognized village of Al Arakib, numerous items to store water were destroyed by bulldozers and sometimes buried to ensure that they could not be salvaged by the residents. Such equipment is prohibitively costly to replace, forcing residents to abandon their land and relocate to townships.



Figure 3: A water tank in Twayel Abu Jarwal being destroyed by the state (August 2010)



Figure 4: A water tank in Al Arakib is confiscated by the state on 10 August 2010 (during the 3<sup>rd</sup> demolition operation of the village)

Thirdly, there are no national construction and planning programs in place in the unrecognized villages for the residents to, in the words of the state, “disregard”. Residents are simply unable to apply for permits to build and are faced with no option but to construct

illegal dwellings. Even in locations where there is a housing zone in place, such as Omer and other municipalities in the Negev, Bedouin citizens are unable to apply for building permits.

Finally, the state's policy regarding water connections in the Negev is discriminatory against the Bedouin. By comparison, new Jewish family farms are connected to the main water supply after their establishment. This is the case even if there are fewer than 10 people living there whereas in the Bedouin villages, in order to ask for water, one needs at 10 families, and sometime there are hundreds of people who have to no access to running water.

#### High cost of water

Bedouin who are not connected to the main water pipe are forced to purchase water from those who have a permit in the case that they do not have one themselves. In addition to this expense, most villages are remotely located and thus they must purchase or rent equipment such as tractors and water tankers to transport the water to their villages. As a result, the cost of water for such families can be as much as ten times higher than the regular price for those with a connection and accounts for 20 percent of a family's living expenses. Some communities install their own network of above-ground pipes throughout the village which is a costly exercise. These expenses are an additional burden on populations that are already severely disadvantaged and living under the poverty level. Additionally, old and unmaintained water tanks pose a health risk as they affect the quality of the water and the health of all residents.

## **Additional Comments**

### **The state has failed to recognize the Negev Bedouin as an indigenous people**

In General Recommendation No. 23, the Committee reaffirmed that the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination apply to indigenous peoples.<sup>101</sup> Additionally, the NCF notes the 'Guidelines for the CERD-Specific Document to be Submitted by States Parties Under Article 9, Paragraph 1, of the Convention' and in particular paragraph 12 which requires the state to identify which groups are officially considered to be indigenous peoples. In its 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> periodic reports, the state has failed to identify the Negev Bedouin as an indigenous people.

In the document entitled 'Report by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya' and dated 22 August 2011, Prof. Anaya rejected the state's position that it did not accept the classification of its Bedouin citizens as an indigenous people. Prof. Anaya stated that:

... the longstanding presence of Bedouin people throughout a geographic region that includes Israel, and observes that in many respects, the Bedouin people share in the characteristics of indigenous peoples worldwide, including a connection to lands and the maintenance of cultural traditions that are distinct from those of majority populations. Further, the grievances of the Bedouin, stemming from their distinct cultural identities and their connection to their traditional lands, can be identified as

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<sup>101</sup> General Recommendation No. 23: Indigenous Peoples, 18 August 1997  
<[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/73984290dfea022b802565160056fe1c?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/73984290dfea022b802565160056fe1c?Opendocument)> at 22 January 2012.

representing the types of problems to which the international human rights regime related to indigenous peoples has been designed to respond.<sup>102</sup>

## **Suggestions for Questions and Recommendations**

### **Questions**

#### Disparity between Jewish and Bedouin towns

- What steps will the state take to resolve the considerable difference in population density between Jewish and Bedouin towns in the Negev?
- What steps will the state take to ensure that the Bedouin residents of recognized, newly recognized villages, the six planned villages and the city of Rahat have the same level of access to essential services such as running water, electricity, waster removal, telephone lines, paved roads, schools and medical clinics as the residents of comparable Jewish villages?
- What steps is the state taking to address the urgent housing needs of the Negev Bedouin, both in the government-planned towns and the unrecognized villages, taking into account their traditional ways of life?

#### Recognition of traditional lands

- What measures will the state implement to recognize the Bedouin's legal entitlement to their traditional lands in the Negev?

#### Municipal elections

- What steps is the state taking to ensure that elections for the Abu Basma Regional Council will be held in November 2012 as ordered by the Supreme Court?

#### Unemployment rates

- How does the state intend to resolve the high unemployment rate of the Bedouin population in the Negev, taking into account the future growth of the community?

#### Health in the unrecognized villages

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<sup>102</sup> Report by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya', A/HRC/18/35/Add.1, 22 August 2011, p 30  
<<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/rapporteur/docs/A-HRC-18-35-Add-1.pdf>> at 26 January 2012.

- What actions does the state intend to take in order to tackle the discrepancies in health between the Jewish and Bedouin populations in the Negev?
- What measures will the state take in order to ensure that the Negev Bedouin in the unrecognized villages have access to quality and affordable health care services and care by healthcare providers who speak Arabic?

### **Recommendations**

- To respect the Bedouin population's right to their ancestral land and their traditional livelihood, and specifically, to abandon the proposed Praver-Amidror Plan.
- To establish a fair and effective land claim procedure for the Bedouin to invoke to have the rights to their land and resources recognized.
- To immediately cease the policy of demolishing houses and unrecognized villages.
- To abandon its efforts to charge the Bedouin for the cost of demolishing their homes.
- To respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and not forcibly remove the Bedouin from their land without their free, prior and informed consent and after agreement on just and fair compensation.
- To ensure the delivery of essential services to the Bedouin in both recognized and unrecognized village in order to guarantee their access to health and welfare services, education, water, electricity and other infrastructure.
- To implement equal planning criteria to the Jewish and Bedouin population in the Negev and to allow different sized villages and not only townships and large, densely populated villages.
- To recognize its Bedouin citizens as an indigenous people.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Home demolitions recorded by the NCF during 2011

**January 11** – In Quseifa, south of Road 31, a house and three shops were demolished.

**January 11** – In Rachama, north of Road 204 Yeruham – Dimona, two houses were demolished leaving 12 people homeless.

**January 16** – In Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, all 30 temporary structures and tents were demolished for the 9th time. People were left with no roof over their heads and many were wounded from rubber and sponge-tipped bullets, as well as tear gas and pepper spray. Five people, including two teenagers, were taken to Soroka Hospital and three people were arrested.

**January 17** – In Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, all the 30 temporary structures and tents were demolished for the 10th time again leaving all residents without shelter. Approximately 15 trucks removed all the debris of the demolished structures from village. Policemen from a special unit (known as Matpah in Hebrew) carried out this operation. The police left the village, however, later returned shooting rubber- and sponge-tipped bullets at the men, women, and children who had built tents so as to stay there for the night. Nine people were arrested, among them four villagers and some activists from NCF and other NGOs.

**January 26** – In Al-Sar, near Ohalim Junction, one structure was demolished.

**January 26** – In Shqeb-A-Salam, south of Road 25 Be'er-Sheva – Dimona, one structure was demolished.

**January 31** – In Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, all 30 temporary structures and tents were demolished for the 11th time. People were left with no roof over their heads. Trucks removed all the materials from the demolitions to the “Dudaim Dump”. Further, the JNF began to develop the ground within the village for planting.

**February 1** – In Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, all the temporary structures and tents were demolished for the 12th time. People were left with no roof over their heads.

**February 7** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the 13th time.

**February 8** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the 14th time.

**February 9** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the 15th time. The bulldozers that destroyed the temporary structures belonged to the JNF.

**February 10** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the 16th time. Activists and residents refused to leave their temporary structures, and women and children were shot by the police. The police then prevented ambulances from arriving to take the wounded (including two women and two children) to the hospital. Additional victims were treated at the village. Three residents, including one minor, and three activists were arrested.

**February 16** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the 17th time. Police fired rubber and sponge-tipped bullets at the residents, and two residents were taken to the hospital. JNF bulldozers continued to prepare the grounds of the village for planting trees.

**February 17** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the eighteenth time. The women, men and children who had come from Rahat to support the villagers were fired upon by the police with rubber- and sponge-tipped bullets. Several people were injured, one person was arrested, and five were detained but later released in the evening.

**February 20** – In Bir-Hadaj, near Kibbutz Revivim, two houses were demolished.

**February 27** – In Al Bcheirah, south of Kuseifa and Road 31, one house was demolished and 10 people remain homeless.

**February 27** – In Al Forah, south east of Arad, an agricultural shade was demolished.

**March 7** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the 19th time.

**March 7** – In Sawawin, south of Sqib A-Salam, an agricultural shade was demolished.

**March 7** – In Bir-Hadaj, near Kibbutz Revivim, two houses were demolished.

**March 14** – In Al Forah, south-west of Arad, three structures were demolished.

**April 5** – Between Bir Al-Chamam and Um-Batin 1,500 dunams of crops were deep plowed.

**April 6** – The village of Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, was demolished for the 20th time.

**April 11** – In Sawa, east of Hura, one house was demolished.

**April 11** – In Kuseifa, south of Road 31, a stone house was demolished.

**April 17** – In Rachama, north of Road 204 Yeruham – Dimona, a shack was demolished.

**May 11** – In Al-Qrain, near Shoket Junction, a wall was demolished.

**May 11** – In Umm-Ratam, east of Road 25 Be'er-Sheva – Dimona, a shack was demolished and the police wounded three people and one was arrested.

**May 11** – In Al-Rara, south of Hura, a house was demolished.

**May 11** – In Al-Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junctions, all the shacks were demolished for the 21st time.

**May 11** – In Al-Bcheira, south of Kuseifa, a sheep pen was demolished

**May 11** – In Al-Zarnog, south of Road 25 Be'er-Sheva – Dimona, two houses were demolished.

**May 25** – In Al Forah south of Arad, a large double-storey house where three families lived was demolished. The owners had recently appealed to the Supreme Court for an injunction and this demolition is believed to be illegal. Al Forah was recognized many years ago and is currently subject to a planning process.

**May 31** – In Shqeb-A-Salam, south of Road 25 Be'er-Sheva – Dimona, a warehouse was demolished in the industrial zone.

**May 31** – In Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral Junction, two shacks were demolished by “Green Patrol” workers.

**May 31** – In Wadi Al-Na'am, near Ramat-Hovav and east of Road 40, three houses were demolished.

**June 21** – In Al Arakib, west of Road 40 between Lehavim and Goral junctions, all the shacks in village were demolished for the 22nd time.

**June 21** – In Al-Grein, south west of Hura and south-west of Road 31, two houses were demolished even though this is a newly recognized town.

**June 21** – Near Chasam Zaneh, east of Shqeb A-Salam (Segev-Shalom), three houses were demolished.

**June 21** – In Sawawin, east of Shqeb A-Salam (Segev-Shalom), three houses were demolished.

**July 12** – Half a dozen shacks outside of the cemetery in Al Arakib were destroyed for the 23rd time.

**July 25** – Following a weekend of building by activists and residents to mark the 12-month anniversary of the first mass demolition of the village, the police returned to Al Arakib to demolish all the new structures for the 24th time.

**September 8** – The village of Al-Arakib, west of Road 40 between Goral and Lehavim Junctions, was demolished for the 26th time.

**September 8** – In Al-Rara, South of Hura, 3 houses were demolished.

**October 5** – The village of Al-Arakib was demolished for the 27th time.

**October 27** – In Tel Arad, one home was demolished.

**October 27** – In Sawa, two homes were demolished.

**October 27** – In Al-Qrein, one home was demolished.

**October 27** – In Kassr a-Sir, one home was demolished.

**October 27** – A number of shacks in an olive grove, south of Rahat and Road 30, were demolished.

**November 1** – The village of Al-Arakib was demolished for the 28th time.

**November 23** – In Al-Arakib, shacks were demolished for the 29th time.

**December 21** - In Al-Arakib, shacks were demolished for the 30th time.

**December 21** – In Atir, five homes were demolished.

**December 29** – In Wadi Al-Na'am, one home was demolished.

**December 29** – North of Rahat, three homes were demolished.