



# OUR POSITION

**To the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

**On the historical, economic and moral justice  
of the Israeli movement in Judea, Samaria and  
the Jordan Valley**



**The YESHA Council**

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הפת"ח. שנה לאחר מכן השתלטה תנועת החמאס על כל רצועת עזה, ומאז הפכו חיי התושבים שם לקשים יותר, והתעצמה הפגיעה בזכויות אדם על ידי שלטון ארגון הטרור חמאס.

דווקא ביהודה, שומרון ובקעת הירדן, תחת שליטה ישראלית, התפתחו זכויות האדם ואיכות החיים של האזרחים הערבים תושבי הרשות הפלסטינית.

מתוך ההיכרות שלנו עם האזור, והמחקרים אותם אנחנו עורכים, אנו מבקשים להציג בפניך את המידע הנכון על האזור, ואת תמונת המצב כאן.

בחוברת זו אנו מציגים את הזכות הלאומית והמשפטית של מדינת ישראל ביהודה, שומרון ובקעת הירדן, את החשיבות לשליטה הישראלית במרחב, ואת התרומה העצומה של הכלכלה והפיתוח של האזור לכל האוכלוסיות שגרות כאן.

עם ישראל שב אל נחלת אבותיו, הקים כאן מדינה לתפארת שמהווה נקודת אור דמוקרטית במזרח התיכון הכאוטי.

אנחנו כאן כדי להתפתח, זו עמדתנו וכאן נישאר לעד.

**אנו מקווים שהמידע המופיע בחוברת זו יסייע לך להבין טוב יותר את תפיסת העולם שמלווה אותנו בחזון ובפעולות שלנו במדינת ישראל.**

לאורך שנים פעלו גורמים אנטי-ישראליים לעצב תודעה שלילית ושקרית על הזכות הלאומית של עם ישראל לבנות ולהתפתח בכל מרחבי ארץ ישראל.

לצערנו, תפיסות אלו חלחלו למוסדות רבים והגיעו גם לבית הדין הפלילי בהאג.

איננו מאמינים בזכות של גוף פוליטי זה לבקר או לחקור את מדינת ישראל. בלתי אפשרי להתעלם מכך שהפעילות שלהם נגד מדינת ישראל מתנהלת בצביעות ומהולה באנטישמיות.

אנו רואים את ההתעלמות הבוטה שלהם מהפרות חמורות של זכויות אדם באזורים רבים בעולם, ביניהם גם במזרח התיכון, ואת הפחד של אותם שופטים לחקור משטרים רצחניים בכל העולם.

כמו ארגונים נוספים, הם מתמקדים דווקא במדינה הדמוקרטית היחידה באזור, שפועלת תחת כללים ברורים, ומערכת חוק מסודרת, בשקיפות ובדאגה לזכויות אדם.

בעשרות השנים האחרונות פעלה מדינת ישראל במרחב יהודה, שומרון ובקעת הירדן, והיום מונה ההתיישבות באזור כחצי מיליון ישראלים. לצערנו, בשנת 2005 יזמה המדינה את תוכנית ההתנתקות שבה פונו כל התושבים והיישובים הישראליים בגוש קטיף שברצועת עזה, והשאירה את האזור לשליטה עצמית של

בברכה,

**יגאל דילמוני**

מנכ"ל מועצת יש"ע

**דויד אלחייני**

ראש מועצה אזורית בקעת הירדן

יו"ר מועצת יש"ע

# **Legitimacy through International Law**

## **The Land of Israel belongs to the Jewish People**

The Jewish people's legal right to the Land of Israel as its National Home, from the Mediterranean Sea to the River Jordan, emanates from an unprecedented historic claim.

The "Mandate for Palestine" granted to Great Britain by the League of Nations in 1922 following the 1920 San Remo Conference was for the explicit purpose of reconstituting a Jewish national home in the Land of Israel, thus recognizing this historic right.

Only the Jewish Nation received assurances and an international declaration to establish a State between the Mediterranean and the Jordan. The word "Arab" never appears in these decisions but neutrally as "non-Jews". Moreover, Jordan was part of the territory of Mandate Palestine.

Events and diplomatic initiatives since then have never altered the basic facts. The Green Line was created as an armistice line between Israel and Jordan in 1949 and was never a recognized border, and was defined as such in the armistice agreements.

The armistice agreement anchored in the UN Security Council Resolution 62 of November 16, 1948 specifically expresses that the Armistice Demarcation Lines (the 'Green Line') should have no political ramifications.

In 1950, Jordan annexed Judea and Samaria but that act had no legal validity and was never recognized by the international community. The term "West Bank" adopted by the international community is, in fact, a legacy from Jordan's renaming the area as the UN's 1947 Partition Plan referred to "Judea" and "Samaria".

The 1967 United Nations Resolution 242 did not mandate Israel's withdrawal from all territories liberated in 1967; rather it referred to only some of the territory and thus, Israel's obligations to withdraw were completely fulfilled by its 1979 withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. The agreements Israel signed with the PLO after 1995 did not waive, negate or nullify any of its prior legal claims.

While Israel has not extended its sovereignty to Judea and Samaria (with the exception of the eastern neighborhoods of Jerusalem and the area around Latrun), thereby refraining from exercising its historic and legal rights, that decision has been based on political and diplomatic considerations, rather than legal constraint.

## **The Mandate for a Jewish National Home in the Land of Israel**

In 1917, British Foreign Minister Arthur James Balfour declared: "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national

home for the Jewish people." The British, thus, gained control of the Land of Israel, including Judea, Samaria and also Transjordan, as a custodianship

for the Jewish People. Article 25 of the League of Nation's mandate decision postponed, or withheld, application of the "right of close settlement" in that area. Essentially, there already exists an Arab state in Palestine, Jordan. The Allied Powers, at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, decided that Ottoman Empire territories would be included in the mandates system introduced by the Covenant of the League of Nations, signed on 28 June 1919, as an integral part of the Treaty of Versailles. Based on the Balfour Declaration as well as the 1920 San Remo Conference, the League of Nations in 1922 elected to grant to Great Britain the region of Palestine with the intention that "the Mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the

declaration in favor of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." The purpose of giving the mandate to Great Britain by

the League of Nations is outlined in detail in the preamble to the Mandate: "Recognition has thereby been given to the historical connection of the

Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country...". This document is legally binding according to

international Law. The United States, which was not a member of the League of Nations, also agreed to the contents of the mandate in a treaty it signed with Britain in 1924, where it was determined explicitly that: "The United States consents to the administration of Palestine by his British Majesty, according to mandate which has been quoted below...".

# Basic Information on the Status of Land in Judea and Samaria

## Classification of lands in the area

The legal framework that applies to Judea and Samaria includes features of Ottoman, British and Israeli law. It guides the Civil Administration's activities within the framework of the laws of war, in the absence of annexation of the territory and full application of Israeli law.

Accordingly, the lands of Judea and Samaria are divided into three principal classes:

**Mulk land** – This is privately owned land, defined in advance as parcels of land designated for construction. Land of this type can be found within the boundaries of villages and towns, and is considered private property for all intents and purposes, similar to movables and other assets.

**Miri land** – This is state-owned land transferred to an individual for the purpose of cultivation. Land of this kind is situated mainly in the areas surrounding villages and towns, up to a range of 2.5 kilometers from the edge of the community, as it was in 1858. Although these lands are owned by the state, exclusive rights to them may be granted to individuals cultivating them via registration in the land registry.

**Mewat** – This is “dead” land, which generally includes uncultivated and open areas, distant from the community and its environs. This land is state owned.

Additionally, Judea and Samaria also contain land that is privately owned by Jews. Some of this land was purchased by Jews even before the 1948 war, for example the land in Gush Etzion, Atarot and the northern Dead Sea area; and some of the land was purchased by Jews after the Six Day War, for example the community of Etz Efraim in western Samaria.

## The British Land Arrangement

During the British Mandate, the government launched a national project to map out and register the status of all the land in Eretz Israel. Started by the Mandate authorities, following the establishment of the State of Israel, this process was continued by the Israeli government in those areas that fell into its hands, and by the Jordanians in Judea and Samaria. Because the Jordanian land registry project was not completed, when the IDF liberated the territories of Judea and Samaria, it was found that part of the territory, especially in northern Samaria, had undergone an orderly registration process by the British, another part, especially in the districts of Nablus, Ramallah and Jericho, had been mapped out and registered by the Jordanian authorities, but that all the rest, especially in the Hebron district and the Judean mountains, had not been dealt with at all.

The status of those areas that were dealt with is perfectly clear and orderly, and all rights, whether of an individual or the state, are properly registered and

documented. On the other hand, the areas that were not mapped and registered require an in-depth examination of the status of the land in order to ascertain whether it can indeed be designated as state land. Accordingly, state land is land for which no claim of private ownership has been proved.

### **The process of declaring state lands**

When the government decides to establish a Jewish community, it carries out a meticulous process aimed at analyzing the true status of the land. In those areas where the land was mapped and registered, the examination is a fairly simple procedure because the records are relatively orderly and systematic. In those areas where the land was not classified, the practice of the Civil Administration is to hold a formal and prolonged declaration process aimed at ascertaining the status of the land beyond all doubt before authorizing planning and development. This procedure involves three stages:

At the first stage, aerial photographs from different periods are analyzed in order to establish that the land was not cultivated or settled at any time.

At the second stage, a painstaking tour of the land is carried out in order to uncover evidence of cultivation or any other use of the land, which could indicate the creation of a right of use of the land.

After these stages, the Civil Administration approaches the local Mukhtar and asks him to publicize the intent to declare the land state land. At this stage, those with claims are invited to petition the appeal committee and present any evidence that the land involved is privately owned.

In most cases, the examination carried out in accordance with the two first stages are very rigorous and meticulous and the appeals turn out to be unfounded. Nevertheless, in every case of an appeal, the examination process is restarted in order to once again ascertain the facts.

### **Data on the types of lands**

Of the 5.5 million dunams (5,500 square kilometers or 2,120 square miles) – the entire territory of Judea and Samaria – about 123,000 dunams are privately owned Jewish land (purchased before 1948 or after 1967), 1.9 million dunams are state lands (registered as such in the Turkish land registry or declared state land by Israel) and 1.9 million dunams are unregistered land or privately owned Arab land. The rest is nature reserves and brush land of different types.

### **How the Jewish communities were established**

When examining the manner in which the Jewish communities were established, it is important to distinguish between two main periods: until 1979, mainly under the Labor government, and from 1979 on, under the Likud government.

Because the Labor party (then known as the Alignment) viewed Israel's presence in Judea, Samaria and Gaza as being the result of a belligerent occupation, it established the communities it built on the principles of

humanitarian international law, which determines that the state may confiscate private property in occupied territory if this act is carried out for military purposes. In light of this approach, the practice in that period was to confiscate private lands for the purpose of establishing communities, based on the approach that held that the Jewish presence in the area is beneficial to maintaining security.

However, after the political upheaval of 1977 that brought the Likud to power, and in wake of the petition to the High Court of Justice in the matter of Elon Moreh and Beit El, this approach underwent a significant change. The Likud, which viewed Judea and Samaria as an inseparable part of the historical Land of Israel, refused to apply the laws of belligerent occupation to Judea and Samaria, and refrained across the board from confiscating private land for the purpose of Jewish settlement. And indeed, among the Jewish communities established from this time on, 80%-90% are located on declared state land, with the rest situated on privately owned Jewish land.

From this time forward, all land allocated to Jewish settlements underwent an orderly declaration process and was authorized for construction only after it had been proved beyond any doubt that there were no valid claims of private ownership.

## Judea and Samaria – the Promised Land

Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel and Leah, the founders of the Jewish nation, dwelt in the mountains of Judea and Samaria, residing in Shechem, Elon Moreh, Beit El (Bethel) and Hebron (Joshua 21). It was where G-d promised to give Abraham the land for his descendants as an everlasting covenant (Genesis 12:7), and so it was forever named “The Promised Land”.

When the Israelites came out of Egypt as a nation, they settled mainly in the hill country, in the portions and cities allotted to Benjamin, Ephraim, Menashe and Judah (Judea) (Joshua 18). From every part of the land, members of the twelve tribes would gather at the Tabernacle in Shiloh (I Samuel 1) to worship the G-d of Israel in the Jewish People’s first spiritual center

In the days of David and Solomon, the Israelite Kingdom expanded rapidly. King David’s first political capital was Hebron (2 Samuel 5), before ultimately moving the nation’s capital to the eternal city of Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 11:4).

After the destruction of the First Temple and a brief period of exile, the Jewish People returned to their land, once again settling in Jerusalem and in the mountainous areas surrounding it (Ezra 2:1). During the days of the Maccabees in the first century BCE, and when King Herod ruled and at the time of the Revolt against Rome, Judea and Samaria continued to be the geo-political center of Jewish life in Israel. The cities of Herodium, Betar, Maaleh Bet Horon and the Maccabean city and stronghold of Modiin are just some of the places where Jews dwelt in the Greek and Roman periods. All the major battles of the Maccabees were conducted in Judea and Samaria. For hundreds of years following the destruction of the Second Temple, Jews still made their homes from Sussiyain the Southern Hebron Hills to Ein Ganim (Jenin) and Shchem (Nablus) in the north and Gaza in the west. Throughout the annals of history, Judea and Samaria has always been the heartland of Jewish life in the Land of Israel.

Until the Arab invasion and conquest in the year 636 CE, the Jews still constituted a significant portion of the land’s population despite the Roman, Byzantine and Persian rules. In the centuries following the Arab occupation, the land was neglected and the population gradually dwindled. During the period when the majority of the Jewish People were in exile in the Diaspora, the land passed from one foreign ruler to another, yet no nation made it their national home. As conquerors came and went, the Jewish People always yearned in their prayers to be restored to the Land of Zion and Jerusalem. In every century Jews did come back, in greater or lesser numbers, to Jerusalem, Hebron, Gaza and other locations such as Safed and Tiberias. Jews had never left Peqii’in. After centuries of neglect, the area began to flourish once more upon the Zionist return to Israel and the waves of immigration, especially in the 19th century when in 1860, Jerusalem’s majority population was Jewish.

The Continued Efforts to Renew the Jewish Presence in Judea and Samaria.

Since the Jewish People began returning home, from the 18th-century immigration of the Hassidim beginning in 1777 and the disciples of the Vilna Gaon 1808-1810 through until the War of Independence, many attempts were made to create a permanent Jewish presence in the mountain areas of Judea and Samaria. There were Jewish communities in Shechem, Atarot and a historic community in Hebron, until it was evacuated in wake of the Arab massacre of Hebron's Jewish population in 1929. Several communities were established just south of Jerusalem throughout the Gush Etzion region. However, they were all destroyed defending Jerusalem on May 14th 1948, the day that the State of Israel was born.

# For Israel's Security

## The Era of Fear - Before the Six Day War

In the years preceding the Six Day War, when the “Green Line” was still treated as the armistice line with Jordan, Israelis lived with constant trauma. The sentiment of the Israeli public at that time, after 19 years of terror, first by the Fedayeen and then by the PLO, founded in 1964, was one in which too many people had lost their sense of security and, during May 1967, feared defeat. With the situation worsening and a growing economic recession at hand, for the first time since the War of Independence, emigration actually eclipsed Aliya – immigration to Israel. The common reason for the problems was fear, as the enemy stood in such close proximity.

The regular forces of the Arab armies were a mere stone’s throw from Israel’s major population centers. The armed forces of Jordan’s King Hussein and of Iraq were deployed throughout Judea and Samaria. At its slenderest, the armistice line lay just 9 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, with the Israel’s fourth largest city of Netanya in between. The urban cities surrounding Tel Aviv lay just a few miles away from enemy territory. The situation was accurately represented by Abba Eban, the then Labor Government’s Foreign Minister, who said in a November 1969 interview with the German weekly Der Spiegel: “The June [1967] map is for us equivalent to insecurity and danger. I do not exaggerate when I say that it has for us something of a memory of Auschwitz”. For Israel, these borders pose a constant existential threat.

## Terrorism Before and After Oslo

Until the signing of the Oslo Accords and the subsequent IDF withdrawal from cities in Judea and Samaria, no more than ten to twenty Israelis were killed each year in terror attacks, even at the height of the first Intifada. After the Oslo Accords, terrorism escalated, taking an average of 50 to 70 Israeli lives each year.

In 1999, Ehud Barak was elected to form Israel’s government. Barak’s Labor government offered Yasser Arafat unprecedented concessions, including almost all of Judea and Samaria, as well as the division of Jerusalem. The response to Israel’s overtures was not the expected peace, but a sustained terrorist onslaught unprecedented in scope. At the height of the second Intifada in 2002, 452 Israelis were killed and many thousands more injured .

While 2002 will be remembered as a year of great tragedy and suffering for many Israeli families, under the stewardship of Ariel Sharon it was also the turning point in the war on terror. As a result of the terrorism, the IDF launched Operation Defensive Shield, which culminated in the IDF regaining control of Judea and Samaria’s Palestinian cities, striking a fatal blow to the epicenter of the terrorist infrastructure. Overall, the IDF severely diminished the capabilities

of the Palestinians to perpetrate acts of terror emanating from Judea and Samaria. Years later, Israel still enjoys the fruits of the success of Defensive Shield and other smaller operations, as the number of fatalities has dwindled.

Following Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip (including Gush Katif), the Palestinians launched a new front in their terror war on Israel. Israel's southern cities and the half million residents who call them home became the new central target for Palestinian terrorism. Since the disengagement from Gaza, the citizens of Israel living south of Ashdod have lived under a constant and deadly barrage of shells, mortars and Qassam rockets emanating from the Gaza Strip. If Israel's much more densely populated central Dan Region metropolis, is to avoid sharing the south's fate, Israel cannot surrender territory again: Israel must continue to maintain control of Judea and Samaria.

### **Preserving Israel's Intelligence - and Information - Gathering Superiority**

Israel has become a world leader in the war on terror, achieving unparalleled successes in counter-terrorism. The IDF and the General Security Services (Shin Bet) have spearheaded Israel's exceptional accomplishments, employing innovative counterterrorist strategies to systematically dismantle the Palestinians' terrorist infrastructure. Over the course of a few years, Israel's successes transformed the very nature of the state. Within a few short years, a once terror-stricken state in which busses and restaurants exploded almost daily, with fear rampant in the streets and dozens of fatalities each month, became a country able to safeguard its citizens' security that is economically prosperous and has even managed to revive and expand its tourism industry.

Success in the war on terror is based on three interdependent principles: superior information and intelligence, operational freedom and the physical capability to disrupt terror networks. All three of these pillars are entirely dependent on the state's control of and permanent presence in Judea & Samaria.

Israel's physical presence in Judea and Samaria allows for the use of agents and informants, surveillance, wiretapping and observation points throughout the area. Likewise, Israel's armed forces also enjoy freedom to operate and disrupt terror through the use of security checkpoints, destruction of bomb-making facilities and targeted killings. Currently, Israel's presence also ensures that the surveillance systems on its security fence and at security checkpoints can continue to gather vital intelligence that delays terrorists and provides the security services with enough time to intercept them before they reach their intended target.

### **A Strong Israel in a Volatile Middle East**

When negotiating pacts with countries in the region, Israel must now consider that historically, truces signed even between Arab countries, have consistently

been violated following a regime's downfall, leaving Israel with fewer strategic assets and more empty promise.

In various Arab countries, we are witnessing parallel processes of radical Jihadism and the strengthening of the Iranian-Syrian-Hezbollah-Hamas axis, as they attempt to besiege the Jewish State from all directions. The strengthening of terror organizations, along with their ability to acquire conventional and unconventional weapons means that Israel must preserve its minimal strategic depth in order to ensure a secure future for the Jewish State.

Currently, the situation is precariously volatile. As regimes fall to Islamist-backed revolutions, the Middle East could be on the path to war, mandating Israeli control of the Jordan Valley. A mere 33 miles from Tel Aviv, the Jordan Valley is central to Israel's defensible borders, minimizing the danger of a ground-force incursion.

The threat of "Arab Spring" revolutions as well as the situation in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen have made the Middle East an even less stable region. The future of the treaties, which Israel has signed with former governments, is now uncertain. Since the deposal of Mubarak, events in Egypt and the Sinai have demonstrated just how important it is to maintain assets that guarantee our security, rather than creating dependencies on international agreements to protect us.

# Economic Peace

The economic situation in the areas where the PA rules has a direct impact on us, the residents of the State of Israel. In this position paper we will present some data to help us understand the economic situation in the Palestinian Authority and its relationship with us.

The PA's annual budget in 2017 was around NIS 16 billion. In Israel, for that matter, the 2019 budget will total NIS 397.3 billion, not including NIS 100 billion allocated for debt repayment.

The aid money received by the PA from the Arab countries has shrunk greatly, and in the last five years it has been reduced by more than half.

The sources of the PA's annual budget are considerably dependent on Israel:

A. The tax refunds that the Ministry of Finance and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories return to the PA on an average amount to NIS 9 billion, which is about 54% of the total budget.

B. 60% of the PA's imports are from the Israeli economy, at a cost of about NIS 10 billion.

C. 66% of the PA's exports, costing about NIS 3 billion, are sent directly to Israel, making Israel their main trade partner.

D. Israeli-Arabs entering Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley spend about NIS 3 billion on visits to cities in Areas A & B each year. Exports and Arab-Israeli tourism account for about 40% of the PA's GDP.

GDP Per capita in Israel is about \$40,000. In contrast, for Judea and Samaria Arabs, the average GDP per capita is only \$3,000.

In terms of employment, 20% of the younger generation of Arab residents of Judea and Samaria, aged 27-18, are educated, which means they have some academic training. Due to the employment situation in the region many of them do not find work. A notable example is that every year, 2,700 PA residents complete computer studies, but 70% of them cannot not find work. Overall, unemployment among Judea and Samaria Arabs stands at 18%.

The number of PA residents working and earning a living in the entire state of Israel, including in localities and industrial areas in Judea and Samaria, is about 140,000, of which between 20,000 and 30,000 are illegal residents who work without a permit.

The average salary of those employed in Israeli companies is more than double the average salary in the Palestinian Territories. Thus, every worker who works outside the Palestinian Territory does not only support his nuclear family, but other family members in his immediate vicinity. In other words, several families make a living from a single salary. In fact, a quarter of the Palestinian population's income comes from Israel.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, residents who worked in the Israeli economy in 2014 accounted for 11.7% of the Arab workforce in Judea and Samaria, and their total salary in 2013 was approximately 12.3% of the total GDP of the PA.

All these workers go through passages that require inspection. According to the CGA, there are 18.5 million movements of PA residents each year in crossings from Judea and Samaria to work in the rest of the country. For this reason, and in order to improve security, the state will invest NIS 300 million in crossings in the coming years.

On the one hand, Israel's need for working hands and the dependence of Palestinian residents in our work, create a very strong common interest that must be continued. On the other hand, the PA's dependence on the transfer of budgets from the State of Israel requires the state to use them as pressure levers to stop incitement and payments to terrorists and their families.

The economy is an important key to regional peace. It can be the stick that will work against incitement and terrorist financing, as well as the carrot that will help the region's residents develop and advance their quality of life.

### **Industrial data for Judea and Samaria, 2019**

Many people from the Israeli side and the Palestinian side alike all call for a boycott of products made in the area. This new data sheds light for the first time on the connection between Palestinian economics and the Israeli industry.

In 2019, Judea and Samaria have 20 industrial districts, with nearly 1,000 businesses. They employ 28,300 workers, of which 18,000 are citizens under the Palestinian Authority.

Analysis of the data clearly shows a correlation between the Israeli industrial factories and the Palestinians' quality of life:

- There are more than 28,000 workers in Judea and Samaria. When you multiply it by the average of five people per family, it comes to more than 140,000 Israeli citizens and Palestinian Authority citizens making their living directly as result of the economical prosper in the region.
- The average salary of Palestinian workers: A Palestinian employee in Israeli companies earns more than double the wages of those who work in the Palestinian industry. Calculations for the average Palestinian salary included the wages of those who work in the Israeli factories. Should the average calculations compare only the wages of Palestinians working in the Palestinian industries against the wages of those who work in the Israeli industries, the gap would be even bigger.
- In total, the 18,000 Palestinian employees who work in the Israeli sector and earn more than the average employee in the Palestinian sector while providing more families, we reach over 100,000 other citizens of the

Palestinian Authority whose living is depended on Israeli industry and agriculture.

- The proof of this can be found in the amount of new workers in the factories and the agricultural fields. Despite the boycott of 2011-2019, the amount of factories has grown from 680 to nearly 1,000 during those eight years, a growth of about 47%.
- Along with the growth in factories, the amount of employees has grown from 12,300 to 18,000 during those eight years, a growth of about 46%.
- So, there is a clear correlation between the amount of factories and the amount of Palestinians employed in the area. Actually, the more factories arise, the more jobs become available for Palestinian workers.
- The Palestinian employees are the majority in the area, making up 62% of the industrial and agricultural workers during 2019.

Assuming that the growth in factories and employees will continue, as time goes on, the area's economy will continue to strengthen with the increase of employment in factories throughout Judea and Samaria, will continue to benefit the area's residents, Israelis and Palestinians alike and create a better life framework for the entire population.

Strengthening the industrial and the agricultural fields of Judea and Samaria is a way to strategically enhance the economic stability of the area, which opens the door to a better future for all who live there.

# **Industry in Judea and Samaria – Beneficial for everybody**

Organizations that call for an economic boycott against the industry in Judea and Samaria badly affect the residents of that region – both Arabs and Jews, and the chances for coexistence.

We often hear the statement that the settlements in Judea and Samaria cause damages to the Palestinian population of the region, and that the prosperity of the settlements is obtained at the expense of the local villages. At the same time various Israeli, as well as global organizations call for an economic boycott of goods produced by the industry in Judea and Samaria, and at times of the entire state of Israel.

The Palestinian Authority decided over two years ago to support these attempts and called for a boycott of the Israeli industry and for the termination of Palestinians employment by industrial plants in Judea and Samaria. Yet, in fact, up till this moment Palestinians workers continue to work for the Israeli industry, and their numbers increase by the year.

An examination of the relevant facts reveals a different image of reality. The Israeli rule over Judea and Samaria brought about a development boom and prosperity for the Palestinian residents. Much greater than in any other Arab state in the region, and also greater than the rate of development Palestinians experienced under Jordanian rule. There is no doubt that the more Palestinians cooperate with Israel, the better will be their condition.

In order to understand the effecting forces in this respect one must know some facts: there are 14 industrial areas and large agricultural factories, hosting some 800 plants, operating within the Judea and Samaria and the Jordan Valley regions. These entities employ some 17,000 workers, of which some 12,000 are residents of the Palestinian Authority.

According to data published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, these workers earn two or three times more than the average salary among the Palestinian public, while also gaining social benefits as specified by Israeli law. Considering the structure of Arab society which is based on large families (Hamulah), one can assume that these workers support over 130,000 souls. (And that is in addition to the workers working within Israeli borders).

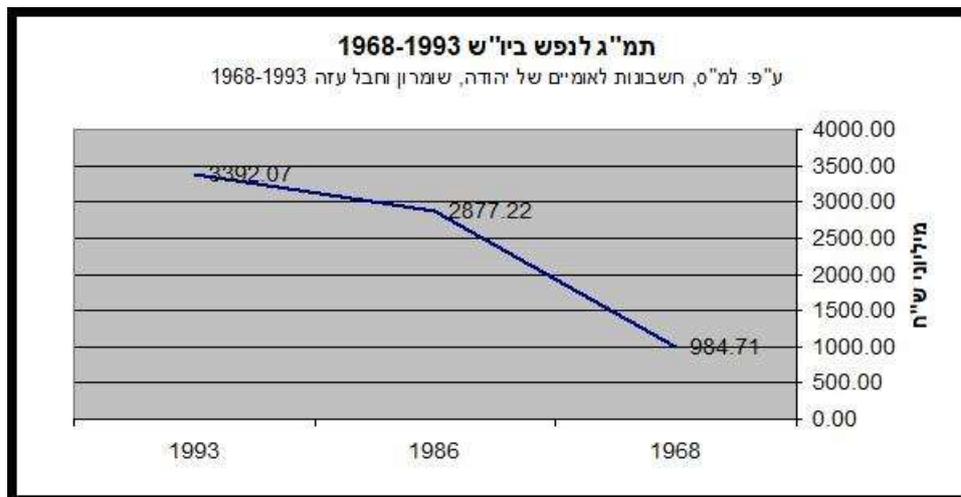
According to a research conducted at the Al-Quds University, it appears that as of 2010, the scope of private Palestinian capital investment in Israel runs between 2.5 and 5.8 billion dollars, while the scope of Palestinian investment with the Authority's territory is merely about 1.58 billion dollars. According to this data, these funds are invested both within the settlements' areas and within the Israeli borders, and mainly invested in traditional industry and the building sector.

In this light we can more easily understand the words of the Quartet's representative, Fihras Raed:

"I will be pushing at an open door by reminding that cooperation between the large and developed economy of Israel, that offers knowledge, transition capabilities and contacts with foreign markets, and the small Palestinian economy, that offers inexpensive quality workforce – is highly beneficial for both parties".

Beyond that, an inspection of several indexes of the life-quality of Palestinian population shows that under the rule of Israel their conditions were significantly improved, both with respect to their previous conditions, as well as with respect to similar development in Arab nations.

Thus, for example, between 1967 and 1993 the Palestinian GDP per capita grew from 904 NIS to 3392 NIS; and the total water supply doubled itself from 64 million cubic meters per year to 120, while over 90% of this was supplied to households through modern piping.



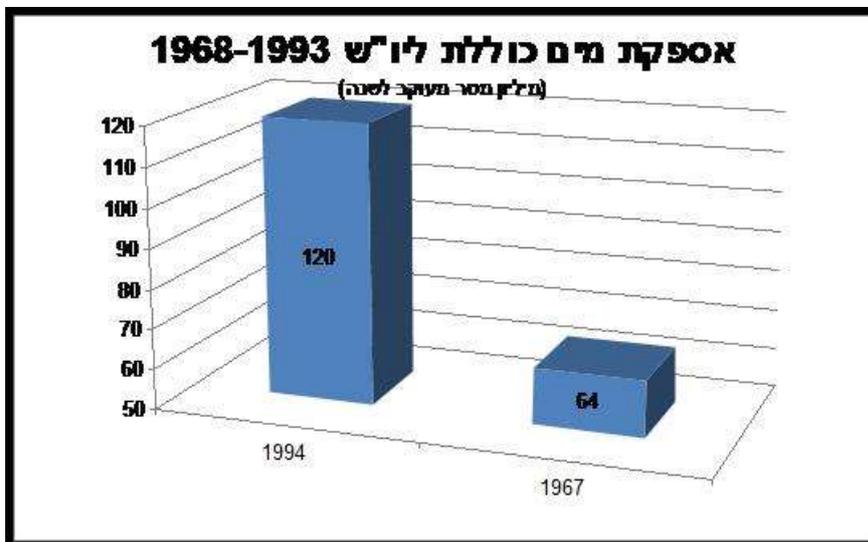
GDP per capita in Judea and Samaria 1968-1993

According to the central bureau of statistics, state accounts of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza region

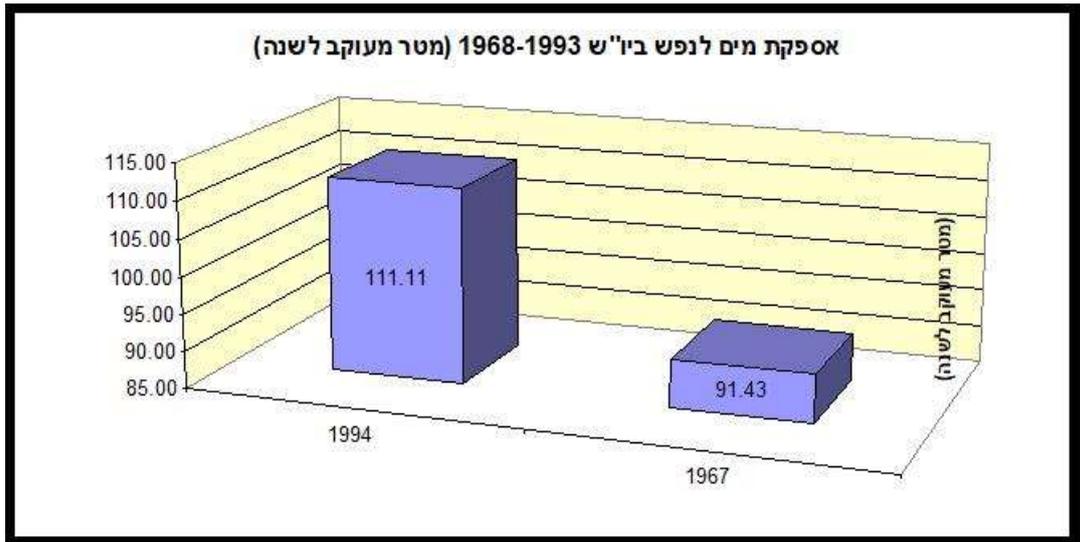


GDP per capita in Judea and Samaria 1968-1993

According to the central bureau of statistics, state accounts of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza region



Total water supply to Judea and Samaria 1968-1993

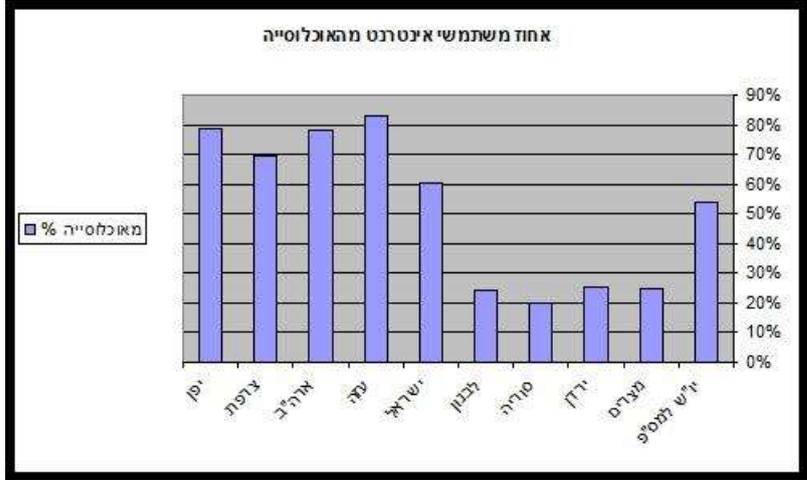


Total water supply to Judea and Samaria 1968-1993 (Cubic meter per year)

When inspecting further indexes related with the life quality of Palestinian residents it appears that their state is much better than the state of their kin in Arab states. The literacy rate among Palestinians for example is one of the highest in the Mediterranean region (92%), rated above Egypt (71%), Syria (81%) and Jordan.(91%)

Palestinian life expectancy is also one of the highest in the region at 74 years, compared with Egypt (70), Lebanon (72) and Jordan.(73)

An examination of the relative part of the cost of food in the general vacant income provides a similar insight: Palestinians in Judea and Samaria spend 33.8% of their income on food, compared with 38.8% in Jordan. And the cost of housing is of the lowest in the region, at 8% compared with 15% in Lebanon or 26.9% in Israel. Another index that provides interesting insights regarding the life quality of Palestinian residents is the rate of their exposure to the Internet. According to data, Palestinian exposure rates are much higher than the regional average, almost reaching western standards:



These conclusions also find their expression in public opinion polls conducted among various population segments. In one of these polls which, was conducted among the East Jerusalem population, the interviewees were asked where they would prefer to live in case the vision of two states for two nations actualizes. Despite the common nationalist rhetoric, 35% of the interviewees replied that they would prefer Israel, compared with 30% who prefer Palestine.

Further than that, when they were asked how they would act in case their neighborhood is to be annexed to Israel, 54% of the interviewees stated that they would remain where they are under Israeli rule, compared with only 27% who would move to another neighborhood under Palestinian rule.

In the opposite scenario where the neighborhood is to be transferred to Palestinian rule, 40% stated that they will prefer to move to another neighborhood under Israeli rule, compared with 37% who would stay where they are.

An inspection of these data and facts leads to a conclusion by which not only that the Israeli rule is responsible for the unprecedented past development boom in the Judea and Samaria regions, but also for the fact that the key for further development and prosperity for these local residents relies on cooperation with Israel and on increased mutual investment and business activity in this region.

If the attempted boycott succeeds, manufacturers who employ dozens and hundreds of employees and who rely on export will be forced to dismiss workers. Those dismissed include thousands of Palestinians who might be forced to relocate to other places both locally and worldwide, thus adding tens of thousands of families in Palestinian society to the unemployment cycle, while affecting the local population of both parties.

Therefore, industry and development must be left out of the political debate concerning the future of the region.

Furthermore, it is those who support the industry and encourage the trade of industrial and agricultural goods manufactured in Judea and Samaria, who eventually contribute to the quality of the life of Palestinian residents and to the ability to achieve coexistence based on mutual respect and peace.