

## **“OUTPOST AGREEMENT” – NO EVACUATION, NO FREEZE**

### **An analysis of Barak’s first Outpost Agreement with the settlers in October 1999**

Settlement Watch Team, Peach Now (www.peacenow.org.il), March 2008

#### **A. “Outpost Agreement” – Been there, done that**

We recently learned about the “Outpost Agreement” which is being formulated between Minister of Defense Ehud Barak and the heads of the Settlement movement, according to which some of the outposts will be evacuated “acquiescently” and moved to other locations in the Territories. This also occurred in 1999, when reports were spread about an “Outpost Agreement” between Ehud Barak, who was then the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense, and the leaders of the Judea and Samaria Council. The details of the agreement and attendant lists were not officially publicized but the media reported that according to the agreement, some of the outposts would be evacuated, some would be moved to another location, some would be approved and some would be “frozen” (that is, not evacuated but construction in them would be halted.)

Following are the details of the agreement as reported by the media<sup>1</sup>:

	No. of outposts
Outposts to be evacuated	10
Outposts to be moved to another location	2
Outposts to be “frozen”	19
Outposts to be approved	11

Verifications carried out by Peace Now show that almost all of the outposts in the 1999 agreement have been inhabited, built-up and developed since that time:

- **Outposts that were to be evacuated – they all have construction and have expanded**, and they exist to this day (with the exception of one<sup>2</sup>). In at least two outposts, permanent housing was also constructed (Mitzpe Hagit and Palgei Mayim) and four outposts which had not been inhabited in 1999 are now populated (Esh Kodesh, Palgei Mayim, Kida and hill 26 which is partly inhabitant).
- **The two outposts that had agreed to be moved** – one was moved to a new location and then returned to its original location (Mitzpe Kramim), and one was moved to a new location, some 900 meters from its original location (Ma’on Farm).

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<sup>1</sup> The information is based upon media reports and in particular Ha-Aretz of 14 and 15 October 1999, and of 8/11/99.

<sup>2</sup> “ID 51 and 52” in Hebron, an uninhabited outpost, today under army control.

- **Outposts which were to be “frozen”** – all of the “frozen” outposts show an increase (in size) and in at least four of them, permanent structures were constructed (Bruchin, Givat Harel, Hayovel and Haresha).
- **“Approved” outposts** – all of these expanded and developed, and in at least four of them, permanent structures were constructed. It should be pointed out that Barak’s apparent “approval” for those outposts does not constitute official and legal approval of the outpost. Attorney Talia Sasson explains it as follows in her report on the outposts: *“Former Prime Minister Barak agreed not to evacuate a number of outposts, and with regard to others, he agreed to further the process for detailed plans, all within the context of an agreement for voluntary evacuation of outposts by the settlers. **This agreement does not constitute political approval for establishing the outposts**”* (Sasson Report, p. 133. The emphasis was added)
- **New outposts** – in addition, between the time of that agreement and today, at least 60 new outposts have been established.

#### **B. The real meaning of the new Outpost Agreement:**

1. **Establishing settlements and new neighborhoods** – according to media reports and comments by members of the Ministry of Defense, the reference is to an agreement in which outposts would be “moved” to new locations. Establishing settlements and new neighborhoods is a ringing slap in the face to the political process which the government declares to be following. One cannot conduct negotiations for a permanent status agreement and honestly declare one’s intentions to reach an agreement that will include the evacuation of settlement when, in actual fact, one is establishing new settlements.
2. **The government’s capitulation to the settlers’ threats of violence** – the agreement being formulated constitutes a reward to lawbreakers and it is the result of the government’s capitulation to threats of violence by the heads of the settlements, who state that “should there be an evacuation, this will trigger a second Amona”. The violence that took place during the implementation of the demolition injunctions in the Amona outpost (even if the police’s reaction was more violent and brutal than necessary), occurred deliberately in order to “raise the cost” of the evacuation, so that in the future, the government would hesitate to evacuate settlers. Since then, settlement leaders have continued to threaten that if there is evacuation there will be violence, instead of condemning the violence and calming the spirits. Non-violent opposition to evacuation is legitimate and the police is equipped to deal with that, but the government must not surrender to threats of violence.
3. **“Evacuation” and moving – this bluff is not viable** – the Israeli public, as well as the international community, is not willing to accept the bluff of evacuating one settlement and establishing a second settlement in its stead. Moderate Palestinians will not be able to present the evacuation as an achievement of talks with Israel, instead, they will be represented as having given Israel their approval to build in the settlements under the

cloak of talks, and Hamas and other opponents to the agreement will gain in power and strength.

4. **The Agreement won't work anyway** – experience has taught us that even when an agreement had been reached with the heads of the settlers regarding the voluntary evacuation of outposts, the end result was that the outposts returned to their locations and even expanded. Moreover, there is a reasonable fear that even if the settlement heads agree to voluntary evacuation, and even if some of the settlers do leave the outpost of their own free will, there will, nevertheless, be some settlers who refuse to be evacuated, or even some who will come to the location with the intention of violently opposing the evacuation. Thus, all of these efforts could be in vain.

Peace Now demands that the government evacuate all of the outposts entirely and not leave an opening for authorizing their existence. Only total evacuation of all of the illegal outposts, and honest and serious negotiations with moderate Palestinians on all of these central issues can bring about a quiet solution for the State of Israel, and ensure its future existence.

### **Palgei Mayim Outpost**

The evacuated outpost – 2001



The Outpost – Today



### C. The list of the outposts at barak's agreement from 1999

Outpost	1999	According to the 1999 Agreement	January 2008
Bat Ayin West	Manned	Authorized	Manned + Permanent Houses
Ein Prat	Manned	Authorized	Manned
Givat Hachish	Manned	Authorized	Manned + Permanent Houses
Givat Hadagan	Manned	Authorized	Manned
Hahar	Manned	Authorized	Manned
Ibei Hanahal	Manned	Authorized	Manned
Kfar Tapuah West	Manned	Authorized	Manned
Nof Harim	Manned	Authorized	Manned + Permanent Houses
Sde Bar	Manned	Authorized	Manned + Permanent Houses
Shalhevet Farm	Manned	Authorized	Manned
Skali's Farm	Manned	Authorized	Manned
Esh Kodesh	Unmanned	Evacuation	Manned
Hill 26	Unmanned	Evacuation	Manned
Hill 777	Manned	Evacuation	Manned
Kida	Unmanned	Evacuation	Manned
Ma'ale Hagit	Manned	Evacuation	Manned + Permanent Houses
Neve Erez	Manned	Evacuation	Manned
Palgei Mayim	Unmanned	Evacuation	Manned + Permanent Houses
Parcel 51/52 in Tel Rumeida Hebron	Unmanned	Evacuation	Empty but under Military Control
Elisha Preparatory	Manned	Evacuation at the end of the school year	Manned
Adei Ad	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Ahiya	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Alonei Shilo	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Amona	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Bracha A	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Bruchin	Manned	Freezed	Manned + Permanent Houses
Givat Harel	Manned	Freezed	Manned + Permanent Houses
Gva'ot Olam	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Har Hemed	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Haresha	Manned	Freezed	Manned + Permanent Houses
Hayovel	Manned	Freezed	Manned + Permanent Houses
Hill 782	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Hill 851	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Horesh Yaron	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Lehavat Yizhar	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Magen Dan	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Mitzpe Danny	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Mor Farm	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Sne Ya'acov	Manned	Freezed	Manned
Ma'on Farm	Manned	Moved to a new point	Moved to another place - and Manned
Mitzpe Kramim	Manned	Moved to a new point	Manned - Moved to another place and then returned.
Mitzpe Yair	Manned	Removed and be used for pasture	Manned