

**Report: The Israeli Occupation Government Plan to Consolidate and Expand it's Settlement Project in the Occupied Syrian Golan 2022-2025**

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**Introduction**

After the fall of the Golan to the grip of the occupation in 1967, the occupation forces forcibly expelled 95% of its indigenous population within a few months, and completely destroyed all of their residential communities (340 villages and cities of Quneitra). Since then, the occupation authorities have sought without interruption to attract and bring Jewish settlers to the Golan. Beginning with the establishment of the first settlement (Snir) in 1967, the occupation authorities have been able, with huge financial resources, to bring in thousands of settlers and establish multiple settlements.

The first decade (1967-1977) of the occupation witnessed intense settlement activity. During this period, 21 settlements were established. In the period following this Zionist settlement activity in the Golan recorded a sharp decline. In the second decade (1978-1988), 11 settlements were established, in the third decade (1989-1999) only two were established, one established in 1989 and the second in 1991. After this settlement activity stopped until 2020, when the Trump Hill settlement was established (named after former US President Donald Trump), as a reward for his administration's recognition of Israel's annexation of the Golan. By annexing the Golan, the occupying power is violating all international resolutions that affirm that the Golan is occupied Syrian territory and must be returned to Syrian sovereignty.

Today, after fifty-five years of occupation, the number of settlers in the occupied Golan is approximately 29,000, distributed among 34 rural settlements, and one urban settlement, the city of Katzrin.

While the first settlers came to the Golan with a Zionist-colonial ideological motive, the later motive of a large segment of settlers was the material support provided by occupation governments to the settlers (financial grants, interest-free loans, large building plots, income tax exemptions etc.).

Despite all the material facilities and inducements offered by successive occupation governments to bring settlers to the areas they occupied in 1967, the number of settlers in the Golan has remained far less than what the occupation authorities aspired to. This failure is due to several factors, the most important of which are the geopolitical situation of the Golan, as a military border area and an area without easy egress, in addition to the Golan's distance from central Israel and Tel Aviv – the centre of capital accumulation, and the economic nerve-centre of the Jewish state.

Despite this reality, successive occupation governments have continually sought to strengthen and expand their settlement project in the Golan, by setting specific development plans targeting specific sectors, or long-term development plans that incorporate all issues that affect the lives of settlers in the Golan.

Since the start of the uprising of the Syrian people against the ruling dictatorial regime in 2011, Israel has sought, in coordination with the American administration and its absolute support, to fragment the Syrian state. They have done so through their protection of the regime and preventing its overthrow, in order to prolong the Syrian conflict and so destroy the Syrian state as a political entity. This has opened the door to the division of Syria into small states, which in turn has allowed Israel as the occupying state to forego negotiating the return of the Golan to Syrian sovereignty. This has guaranteed its continued control over the area, giving it more time to create new facts on the ground, and providing it with better conditions to win the recognition of more countries for its illegal annexation - especially countries influential internationally - and as a result achieve its long term goal of sovereignty

over the Golan. In this context, Israel is exploiting the chaos and vacuum existing in Syrian to further its colonial ambitions.

### **Occupation government plans:**

The last decade has witnessed a number of plans approved by the Israeli government to strengthen its settlement presence in the Golan, the most important of which are as follows:

#### **Government Decision No. 3781 of 30/10/2011 [1]**

The decision included a development plan for three cities, two outside the Golan, and the settlement of Katzrin in the Golan. The plan focused on the following areas:

- Economic and social empowerment of the municipal councils of these cities, given that they belong to peripheral regions.
- Improvement of local infrastructure.
- Development of tools to increase economic activity.
- Generating sources of income to ensure economic development.

#### **Government Decision No. 1170 of 12.01.2014 [2]**

The decision was recorded under the title of "**The Agricultural Development Plan in the Golan**". The plan extends for five years (2014-2018), with a budget of NIS 202 million.

#### **Government Decision No. 1739 of 22.06.2014. [3]**

The decision was recorded under the title "A multi-year plan (2015-2019) to strengthen Katzrin."

The government, through its various ministries, allocated a budget of 64 million shekels for this plan, and it included many areas, the most important of which are:

- Economic and social empowerment of Katzrin settlement.
- Enhancing the settlement's image to help attract new residents, including encouraging new settlers to come to Katzrin.
- Promoting the tourism industry.
- Expanding recycling and waste management.
- Strengthening the community in older residential neighbourhoods.
- Restoration, renewal and maintenance of urban and environmental infrastructure in older neighbourhoods.

The latest government measures to strengthen the Zionist settlement project in the Golan Heights took shape during the Golan Conference. At this conference, on 10/11/2021, the government held an initial meeting in the Khasbin settlement, established on the site of the demolished Syrian village of Khasfin. The meeting was attended by:

- State president / Isaac Herzog
- Prime Minister / Naftali Bennett
- Interior Minister / Ayelet Shaked
- Housing Minister / Ze'ev Klein
- Energy Minister / Karen El-Harrar
- Communications Minister / Yoaz Hendel
- Justice Minister / Gideon Sa'ar
- General Director of the Ministry of Housing / Aviad Friedman
- Head of Bank Boalim / Reuven Kruppek
- Director of the Prime Minister's Office, Yair Benes
- General Director of Interior Ministry \ Yair Hersh
- General Director of the Ministry of Environmental Protection / Galit Cohen
- General Director of the Ministry of Energy / Odi Adiri
- General Director of the Ministry of Tourism / Amir Halevy
- General Director of the Ministry of Economy / Ron Malkeh
- General Director of Agriculture Ministry and Rural Development \ Naemah Kaufman
- Head of the Settlement Department / Yeshi Merling
- General Director of the Israel Lands Administration / Yankee Kvint
- General Director of the Nature and Parks Authority \ Shaul Goldstein
- Head of the Regional Council - Golan Settlements \ Haim Rokah
- Mayor of Katzrin / Demi Avrich
- And other Knesset members, and representatives from various academic and economic circles.

During the conference, the participants discussed settlement work in the Golan Heights, and effective ways to double the population of the settlements during the next four years.

All Israeli governments recognise the Golan as a border area - located between three countries - constituting a fundamental pillar in their policy of population distribution. They consider Jewish settlement along the borders as a security necessity complementary to military means, exceeding the mere necessity for geographic distribution. As such, it is an important component in the state colonial project. [4]

Two and a half months after the government's first conference in the Golan, on 26/12/2021, a second conference was held in the Mafoh Hama settlement. During this the occupation government launched a comprehensive settlement plan to double the number of settlers in the Golan, as set out below.

**Government Decision No. 864**, dated 26.12.2021 [5]

The decision is recorded under the title: **"The plan to encourage sustainable demographic growth in the settlements of the Golan Regional Council and the city of Katzrin for the years 2022-25."**

Some government agencies and the media referred to this plan as the "billion shekels plan", as the budget approved for these settlement projects amounted to nearly one billion shekels. The ambitious goal set by the plan is to double the settler population in the Golan. In his speech during the conference, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said:

*"Our goal is to double the number of settlers in the Golan and then double it again: we want to move from 26,000 residents to 50,000 people, then to 100,000, but we will start with a*

*realistic goal and set a deadline: doubling the settlements, establishing two new settlements [6] in the Golan, providing workplaces, and increasing investment in infrastructure.”*

The plan addresses urban planning, marketing and developing private housing, including support tools, developing the local economy and creating job opportunities, improving the quality of life and attracting new residents. On the other hand, the participants did not shy away from expressing that their motivation for the implementation of the plan is also security: *“The residents of the area are located near a border triangle with three other countries, forming a pillar in the population distribution policy of the Israeli governments, who view settlement along the border as a security need that overrides the need for settlement alone.” [7]*

The plan was based on realizing the following projects:

- 1) Planning of marketing and development of housing units and support tools, through:
  - Creating a schematic inventory of housing units.
  - Marketing and filling housing units.
- 2) Developing the infrastructure and tools to support demographic growth, through:
  - Developing the local and regional economy with the aim of creating and diversifying job opportunities, in order to attract new settlers
  - Enhancing the labour market through the creation of opportunities for remote working, establishing industrial zones, and advanced agriculture.
  - Tourism development
  - Encouraging innovation
  - Developing the drivers of growth for the local authority
- 3) Improving quality of life of settlers and reducing gaps in responding to their needs, in order to attract new settlers to the Golan, through:
  - Education for Excellence
  - Preserving public space, sustainable development, unique natural resources and natural ecosystems.
  - Improving personal security
  - Developing regional infrastructure.
- 4- The establishment of two new settlements in the Golan, the Urha settlement, southeast of the Golan (south of the demolished village of Jokhadar), and the Matar settlement in central Golan (south of the Sha'al settlement, established in place of the demolished village of Qarhata).

The following table presents the projects approved by the plan and the financing ministries:

**Distributing the budgets of the government plan to encourage sustainable demographic growth in the occupied Golan settlements  
2022 - 2025**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding institution</b>	<b>Budget (Million Shekels)</b>	<b>Goal</b>
Regular residential planning	Ministry of Housing	40	Preparing new charts, updating and modifying existing charts
Upgrading infrastructure and improving the appearance of old street furniture	- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Housing Ministry	95	Rehabilitation and development of infrastructure in the settlements of the Golan Regional Council.
Public institutions	Housing Ministry	43	Restoration, development and establishment of public institutions in the settlements of the Golan Regional Council
Integration	Settlement Ministry	3	A program for development, local empowerment and community support for integration in the settlements of the Regional Council
Branding, advertising and management company	Housing Ministry	4.5	Marketing residential units
Temporary housing to receive new settlers	Interior Ministry	7	Establishment of temporary housing complexes for new settlers in the settlements of the Golan Regional Council.
Sanitation infrastructure	Government Authority for Water and Sewerage	75	Developing sewage infrastructure in the Regional Council settlements.
Special commission	Planning Department	10	Planning, establishing new residential neighborhoods in existing settlements, as well as planning for construction of new settlements.
Establishment of public institutions in Katzrin	Housing Ministry	10	Planning of public institutions in the 12th and 13th districts of Katzrin.
Brands and advertising	Housing Ministry	5	
Development barriers	Housing Ministry	12	Removal of barriers to development in neighborhoods 12-13, including removal of the municipal market and soccer field, to be included in infrastructure costs for the two neighbourhoods
- Classrooms in Katzrin - Upgrading educational institutions	Housing Ministry	20	Establishment of 46 classrooms and 2-day care centers, with 3 classrooms in each center.
Restoration of buildings and infrastructure in the old part of Katzrin	Housing Ministry	50	- Restoration of buildings and infrastructure, and development of public space in the old areas of Katzrin, and renovation of the

			urban center of the old part of the city.
Removal of barriers to transport in neighborhoods 12 and 13 in Katzrin	Ministry of Transportation	10	Connecting neighborhoods 12 and 13 to Road No. 9088, including the northern roundabout at the entrance to Katzrin, and a road connecting neighborhoods 12 and 13, including with the roundabout in the urban area.
Urban marketing and promoting the settlements image	Development Ministry of the Periphery, Negev and Galilee Regions	3	Formulate and implement a plan to attract new residents to Katzrin, strengthening its image and status as a community offering a high quality of life.
A multi-year stabilization plan	Finance Ministry	31	Multi-year stabilization plan for Katzrin Municipal Council.
Economic and organizational Development Plan (Launch plan)	Interior Ministry Finance Ministry	18	Drafting a plan for economic and organizational development, from the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the local authority of Katzrin.
Development grant	Interior Ministry Finance Ministry	40	Grant to strengthen and support the city of Katzrin and the settlements of the Golan Regional Council.
Religious services	Religions Ministry	4	Establishment of religious buildings and cemeteries.
Mine clearance	Ministry of Security	27	Clearing areas of mines for the development and expansion of the settlement project.
Public transportation stations	Transportation Ministry Finance Ministry	2	Expansion of public transportation stations in Golan settlements.
Picking up and dropping off students using public transportation	Transportation Ministry Finance Ministry	4	Establishing infrastructure for picking up and dropping off students at public transportation stations in the Golan settlements.
New settlements	Finance Ministry	2	Directing the Israeli Land Authority to decide upon the establishment of two new settlements in cooperation with other government ministries, including the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Housing, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Israel Bicycle Path - Golan Heights Section	Open Zones Fund	17.8	Implement a bicycle path that passes through the Golan, connecting with the main Israel Bicycle Path
Restoration, development and accessibility of open spaces	Open Zones Fund	15	Developing, facilitating accessibility to, and rehabilitating, open spaces located in Golan settlements.
Development of tourism infrastructure	Ministry of Tourism	60	Investing in public tourism infrastructure and establishing hotel facilities in the Golan.

Tourism consultancy	Ministry of Tourism	0.2	Providing professional tourism advice to project owners and companies operating in tourism, in the fields of marketing, management and legal advice.
Conservation and heritage	Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing local heritage, including the ancient and modern heritage, and the heritage of the Zionist period in the Golan.</li> <li>- Developing ancient synagogues in the Golan</li> <li>- Developing Katzrin museum's infrastructure and heritage content.</li> </ul>
The main business center in Katzrin	Development Ministry of the Periphery, Negev and Galilee Regions.	4	Renovation and modernization of the infrastructure of Katzrin's main business center "Eitan Centre", the commercial and financial center of the city.
Business revitalization	Ministry of Economy and Industry	3.5	Encouraging, promoting and developing small and medium-sized businesses in the Golan settlements.
Electric vehicle charging stations	Ministry of Energy	0.5	Establishing charging stations for electric cars in the Golan.
Science and technology	Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology	7	Supporting applied research, and promoting scientific education, technology and innovation in the Golan settlements.
Living laboratory for agriculture	Ministry Of Agriculture Ministry of Finance	4	Encourage the activation of "regulatory sandboxes" for experiments in technologically innovative agriculture. A regulatory sandbox is an organizational approach that allows for experimentation with innovative activities for a limited period of time under the supervision and control of the organizer.
Agricultural enterprises and agritech projects	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	7	Recruitment of innovators in the field of promoting agricultural development based on knowledge and technology, and the formulating training programs with the aim of contributing to the expansion of the agricultural value chain in the region.
Encouraging exports	Ministry of Economy and Industry	10	Directing the Department of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Economy to provide assistance to encourage marketing abroad for companies from the Golan
Establishment or relocation of factories	Ministry of Economy and Industry	11	Establishing new factories or transferring factories from areas that are not of national priority, to the Golan.
Industrial areas	Ministry of Economy and Industry	12	Developing industrial zones in the Golan settlements



Development employment and settlement	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry of Finance	4	Directing the Israel Land Authority, in cooperation with Katzrin Municipal Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, to allocate 300 dunams in Katzrin for establishing a veterinary center and an academic institution for veterinary education.
Technology College for religious young people	Education Ministry Interior Ministry	20	Establishing a college to accommodate religious youth who have dropped out of school.
Joint work complexes	Development Ministry of the Periphery, Negev and Galilee Regions.	10	Establishing joint work areas in the Golan Regional Council.
Educational initiatives	Education Ministry Finance Ministry	10	Directing the Ministry of Education to encourage educational activities and initiatives in educational institutions in the Golan settlements.
Informal education	Education Ministry Finance Ministry	7	Activating educational programs and projects in the Golan settlements.
Recruiting and training teachers	Education Ministry Finance Ministry	5	Encouraging and receiving teaching students and vocational training for those who will live and work in Katzrin and the Golan Regional Council during their studying
Building a studio	Education Ministry Finance Ministry	4	Completing the budget for the construction of a joint studio for Katzrin and the Golan Regional Council.
Culture Package	Ministry of Education and Sports	1.6	In the framework of options for cultural and civil society support package
Circular economy	Ministry of Environmental Protection	10.4	Preparing and implementing a regional circular economy plan for the Golan, in relation to all waste streams, including municipal waste, construction waste, and the exclusion of agricultural waste.
Climate change preparedness plan	Ministry of Environmental Protection	0.5	Directing the Ministry of Environmental Protection to prepare an action plan for preparing for climate change in the Golan.
Prevention of contamination of water sources	Ministry of Environmental Protection	1.0	Conducting studies to prevent contamination of water sources in the Golan
Disease prevention	Ministry of Environmental Protection	0.5	Conducting studies to find solutions to prevent the spread of diseases and evaluate their effectiveness in the Golan.
Pollution in Golan valleys	Nature and Parks Authority and the management	25	Reducing pollution and diseases related to the flow of water from

	authority of open areas		the Golan to the Sea of Galilee basin.
Bicycle paths	Ministry of Transportation	2	Completion of the bicycle path network in Katzrin.
Prevention of animal poisoning	Ministry of the Environment	3	Preparing a national plan to prevent poisoning of livestock in the Golan.
Emergency preparedness planning	Ministry of Interior	6	Completing and utilizing public shelters, and establishing internet infrastructure and a system for remote opening of shelters.
Expanding National Authority for Community Security programming	The National Authority for Community Security	4.3	Expansion of the programs of the National Authority for Community Security
Health	Ministry of Health Ministry of Finance Ministry of Rural Development, Galilee and Negev	8.75	Establishing medical centers to train students, to increase the number of medical students and doctors in the Golan, and to expand the different types of medical services available in Katzrin.
Community promotion	Development Ministry of the Periphery Ministry of Social Equality	3.2	Programs to strengthen community resilience in Katzrin
Senior citizens	Ministry of Social Equality Ministry of Welfare and Social Security	2.8	- Strengthening the resilience of the elderly. - Developing clubs and activities for elderly people in the settlements in the Golan.
Strengthening the local community	Ministry of Social Equality	2.64	Promotion of a program for the social participation of young people for the benefit of the community.
Immigration and integration	Ministry of Immigration and Integration	1.5	Establishing a unique annual exhibition abroad to encourage immigration and settlement in the Golan.
Regional infrastructure development	Ministry of Transportation	58	- Deployment of an advanced communications network (fiber optics) - Detailed planning of stations or an alternative solution for public transportation in the settlements - Completion and development of the road network

Source:

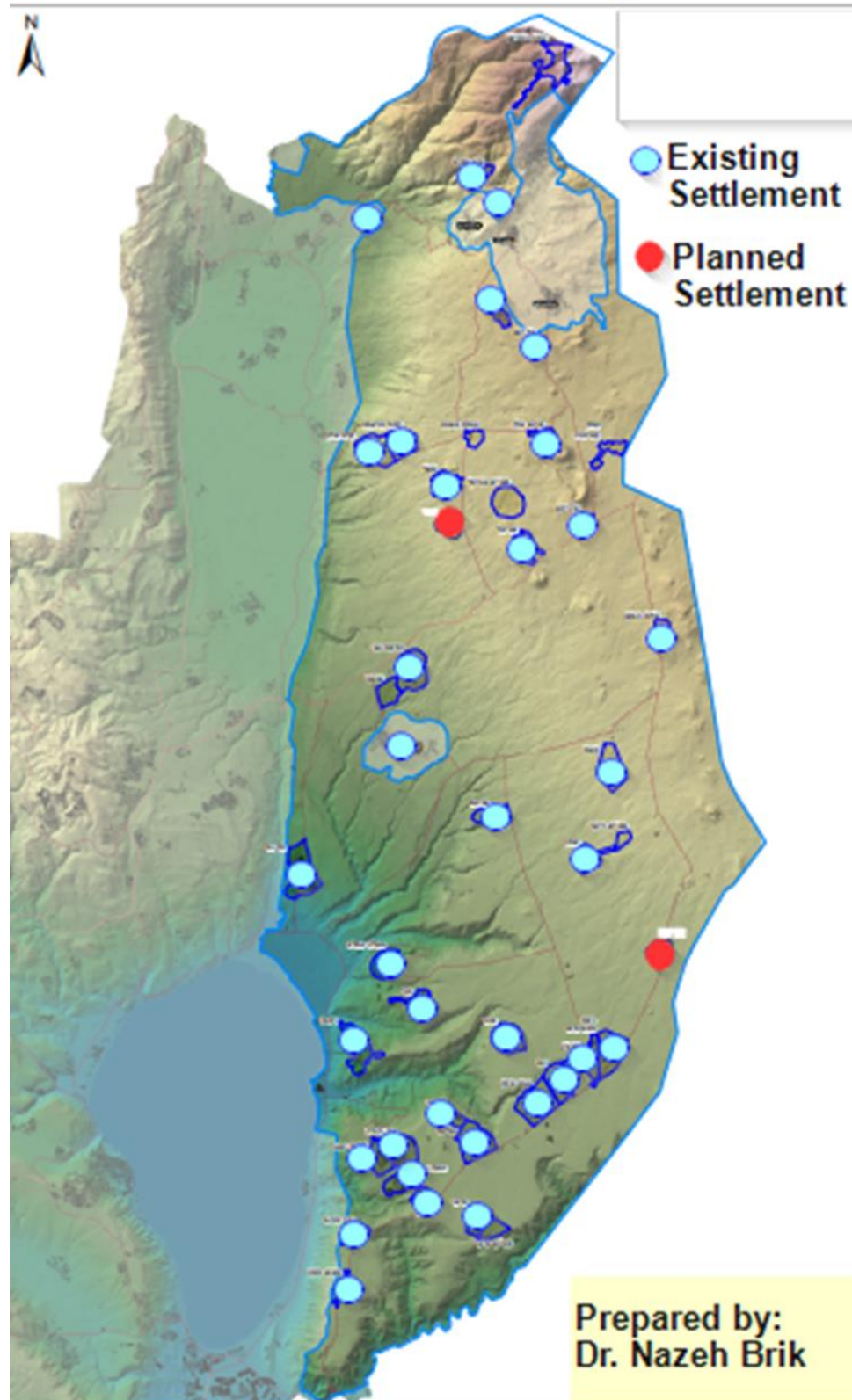
Government Resolution No. 864 (Hebrew)

[https://www.gov.il/he/departments/policies/dec\\_864\\_2021](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/policies/dec_864_2021)

<b>Number of housing units planned to be built in Golan Regional Council settlements 2022-2025</b>					
	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Avne Etan	40	23	60	123
2	Odem	35	34	-	69
3	Ortal	24	25	50	99
4	El Rom	20	29	50	99
5	Alone Habashan	26	31	40	97
6	Elea'ad	20	30	60	110
7	Ania'am	72	30	-	102
8	Afik	27	-	40	67
9	Bne Yehuda	-	150	150	300
10	Giva'at Yuav	40	30	45	115
11	Gishur	30	54	50	134
12	Had Nes	-	150	100	250
13	Khispin	85	75	-	160
14	Yunatan	50	45	-	95
15	Kanaf	52	40	-	92
16	Kfar Haruv	-	35	30	65
17	Mavo Hama	20	32	32	84
18	Mizar	40	50	-	90
19	Ma'ale Gamla	-	-	60	60
20	Marom Golan	44	35	55	134
21	Neot Golan	33	40	45	128
22	Nov	40	42	38	120
23	Nive Ativ	20	30	40	110
24	Natur	-	50	40	90
25	Namrod	-	35	30	65
26	Ein Zivan	25	35	35	95
27	Kidmat Zvi	-	60	20	80
28	Kelaa Alon	30	52	120	202
29	Keshet	30	20	40	90
30	Ramot	56	30	55	141
31	Ramat Magshimim	45	55	65	165
32	Ramat Trump	99	100	150	349
33	Shaal	55	30	30	115
34	Snir (1)	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>4,065</b>
<p>(1) The settlement of Snir does not belong to the Regional Council for the Golan Settlements, although it is the first settlement established on the occupied Golan. It is attached to the Galil-Alyon Regional Council.</p> <p><b>Source:</b>  Government Resolution No. 864 (Hebrew)  <a href="https://www.gov.il/he/departments/policies/dec_864_2021">https://www.gov.il/he/departments/policies/dec_864_2021</a></p>					

As for the housing units that are planned to be built between 2022 and 2025 in Katzrin settlement, in order to double its population, this amounts to 3,000 housing units.

## Jewish Settlements in the occupied Golan



## Summary:

The holding of two meetings by the Israeli government in the Golan during a period of less than three months, with representation from all ministries and economic sectors, was not by chance, but deliberate. It was the first time that the Israeli government has held such a meeting for, and on, the land that it occupied in 1967. It conveyed two messages. One was to the right-wing Israeli voter who supports the Zionist colonial project, assuring them that the Golan Heights will remain an "integral part of Israel", in order to attract their support in the elections. The second message is directed to the outside, stating that the Golan Heights will remain under the Israeli occupation's control, and that they will not return it to Syrian sovereignty. In doing so the Israeli government is taking advantage of the disintegration of the Syrian state and its absence from the international arena, in addition to former US President Donald Trump's recognition in 2020 of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan, and thus American recognition of the annexation law imposed by the occupation government in 1981.

In his speech in the conference, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said:

*"First of all, it must be said, the Golan Heights is Israeli. Since 1981, Israeli law has applied to the Golan, and this is not subject to any controversy. The fact that the Trump administration recognized that (the annexation of the Golan Heights), and the fact that that the Biden administration has made it clear that there is no change in this policy, is also important. After nearly ten years of terrible civil war in Syria, every sane person in the world realizes that a peaceful, prosperous and green Israeli plateau is better than another alternative."* [8]

This statement by the prime minister reveals the expansionist intentions of the Jewish state to keep the Golan under its control.

While the occupying power approves development plans for Jewish settlements in the Golan every few years - on the principle of five-year plans - and which consume huge budgets, we see that on the other hand that it ignores the needs of the Syrian indigenous population who survived the ethnic cleansing project which the occupying state perpetrated against them in 1967. The indignant population live today in five villages in the northern Golan, and number approximately 28,000 people.

It should be noted that the government's plan to promote settlement in the Golan also includes the establishment of huge projects for the production of green energy, through the construction of solar energy complexes and "wind farms". Some of these farms were decided to be established on the agricultural lands of the Syrian population, despite their strong opposition to these projects. This opposition began peacefully, with the submission of written objections to the planning authorities, but later developed into a clash with police forces when the occupation authorities ignored their demands and forcefully occupied these lands. One reason for this opposition is that the wind turbines would negatively impact the agricultural sector, which constitutes an important source of economic independence and morale for the Syrian population. In addition, Syrians believe that the establishment of "wind farms" on their lands against their will is a thinly-veiled means of confiscating more of their lands, after the occupation authorities have confiscated 56% of their lands since 1967.

The head of the municipal council of the Syrian village of Majdal Shams, and the head of the municipal council of the village of Ain Quniyah, both of whom are collaborators with the occupation authorities, participated in this conference. Despite them presenting to the participants the housing distress, the acute shortage of urban

spaces, the weak infrastructure of the five Syrian villages, and their demand that the government respond to find solutions, their demands were completely ignored. Moreover, even the presence of the Syrian population was ignored, as if the Golan only consists of settlers.

The exclusion of the indigenous population from these plans exposes Israeli planning policies, and confirms the extent of the infiltration of ethnic planning into Israeli institutions. Such planning is based on the principle of preference and response to the needs of Jewish people, as opposed to marginalizing and ignoring the needs of the non-Jewish Arabs.

In the long run, the desired goal of the successive plans of the occupation authorities is to strengthen and expand its settlement project in the Golan. This amounts to creating a new demographic situation in which the majority is Jewish, and thus transforming the indigenous population of the five villages into a marginalized minority within a hostile settlement environment that imposes its agenda on the affairs of their economic, political and cultural lives. In addition, when the settlers become the overwhelming majority in the Golan Heights, Israel may resort to holding a popular referendum on the fate of sovereignty over the Golan Heights, thus ensuring that the results will be in its favour, taking advantage of the international silence on its ongoing crimes against Palestinians and Golanis.

International law prohibits an occupying power from making changes of a permanent nature in the territory it occupies, unless those changes are made for military necessity in the strictest sense, or to serve the local population. The Zionist settlement project in the occupied Golan constitutes a flagrant violation of the rules and provisions of international humanitarian law, which prohibit for any reason the occupying state from collective or individual forcible transfer of the population of the occupied territory, or their exile from their areas of residence, to the territory of the occupying state or to any other country. In addition, it prohibits the occupying state from transferring its citizens to the territories it occupies.

The settlement project violates the fundamental rights of the indigenous population of the Golan - both those remaining and those forcibly displaced - such as the right to property, the right to equality, the right to growth and development, and the right to a decent standard of living, in addition to impeding any future political settlement between Syria and Israel regarding the Golan. This deepens the suffering of the half a million forcibly displaced, living elsewhere in Syria and in the diaspora.

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