

780 West Bank Settlement Housing Units In Palestinian Lands, Approved Ahead of US Presidential Transition

By [Peace Now](#)

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The Higher Planning Council (HPC) of the Civil Administration approved today plans to build 780 housing units in settlements, most of them deep in the West Bank (714 units (92%) in settlements that Israel will have to evacuate under a peace agreement, according to the Geneva Initiative model). Among other things, the HPC approved for deposit the legalization of two illegal outposts: Havat Yair with 96 units of which 82 units are already (illegally) built, as a “neighborhood” of the Yakir settlement, and the outpost of Nofei Nehemiah with 118 units, as a “neighborhood” of the Rehelim settlement which itself was an illegal outpost that was legalized in recent years.

The plans advanced include:

Settlement	Plan No.	HPC Meeting	New Housing Units	Approved for Deposit	Approved for Validation	East Geneva	West Geneva	Comments
Oranit	121/24	17/01/2021	66		66		66	
Elkana	הקלה	17/01/2021	0				0	Changes in a plan without adding units
Karnei Shomron	117/8/1/3/5	17/01/2021	24		24	24		adding 24 units to the 12 approved (total 36 units)
Barkan Industrial Area	130/5/10/ת	17/01/2021	0		0	0		Plan for Industry
Shavei Shomron	111/1/4	17/01/2021	152		152	152		
Itamar	1163/3/4	17/01/2021	123		123	123		
Tal Menashe	166/6/3	17/01/2021	107	107		107		
Havat Yair	118/3	17/01/2021	96	96		96		Legalization of an illegal outpost - 82 units are already built illegally and will be legalized
Migdalim	הקלה	17/01/2021	0			0		Changes in a plan without adding units
Nofei Nehemia	171/1	17/01/2021	118	118		118		Legalization of an illegal outpost
Rehelim	171/1	17/01/2021	94	94		94		
Ariel	130/2/3/35/1	17/01/2021	0			0		Changes in a plan without adding units
TOTAL			780	415	365	714	66	

Earlier in the day, the HPC discussed several housing plans for Palestinians in Area C, although [according to reports](#), the Prime Minister’s Office today asked to cancel the hearing due to settlers’ pressure. This is in addition to the pressure put by settlers last week which led to the removal of three plans for Palestinian villages from the committee’s agenda.

No decisions were made during the discussion and the committee is expected to publish its decisions in the coming days, but the spirit of the discussion shows that:

1. There is an intention to approve the plan to legalize 70 existing housing units in the Palestinian village of Hizma + an addition of 70 new housing units.
2. The HPC is intending to condition the approval of the plan for the Palestinian village of Walajeh, with the approval of a new bypass road for settlers (which will “be compensated” by the construction of the plan for about 1,000 housing units for settlers in the new planned settlement of [“Givat HaGamal” in Har Gilo](#)). It is important to note that the discussion of the

plan of Walajeh was forced on the HPC following the High Court's decision that the plan should be discussed.

3. Apparently the HPC did not approve the plan to legalize a school in the Bedouin community of Wadi A-Sik in the western slopes of the Jordan Valley.

4. Apparently the HPC approved two hotels and an amusement park on the outskirts of Area B, and a 200 square-meter cooling building for a Palestinian farmer in the Jordan Valley.

These approvals are almost insignificant in terms of the true needs of the Palestinians in Area C. It should be mentioned that in 2020 alone, [12,159 housing units](#) were approved for Israeli settlements, while only 245 housing units, many of which already exist, were approved for Palestinians (note that 245 units for Palestinians is a lot compared to previous years).

Peace Now: "By promoting hundreds of settlement units, Prime Minister Netanyahu is once again putting his personal political interests over those of the country. Not only will this settlement activity erode the possibility for a conflict-ending resolution with the Palestinians in the long-term, but in the short-term it needlessly sets Israel on a collision course with the incoming Biden administration."

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