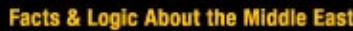


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By any legal measure as well, the Negev land in question belongs to the State of Israel—as does some 93% of all territory within its borders. Both these conflicts reflect a fundamental cultural disconnect between a Western notion—that land ownership is based on deeds, treaties, laws and, yes, triumph in wars—and an

[illegible]

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Neither the Bedouins nor the Palestinian Arabs can officially document their ownership of the properties in question.

Likewise, in both cases—the Negev and Sheik Jarrah—efforts were made by the State to provide residential accommodations for those being dispossessed.

In both cases—even after the Arabs agreed to them—the compromises were later rejected by those same “aggrieved” parties. Thus, frustratingly, bad faith has also accompanied both sets of negotiations.

Above all, the conflict in these matters is not simply who controls individual patches of land, but rather one of sovereignty and democratic rule of law: *Who’s in charge here and who makes the rules?*

The Bedouins’ interests have been taken up by the United Arab List party (*Ra’am* in Hebrew), headed by “kingmaker” member of the Knesset Mansour Abbas, who has the power to undermine Israel’s ruling government by casting a single vote against its fragile coalition.

Israel has for years attempted to move the primitive Bedouin encampments in the Negev—beset as they are by abject poverty and crime—into new residences that enjoy municipal services such as electricity and policing. The Bedouins refuse to move, preferring their ancient herding lifestyle and the open land it requires.

Even as the ruling coalition attempts to reconcile Israel’s interests with those of the Bedouins, pressure is mounting among Israelis for the State to enforce its prerogatives.

The Israeli NGO Regavim, which advocates for Israel’s legal interests in land usage, has demanded that the Israeli Defense Forces and the Border Police immediately act to protect residents of the Negev.

Regavim director general Meir Deutsch said, “The nightmare scenarios of the past two days in the Negev are a direct result of the government’s capitulation in the forestation project. As we predicted, caving in to violence and to the Ra’am Party’s blackmail will inevitably lead to increased violence.”

Mordechai Kedar, a senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, goes further. He sees the Bedouin bid for land control a cover for undermining Israeli sovereignty under the auspices of the United Arab List. “They want to destroy the state,” he asserts.

What should be abundantly clear from both the Sheikh Jarrah and Negev property disputes is that the State of Israel is ignoring—or at best temporizing on—indisputably legal rights as a way to avoid heat from international media and politicians within its own government.

But compromising on democratic rule of law is no compromise at all. It’s an outright abnegation of responsibility to protect a nation’s citizens from unlawful, capricious behavior.

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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its Arab citizens—presents massive, undeniable challenges to Israeli government officials, the rule of law must be upheld.

The alternative, as Regavim's Deutsch observes, is lawlessness and injustice, which inevitably lead to violence.

Thus, I hope you'll express to friends, family and colleagues that Israel's Supreme Court should decide without further delay in favor of Sheikh Jarrah's legitimate property owners. Evict the squatters.

Likewise, Israel's ruling coalition must stand up to the Bedouin tribe and the Ra'am Party and remove the Negev's illegal squatters—for their own benefit, as well as that of their 650,000 law-abiding Negev neighbors.

The cost to members of the Court and members of the current Israeli government will likely be high in terms of adverse international publicity, brutal public pressure and even loss of power. Yet these are the prices Israel must be willing to pay for the precious privilege of rule of law.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's current [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—which exposes “Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste” and those who support boycotts of the Jewish state.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. As you know, Ben & Jerry's recently announced that it would cease its contract with its Israeli affiliate because the affiliate refused to stop selling the company's ice cream in the ancient Jewish territories of Judea and Samaria. This move, championed by the company's anti-Israel board chair, is just the latest attempt to boycott the Jewish state—joining the BDS movement—which some 35 U.S. states consider illegal and anti-Semitic. To clarify this issue for the American people—including many Jews—FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste](#).” I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run soon in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and other media nationwide. It spells out why Ben & Jerry's should be held to account for this attempt to delegitimize the State of Israel. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18.

support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Biden stay committed to fighting anti-Semitic actions by individuals, politicians and commercial companies.

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