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For Immediate Release

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Government advances 1,084 housing units in West Bank Settlements

The Civil Administration went ahead and promoted 1,084 housing units in 6 West Bank settlements, despite earlier reporting of reduction in number of housing units due to intensive European diplomatic pressure.

Yesterday, June 11th, the subcommittee for settlements (a body under the High Commission for Planning that is within the Civil Administration of the IDF, Israeli Military), discussed the advancement of 6 plans for settlements, and a total of 1084 housing units. The plans were either approved for deposit or for validation.

In addition, Haaretz newspaper published last week that another plan is to be published for validation (published as opposed to discussed) for 683 housing units.

Earlier today, the paper also published a story that implied that due to large diplomatic pressure of five European States (UK, Germany, France, Italy, and Spain) several plans were removed from the meeting agenda of the subcommittee for settlements.

However, according to Settlement Watch, the subcommittee approved 6 of the 8 plans it discussed. The plans that were approved included 1,084 housing units of the 1,151 housing units that were discussed in the meeting. The remaining 2 plans that were not approved were for a total of “only” 68 housing units. Furthermore, the plans were disapproved due to internal and technical problems, and not because of external pressure.

Subcommittee for Settlements agenda and result, June 11th, 2014:

Settlement	Plan No.	Housing Units	Discussed for	Result:	Remark:
Bruchin	150	550	Validation	Approved.	Outpost that was recognised as a settlement by the government in 2012. Currently the settlement has less than 500 people. The plan is to add more than 3000 settlers.
El-Matan	116/5	43	Validation	Sent to be re-deposited because the plan was never deposited in Arabic.	An outpost that is being legalised as a neighbourhood of Ma'ale Shomron through this plan.
Kochav Yaakov	242/1/3	38	Validation	Approved.	Outpost with a military school. Currently being legalised as part of Halamish (Neve Tzuf) settlement.
Givat Ze'ev	220/23	381	Validation	Approved.	
Alfei Menashe	115/20	25	Deposit	Removed from the committee's agenda due to legal problems with the contractor.	
Ariel	130/2/3/35	50	Deposit	Approved	
Oranit	121/16	10	Deposit	Approved	
Tzofit	203/5	54	Deposit	Approved	

Brief summary of the planning process of settlements at the West Bank:

1. Initial approval by the Minister of Defence
2. Discussion for deposit
3. Publication of deposit
4. Discussion for validation
5. Publication of validation

Each phase of the planning process is approved and authorised by the Minister of Defence and takes place in the subcommittee for settlements under the High Commission for Planning at the civil administration.

15 Days after a plan is published for validation, the plan is officially approved and valid and construction may begin shortly after. In few settlements, tenders need to be issued after a plan is valid.



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