

# Cops and Robbers

מרכז ושיטור קהילתי  
והפעלת מתורגמים  
בית אל - עפרה  
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# Cops and Robbers

## Distribution of Israel Police stations throughout the West Bank

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### Introduction

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On June 14, 1967, a week after the onset of the occupation of the West Bank, Uzi Narkiss, former IDF commander of the Central Command, signed Order No. 52 - Order Regarding Police Forces Operating in Cooperation with the IDF. This order, which was retroactively applied on June 8 (one day after the occupation of the West Bank), allows the Israel Police to operate in the West Bank, despite the fact that it is not part of the sovereign territory of the State of Israel. As such, the Israel Police are not authorized to operate in the West Bank to begin with. Aside from initiating the Israel Police's operations in the West Bank, this order had two other purposes:

- 1) To subordinate the Israel Police forces to the command of military forces.
- 2) To grant every policeman operating in the West Bank the same authorities vested in soldiers.

The following is the language of the order:<sup>1</sup>

By virtue of my authority as commander of IDF forces in the area, I hereby order the following: -

#### **Definitions**

1. In this order: -

"The area" - the area of West Bank.

"Police forces" - policemen and officers of the Israel Police, who were placed under the authority of the commander of

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.law.idf.il/801-3190-he/Patzar.aspx>

IDF forces in the area.

"Policemen" - police of all ranks aside from officers.

- Authorities of policeman**      **of**      **a**      2.      Each policeman belonging to the police forces will have the following authorities:
- (1) The authorities vested in each soldier under the Order Regarding Security Provisions, which was validated by Proclamation No. 3 issued by the regional commander of IDF forces.
- (2) The authorities vested in any soldier in the proclamation or order, granted or to be given by me.
- (3) The authorities that every policeman in the area had on the 28th of Iyar 5727 (June 7, 1967) under any law that applied to that area on the same day.
- Authorities of an officer**      3.      Every officer belonging to the police forces shall have the powers granted to any policeman, officer, senior police officer, or police officer, in accordance with the acts of legislation referred to in clause 2.
- Scope of application Amendment: Order No. 105**      3a.      For these purposes, every policeman and officer of the Israel Police operating in the area under Israel Police authorities, are stationed under the authority of the regional commander of IDF forces.
- Commencement validity**      **of**      4.      This order shall take effect on the 29th of Iyar 5727 (June 8, 1967).
- Name**      5.      This order shall be called, "Order Regarding Police Forces Operating in Cooperation with the IDF (West Bank Area) (No. 52), 5727-1967."

**6th of Tamuz 5727**

**Uzi Narkiss, Major General**

**July 14, 1967**

**Head of the Central Command and commander of IDF forces in the area of the West Bank**

Over the past five decades since this order was signed, the Israel Police have established dozens of police stations throughout the West Bank. These stations are part of an extensive police system, which has been defined as the "Judea and Samaria District," since 1994. In addition to police stations, a system of Border Police bases were established throughout the West Bank. The Border Police are, in fact, military forces in every respect, primarily deployed to suppress the Palestinian population, hardly contending with the enforcement of civil law.

**This modest report is devoted to surveying the geographical distribution of dozens of police stations (namely, "Blue Police" stations), all located within settlements or areas under full Israeli control in Area C.**

We will take this opportunity to note that from 1967 to the mid-1990s, the Israel Police operated within Palestinian communities. Yet following the signing of the Oslo Accords throughout the 1990s, police stations in Palestinian localities (excluding the station in Hebron) were terminated. According to clause 8 of the Oslo Accords (September 1993), police authorities were transferred to the Palestinian Authority (PA) within territories belonging to the PA. The Israel Police have been solely entrusted with the security of the Israeli settlers, and to this end continued to enforce police authorities in Area C (61% of the West Bank).

This is the language of clause 8:

### **Public order and security**

In order to ensure public order and internal security for Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip the council will establish a strong police force, while Israel will continue to bear responsibility for defense against external threats, and the overall security of Israelis in order to ensure internal security and their public order.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.knesset.gov.il/process/docs/oslo.htm>

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## Judea and Samaria District

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One of the recommendations of the state commission of inquiry established following Baruch Goldstein's massacre of Palestinian worshippers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in February 1994 (the Shamgar Commission), was to instate an independent police district with the task of enforcing law in the West Bank more effectively for settlers as well. Indeed, in September 1994, the Judea and Samaria District of the Israel Police was established, and today its headquarters is located in the E1 zone, west of Ma'ale Adumim.<sup>3</sup>

Among the content featured on the Judea and Samaria District's website, one may glean that it is not a police district that solely provides police services, but is rather an arm of the State whose main task is to enable the ongoing occupation of the West Bank, minimizing "disturbances" by the Palestinian population living in the area:

The Judea and Samaria District commands a vast area - from Mount Hebron in the south to the Megiddo intersection in the north, and is the second largest district of the Israel Police, though the leading district with regard to sensitivity. The realization of the district's purpose as a police force is reflected in its ability to provide police officers in the Judea and Samaria region with optimal services, a sense of security, and to impact their quality of life.

In this unique area, ensuring the safety of the civilians lies in the joint work of the Judea and Samaria District Police, along with the army, the Shin Bet, and the Civil Administration, as security forces operating in the area and in cooperation with the heads of local authorities and settlement representatives. This is facilitated in accordance with the understanding that cooperation will maximize and leverage common shared interests, which this sensitive district demands.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> In 2006, it was reported that the new Judea and Samaria Police headquarters west of Ma'ale Adumim was built with the assistance of a settler association, and in compensation settlers received the compound where the former Judea and Samaria Police headquarters was located in the neighborhood of Ras al-Amud. See M. Rapaport, "Settlers Subsidizing Police Station in E-1," Haaretz, 26.4.2006. <http://news.walla.co.il/item/896502>

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.police.gov.il/contentPage.aspx?pid=23&mid=6>

The Judea and Samaria District is divided into two main areas and stations:

- The Samaria area that sits in the settlement of Ariel
- The Hebron area, which is located in the Neighborhood of the Patriarch's on the outskirts of Hebron, west of the settlement of Kiryat Arba
- The Binyamin station, located in the "Sha'ar Binyamin" industrial zone
- The Ma'ale Adumim station, located at the entrance to the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim

Subservient to these areas and stations are "sub-units" and dozens of community policing centers that oversee police services in the settlements in which they are located.

This is a suitable context in which to note that since 1997, settlements' territories have been defined by the army as "closed military areas" for Palestinian residents of the West Bank, and each entry into the settlements requires special approval.<sup>5</sup> The fact that most of the police stations are located inside settlements or in areas far removed from Palestinian communities, is a reflection of the Israel Police's perception of its role in the area.



The police station in Givat Ze'ev was established entirely on privately-owned Palestinian land.

<sup>5</sup> See Kerem Navot, "A Locked Garden," March 2015, p. 51.  
[http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cdb1a7\\_5d1ee4627ac84dca83419aebf4fad17d.pdf](http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cdb1a7_5d1ee4627ac84dca83419aebf4fad17d.pdf)

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## Goals of the report

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As is well known, there are two communities in the West Bank, each of which has completely different rights, and previous reports have been devoted to describing the Israeli Police's failure to enforce the law in cases of settler violence in a sense reminiscent of values of equality.<sup>6</sup> This modest document will not address this fundamental ethical issue. As with the report we published on football clubs in the settlements,<sup>7</sup> this report solely seeks to address the geographical-statutory aspect of the deployment of Israel Police stations throughout the West Bank. In other words, to address the precise locations of the Israel Police's recognized facilities in the West Bank, based on an analysis of ownership of the land on which they were erected.

The initial idea for addressing this aspect arose when, over the course of our research in recent years, we incidentally discovered that several police stations in the West Bank are illegally located on private Palestinian-owned land. There is no need to elaborate on the paradoxical severity of this fact. The police stations at hand are located in the settlement of Modi'in Illit, which was later moved to a new site adjacent to the Hashmonaim Crossing (Na'alim checkpoint)<sup>8</sup> following a petition by the landowners to the Supreme Court; the large police station at the entrance to the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim<sup>9</sup>; and the police station in the settlement of Giv'at Ze'ev.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, "One Rule, Two Legal Systems: Israel's Regime of Laws in the West Bank," October 2014. <http://www.acri.org.il/en/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Two-Systems-of-Law-English-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Kerem Navot, "Own Goal: Israeli football clubs in West Bank Settlements," October 2016. [http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cdb1a7\\_55b5a10b978b40e9befd01437f2c91a2.pdf](http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cdb1a7_55b5a10b978b40e9befd01437f2c91a2.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> A. Glickman, "Residents of Na'alim: Destroy Police Station in Settelement," Ynet 21.12.2010. <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4002332,00.html>

<sup>9</sup> A. Tamir, "Due to Error, Police Station Built Nearly Entirely on Private Palestinian Land," Galatz, 28.9.2014. <http://glz.co.il/1064-50816-HE/Galatz.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> S. Bendet, "Givat Ze'ev Police Station and Fire Department on Private Land," Walla, 4.6.2015. <http://news.walla.co.il/item/2863265>

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## Methodology

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In order to conduct this survey, we went to the field to photograph relevant buildings, located them in aerial photographs, and then checked the issue of land ownership in each location. We wish to emphasize that the information on which we based our determination of each site's status of ownership, was transferred to us in recent years from the Civil Administration on the basis of the Freedom of Information Law. In other words, this is not information that the authorities can, or are likely to attempt to, refute.

On the following pages you will find a table summarizing the findings, followed by aerial photographs of each of the police stations in the West Bank, and a description of each site's status of ownership.



The police station in Ma'ale Adumim was established in part on private Palestinian land, and in part on Palestinian land that was expropriated for "public needs."

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## The survey findings

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Throughout the survey, we examined a total of 38 police stations known to us in the West Bank, and the following are our findings:

- 17 stations were established on land that the State of Israel declared to be state land
- 8 stations were established on private land seized by the army for "security purposes"
- 4 stations were established on land listed in the Land Registry as state land prior to 1967
- 3 stations were established on land that, to our knowledge, may have been registered in the name of Israeli citizens after 1967<sup>11</sup>
- 2 stations were established on land expropriated for public purposes<sup>12</sup>
- 1 station (Givat Ze'ev) was fully established on privately owned Palestinian land
- 1 station (Ma'ale Adumim) was partly established on private Palestinian land and partially on Palestinian land expropriated for public purposes
- 1 station (Elkana) was built on private Palestinian land in part, and partly on Palestinian land seized for security purposes
- 1 station (Vered Yeriho) was established in part on private Palestinian land and partly on territory declared state land

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<sup>11</sup>As the land registry in the West Bank is not open to the public, we have no access to information that can confirm this assumption.

<sup>12</sup>One of these stations is the Modi'in Illit station, which was transferred to the Hashmonaim crossing. See above and note 8.

<b>Police Station</b>	<b>Land Status</b>
1. Adam	Declaration of State Land
2. Oranit	Land apparently registered under Israeli names following 1967
3. "Sha'ar Binyamin" industrial zone	Declaration of State Land
4. Alfei Menashe	Declaration of State Land
5. Elkana	Seizure for security purposes with the exception of private land
6. Efrat	Declaration of State Land
7. Ariel (area)	Declaration of State Land
8. Ariel (community policing center)	Declaration of State Land
9. Beit El - settlement (community policing center)	Seizure for security purposes
10. Beit El - base	Seizure for security purposes
11. Beit Aryeh	Declaration of State Land
12. Beitar Illit	Declaration of State Land
13. Barkan	Declaration of State Land
14. Gav Hahar (training center)	Seizure for security purposes
15. Givat Ze'ev	Private land
16. Gush Etzion	Seizure for security

	purposes
17. South Hebron Hills (Meitarim)	Declaration of State Land
18. Vered Yeriho (vehicle impoundment lot)	Most of the station is built on territory that was declared state land, and a small portion of which flows onto private territory
19. Kfar Adumim	State land registry
20. Jordan Valley Regional Council	State land registry
21. Na'ale	Declaration of State Land
22. Kochav Yaakov	Declaration of State Land
23. Hashmonaim Crossing (following a petition to the Supreme Court, the station was transferred from Modi'in Illit a few years ago, as it was built on private land)	Seizure for public purposes
24. Ma'ale Adumim	Part of the station is built on land expropriated for public purposes and part on private land
25. Ma'ale Adumim E1	Declaration of State Land
26. Ma'ale Efraim	Seizure for security purposes
27. Eli	Declaration of State Land

28. Immanuel	Land apparently registered under Israeli names after 1967
29. Halido Junction	State land registry
30. Kedumim - station at the base in Efraim	Seizure for security purposes
31. Kedumum - community policing center within the settlement	Seizure for security purposes
32. Kiryat Arba	Seizure for security purposes
33. Karnei Shomron	Declaration of State Land
34. Revava	Declaration of State Land
35. Sha'arei Tikva	Land apparently registered under Israeli names after 1967
36. Shaked	State land registry
37. Tekoa	Declaration of State Land
38. Mishor Adumim	Seizure for public purposes