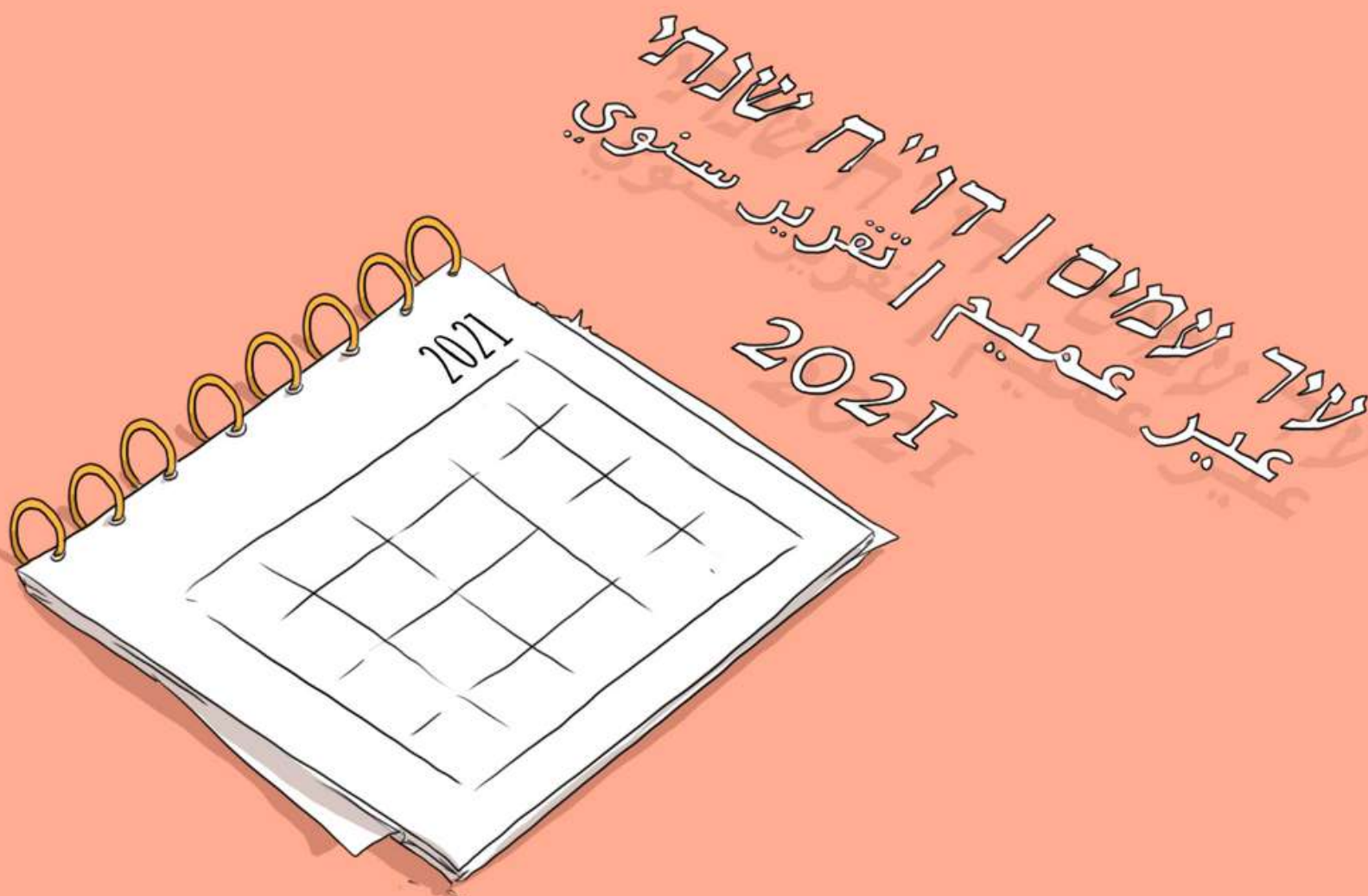


ir Amin | Annual Report 2021



HOUSING



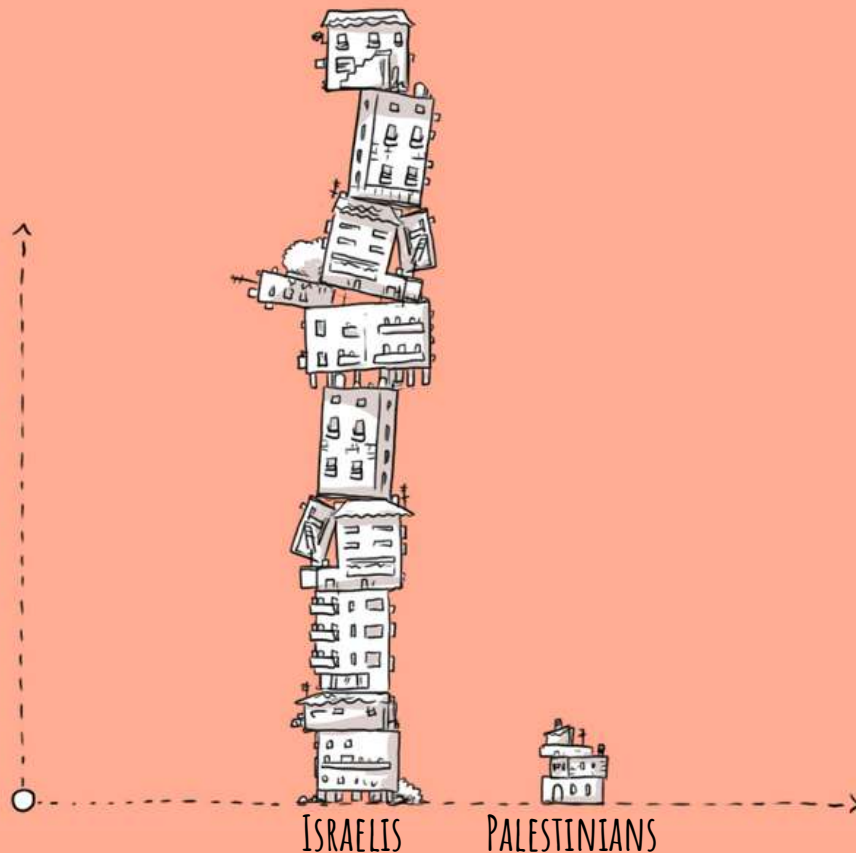
While plans for 35,436 new housing units were advanced in Israeli neighborhoods and settlements across Jerusalem, only 7,254 new housing units were advanced for Palestinian areas of the city.

Ir Amim's report "Planned Negligence - How Palestinian Neighborhoods Disappeared from Jerusalem's Current and Future Urban Planning Policies" analyzed the implications of the Israeli government's long-term housing policy for Jerusalem as part of the Israel 2040 Strategic Plan.

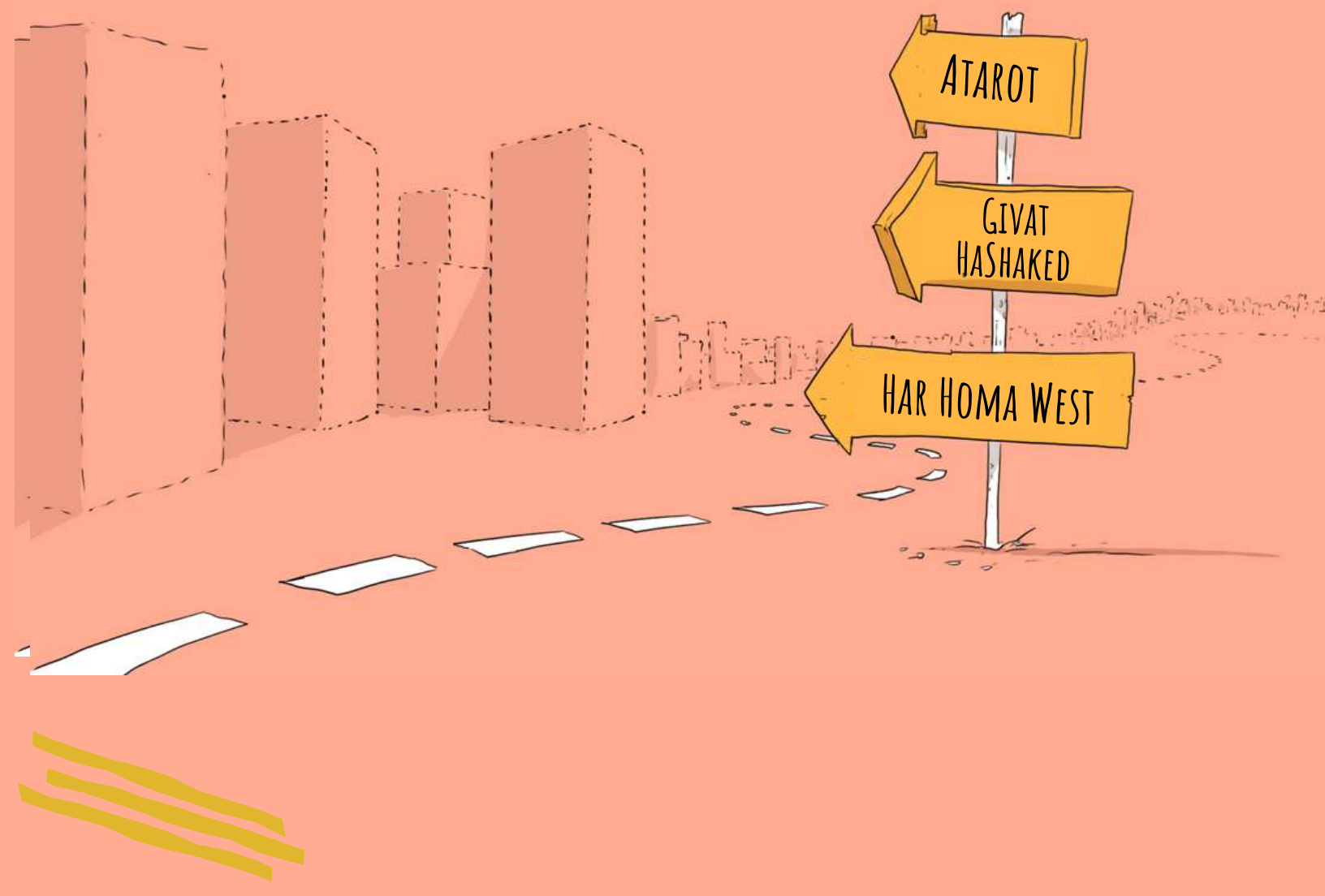
Virtually no measures are in place to rectify the current planning stranglehold in Palestinian East Jerusalem. The report found that the 2040 plan, which will dictate urban development for the next 20 years, will only exacerbate planning discrimination in East Jerusalem.



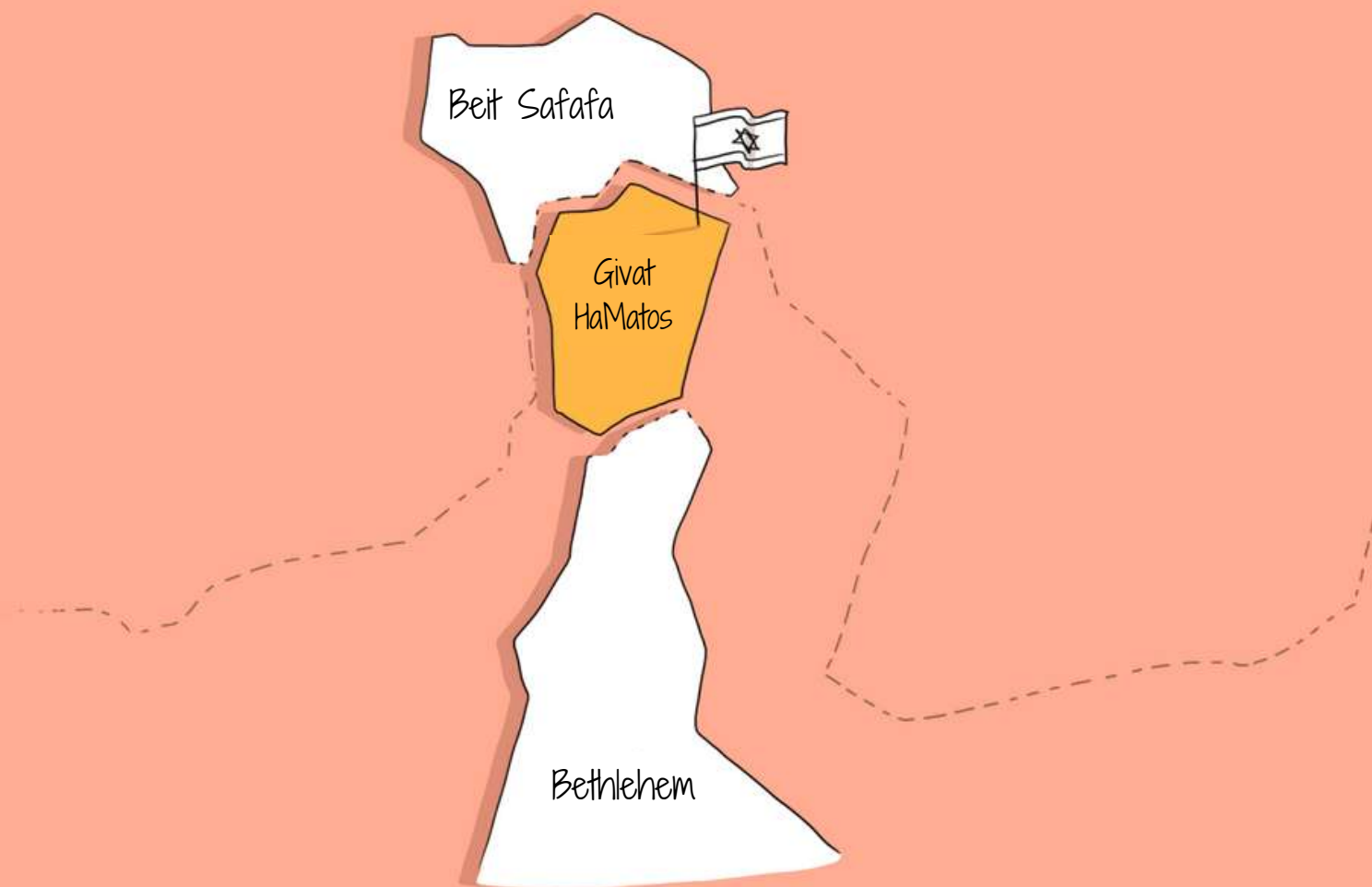
2040 PLAN



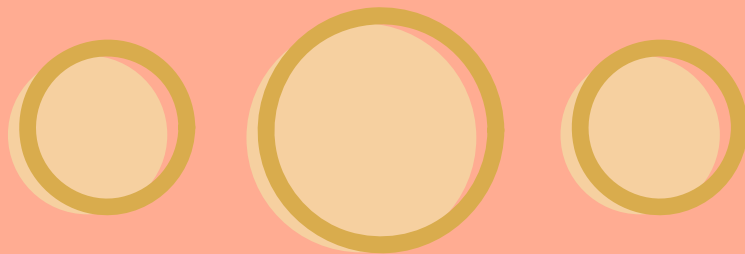
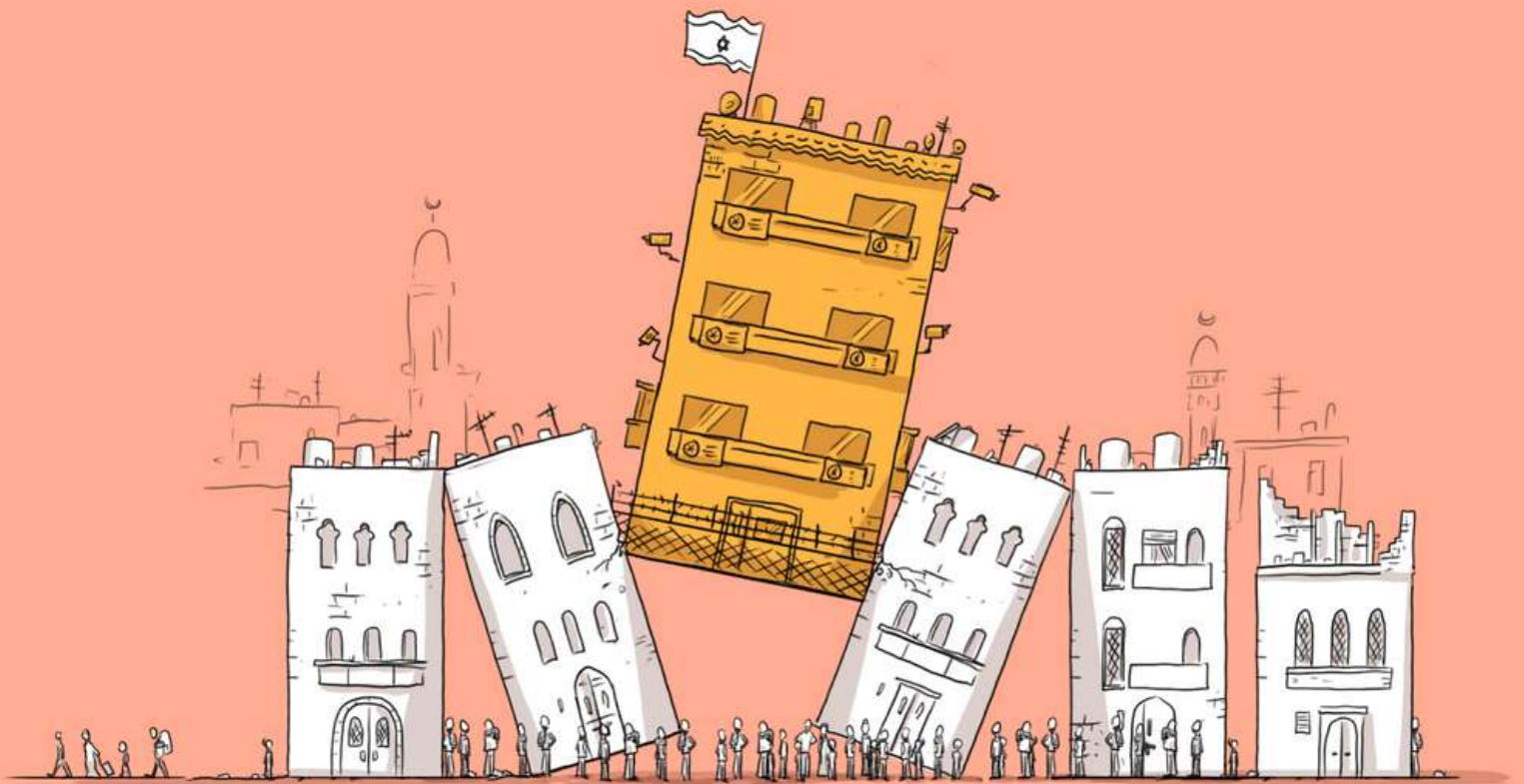
Israel advanced outline plans for three new settlements beyond the Green Line in Jerusalem.



Ir Amim has long opposed Israeli construction in Givat Hamatos. The creation of this new settlement will have severe geopolitical ramifications, including sealing off East Jerusalem from the southern West Bank.



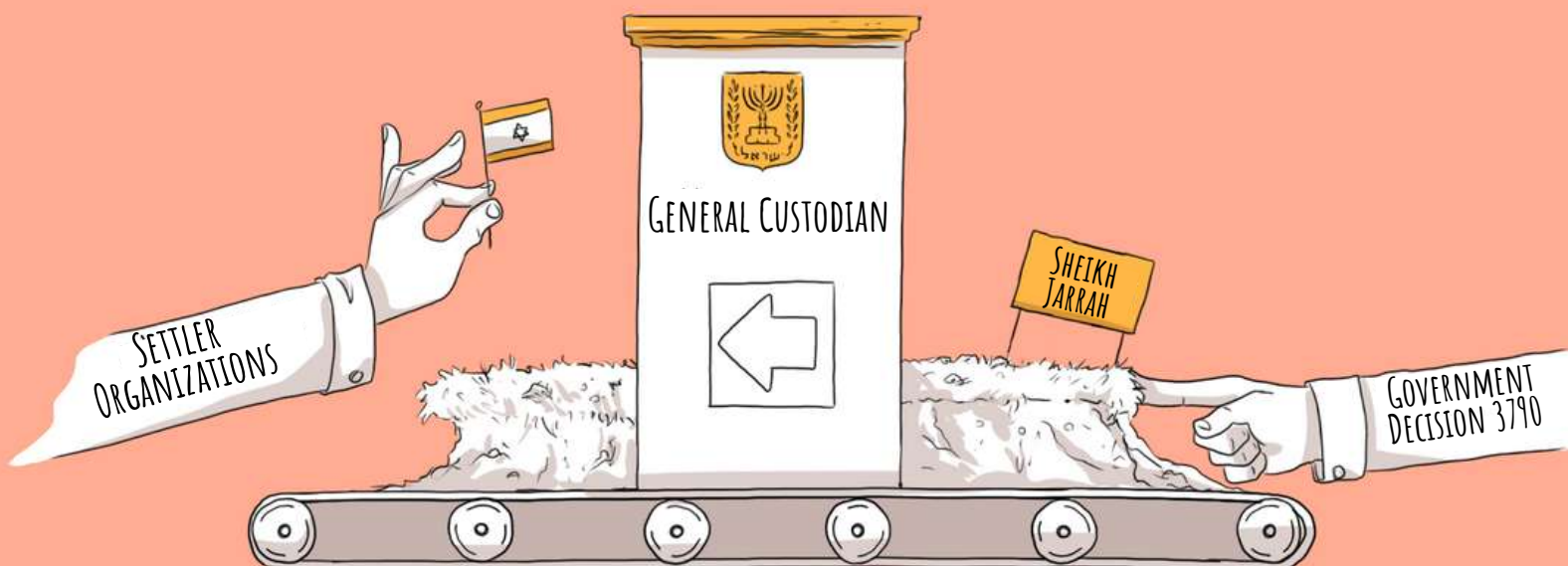
SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY WITHIN PALESTINIAN NEIGHBORHOODS



Ir Amim uncovered that the Israeli government underhandedly initiated settlement of land title procedures in Sheikh Jarrah, registering the title of properties to alleged Jewish owners without the Palestinian residents' knowledge.

Ir Amim, Bimkom, & Sheikh Jarrah residents filed an urgent legal appeal, which the court ultimately dismissed.

Ir Amim will continue to work with the residents against these procedures.



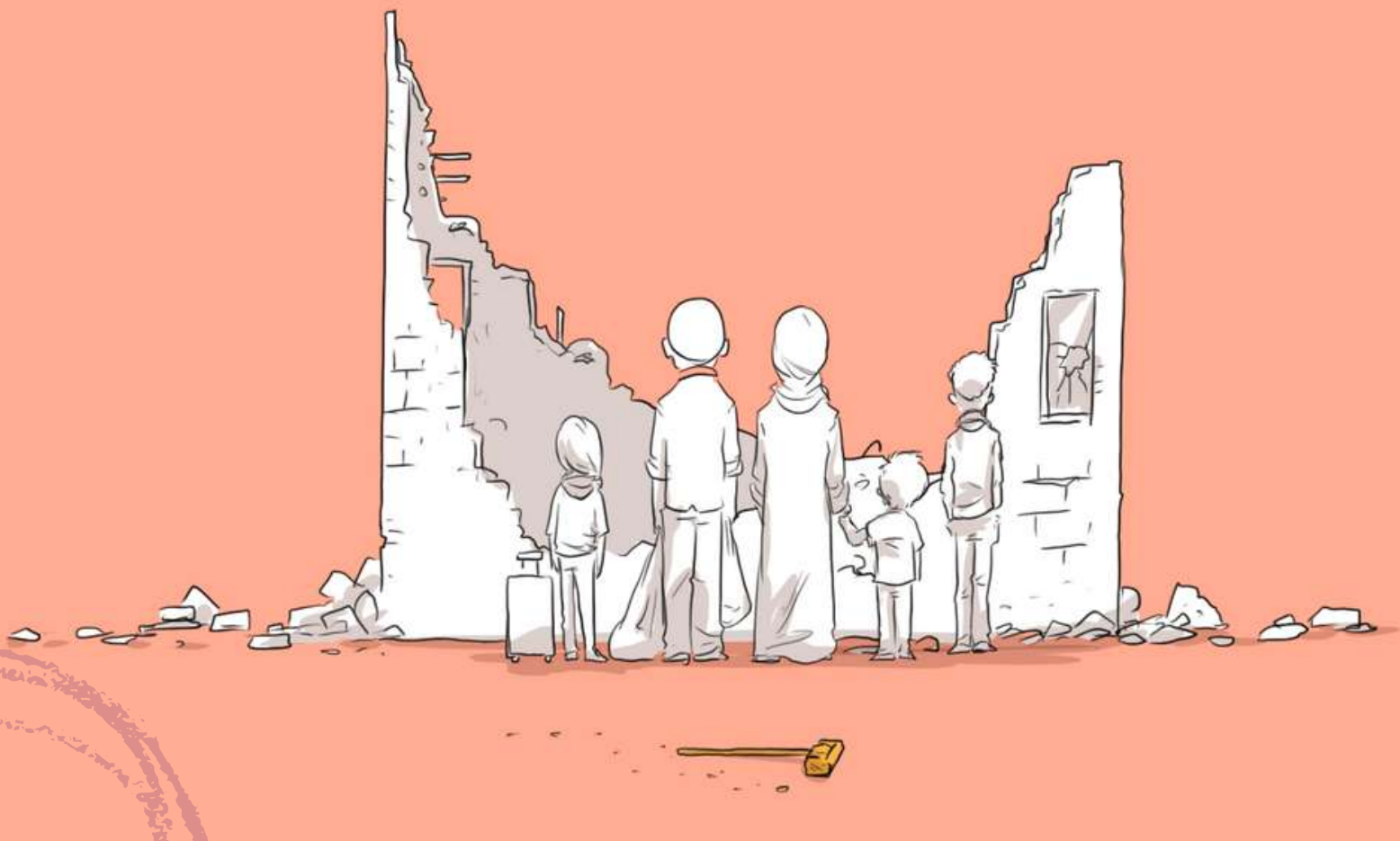
In the heart of Batan al-Hawa, Silwan, the Ateret Cohanim settler organization planned to establish a visitor center in the home of a Palestinian family that had been forcibly evicted.

Ir Amim's legal appeal secured a freeze of the plans.



The alarming trend of increasing home demolitions in East Jerusalem continued this year with 237 demolitions. 134 of these were housing units - the second-highest recorded amount, after 2020.

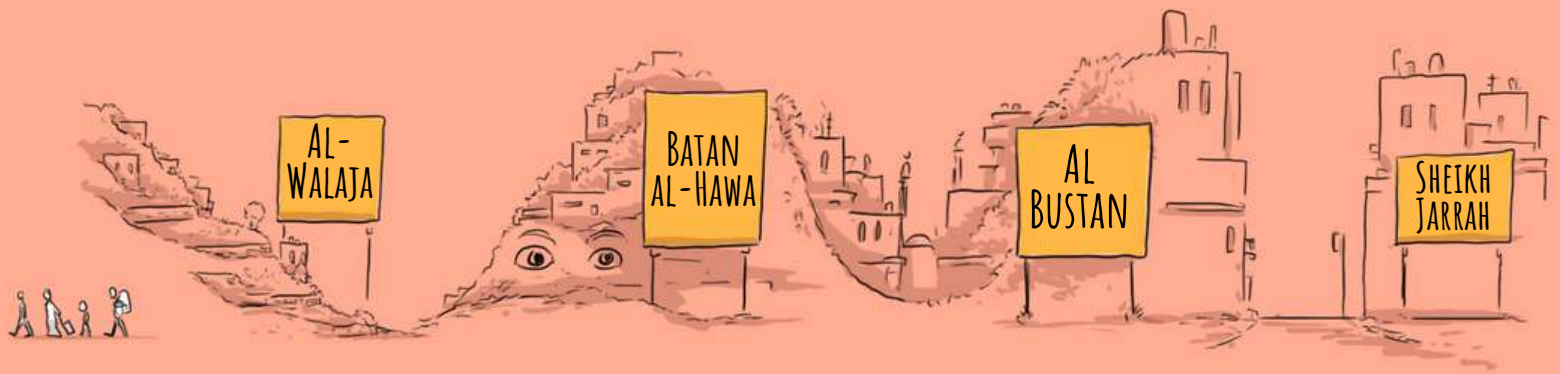
The significant surge in demolitions in 2021 came in the second half of the year following the establishment of the new "government of change".



As part of our work to halt construction of a new Israeli settlement in Givat Hamatos, we jointly submitted a legal appeal with affected East Jerusalem residents.

As a result of this intervention, the state informed the court that it would cancel the discriminatory restriction which prevented East Jerusalem residents from qualifying for subsidized housing in Givat Hamatos and elsewhere.





Attempted measures of Palestinian displacement in East Jerusalem increased in scope and scale in an unprecedented manner.

A total of four Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem, numbering approximately 3000 individuals, were simultaneously under impending threat of being uprooted from their homes via eviction and/or home demolition.



In July 2021, Ir Amim's Executive Director, Dr. Yudith Oppenheimer, was invited to address the United Nations Security Council on these heightened measures of Palestinian displacement in East Jerusalem.

Dr. Oppenheimer called upon the Israeli government to cease all home demolitions and evictions and to advance equitable housing policies in East Jerusalem.



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



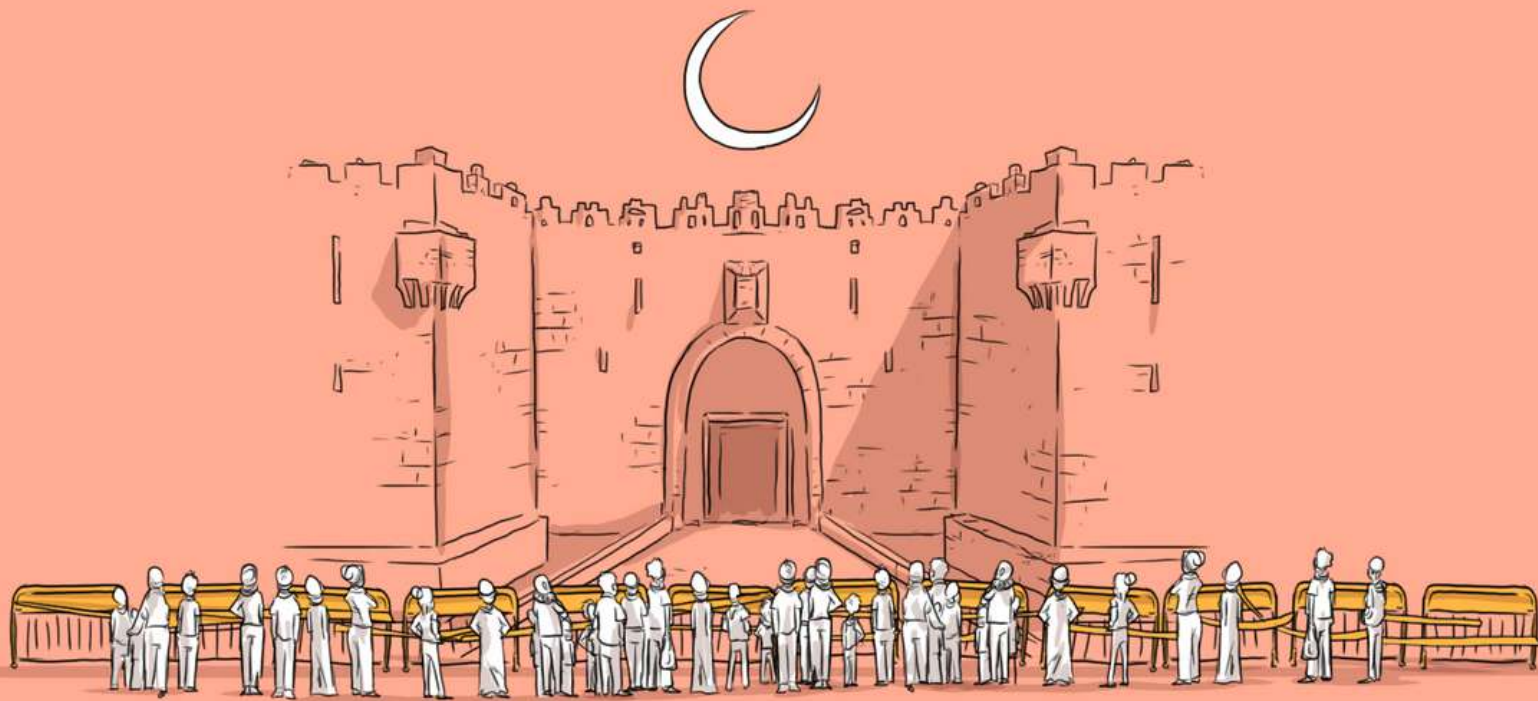
ISRAELI POLICY & CONDUCT IN
SHEIKH JARRAH, DAMASCUS GATE,
AND THE TEMPLE MOUNT/HARAM
AL-SHARIF CONTRIBUTED TO THE
OUTBREAK OF THE WAR IN MAY
2021.



The police attempted to suppress
Palestinians' right to protest against the
impending evictions of Palestinians in
Sheikh Jarrah.

The police used excessive force against non-
violent gatherings of Palestinians, dispersing
them using stun grenades and water cannons
with “skunk spray” which saturated the
neighborhood in a nauseating stench that
remained for weeks.





The police arbitrarily prevented thousands of Muslim worshippers to gather and celebrate in the Damascus Gate plaza in the evenings during Ramadan, as is customary.

In an infringement on the Palestinian public space, the police cordoned off the area with barricades and violently dispersed revelers and passersby with mounted officers and "skunk spray."



During the holy month of Ramadan, the Israeli police carried out repeated raids and incursions into the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif in which police forces aggressively dispersed crowds of Muslim worshippers with stun grenades and batons.



Despite the rising tensions, the police approved the annual nationalist Jerusalem Day Flag Parade to proceed through the Muslim Quarter.

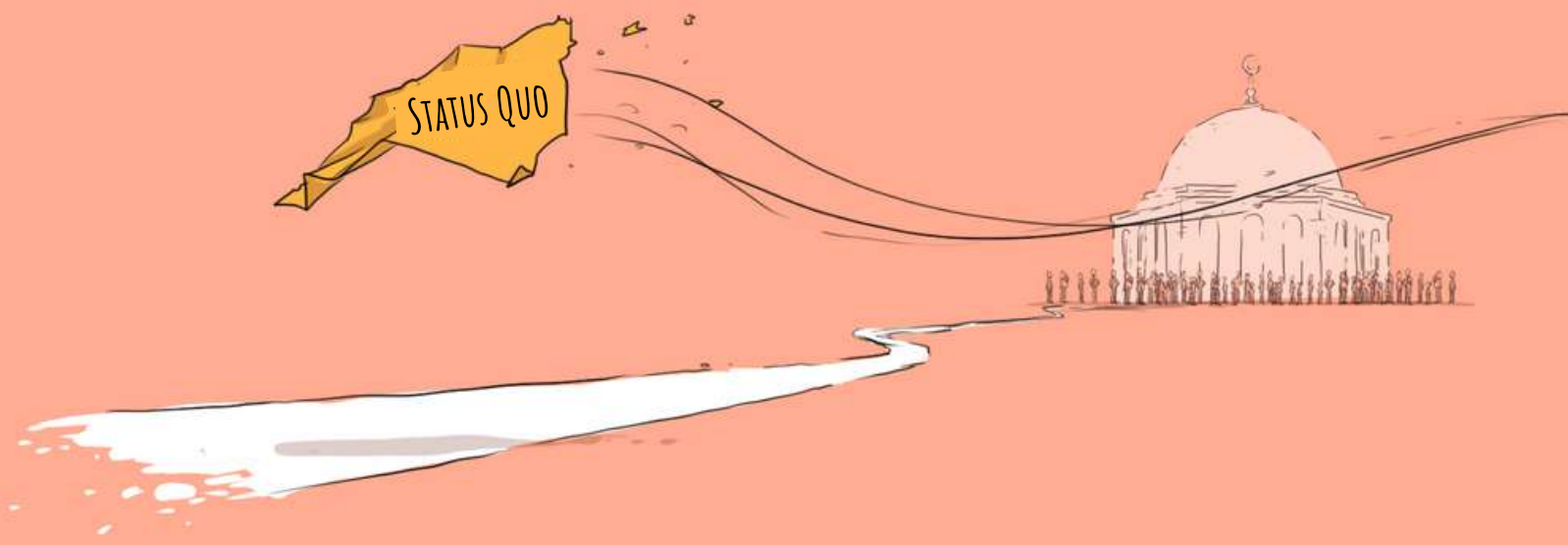
Ir Amim has been advocating for years to reroute the Flag Parade and, at the last minute, the police withdrew the permit for the route.

When the organizers demanded to reschedule it, the police refused to approve a route through the Muslim Quarter. They did, however, allow the marchers to congregate in the Damascus Gate Plaza and incite violence against Palestinians.

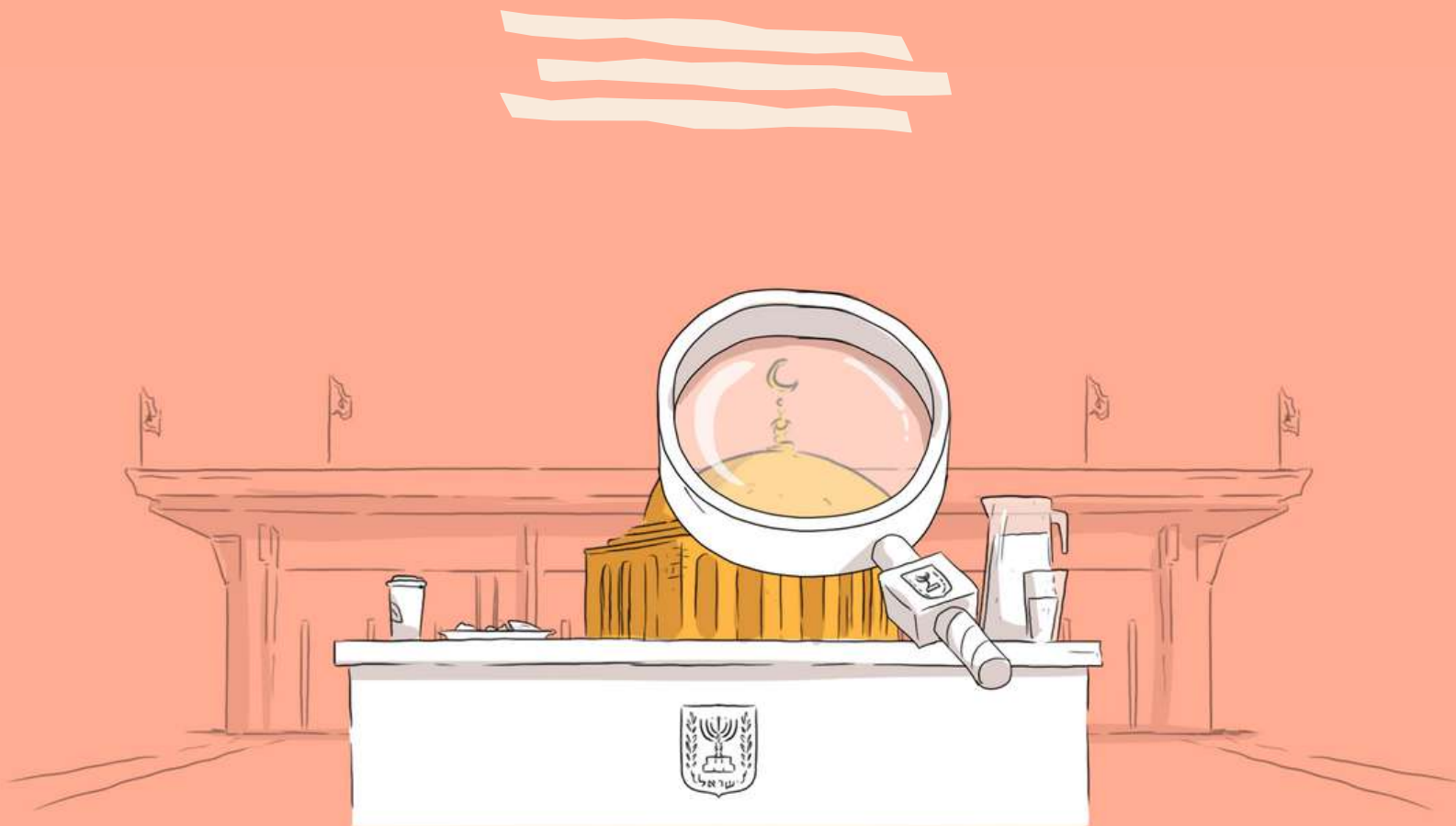


Temple movement activists continued to apply pressure to erode the status quo on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif - often enabled by the police turning a blind eye to their actions.

While Palestinian rights were increasingly undermined throughout East Jerusalem, the Temple movements openly called for Palestinian rights to be further curtailed - including their access to the Holy Esplanade.



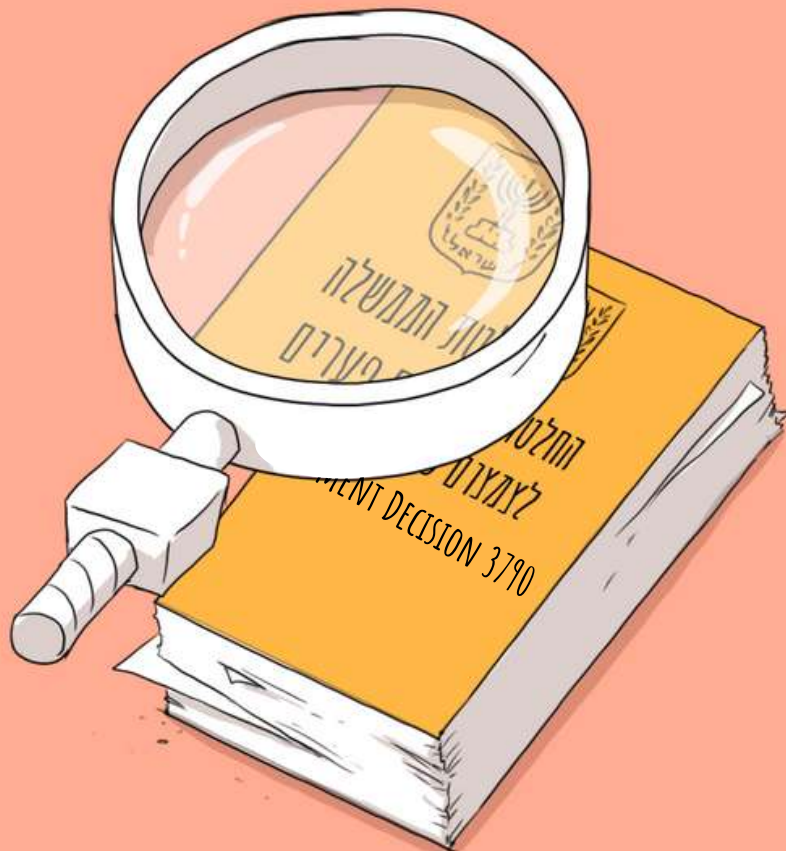
Temple movement activists appeared before Knesset committees, pushing for the incorporation of their version of the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif issue into school curricula and the education system, including field trips to the holy site.



GOVERNMENT DECISION 3790

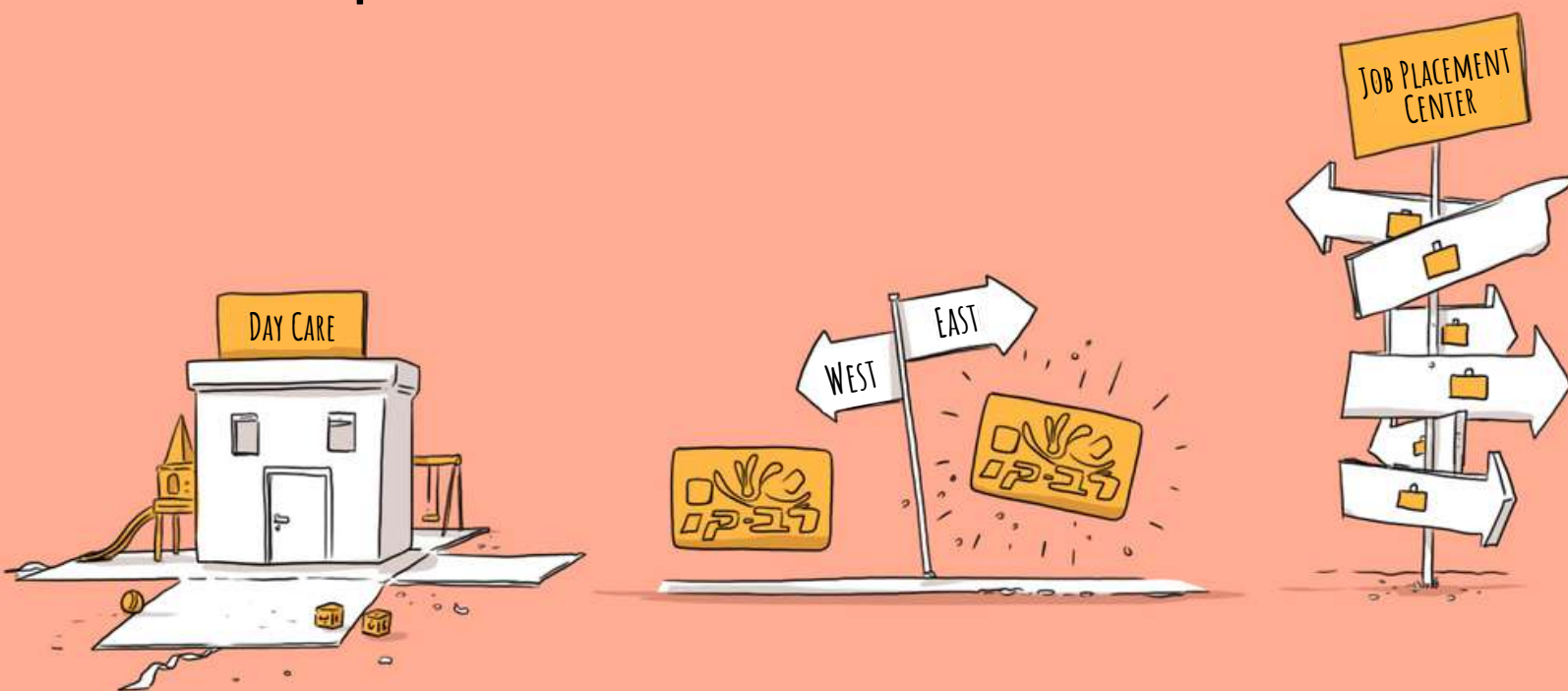
In the framework of an ongoing project which monitors the implementation of Government Decision 3790, "For the Reduction of Socio-economic Gaps and Promotion of Economic Development in East Jerusalem", Ir Amim has been closely following the developments since it was passed in 2018.

While the decision contains some positive components, it was heavily driven by political motivations and includes provisions which could lead to an increase of Palestinian dispossession in the city.



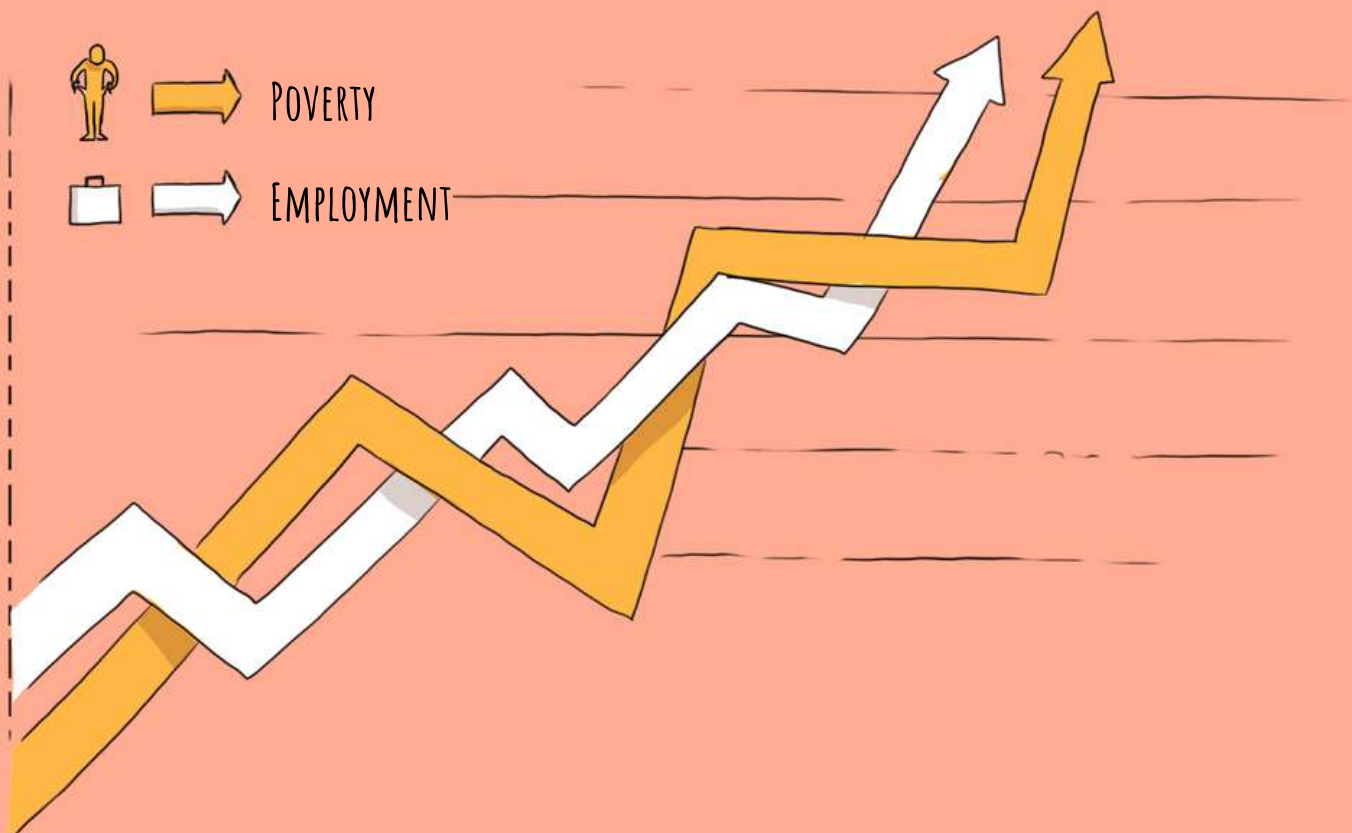
Among the positive outcomes of Decision 3790:

- The number of participants in job-training programs and work placements has increased.
- A new daycare has opened for toddlers, and there are another ten daycares at various stages of planning.
- The Rav Kav public transit payment card has been integrated into East Jerusalem's transportation routes.

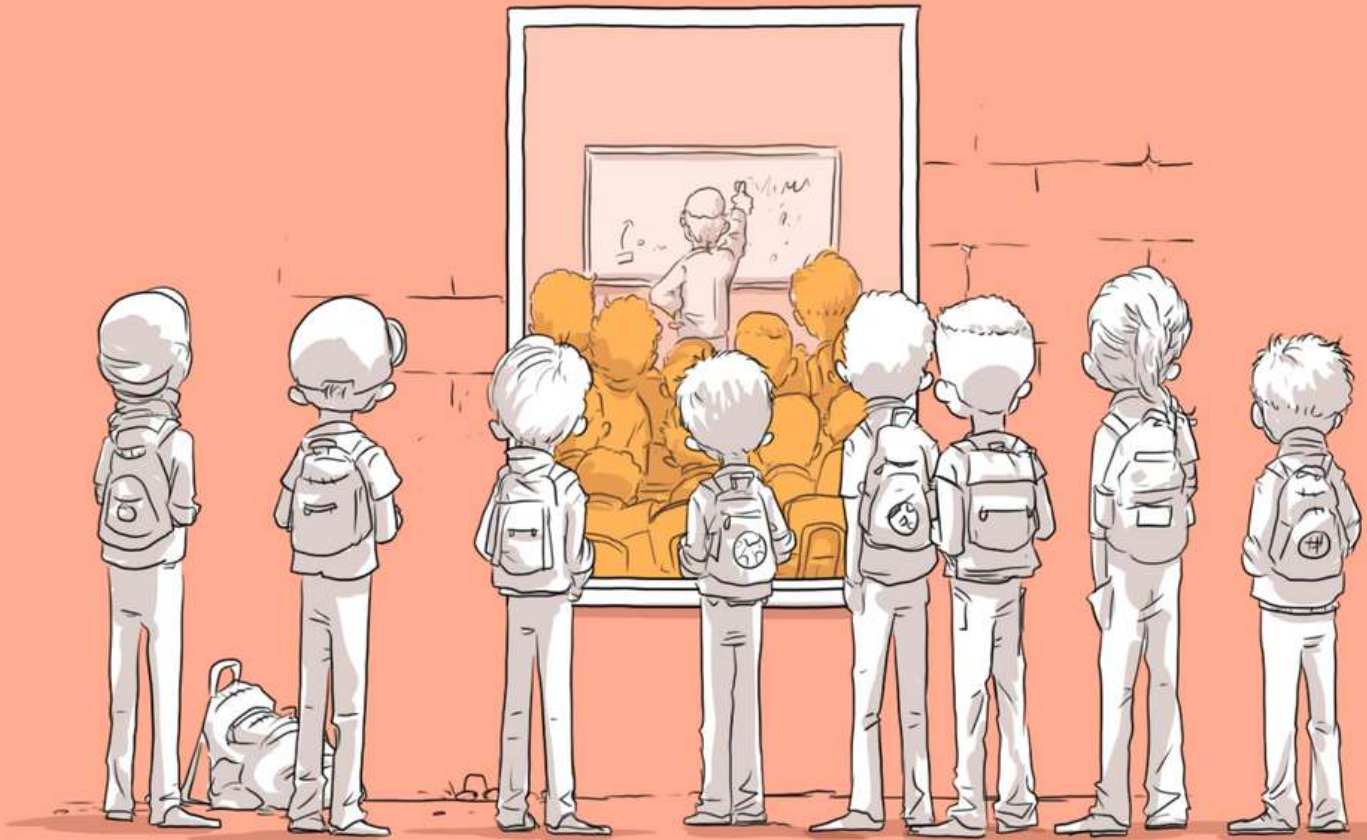


Despite the attempts to promote women's employment in East Jerusalem, statistics reveal that they are still landing in low-paying jobs.

Although the employment rate of women has gone up in recent years, the poverty rate has also increased.



EDUCATION



East Jerusalem faces a severe shortage of classrooms, lacking at least 2840 classrooms necessary to fully serve the school-age population.



The budget allocated to the education sector was nearly fully utilized and particularly helped during the Covid-19 crisis.

However, they were largely allocated to pressure schools to shift to the Israeli educational curriculum, which undermines parents' freedom of choice concerning their children's education.

The majority of parents prefer that their children learn according to the Palestinian curriculum (Tawjihi) - an accepted norm in East Jerusalem for decades.



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