

# “Facts on the Ground?”



**At the settlement outpost of Palgei Mayim, temporary trailers**



**are being overtaken by permanent houses. Or dangerous fantasies?**

New settlement outposts keep cropping up all over the West Bank. By building them, Israeli hardliners are using the time-honored tactic of creating “facts on the ground,” communities that they hope will become part of accepted, everyday reality and will be hard to dislodge.

But their effort is part of a fantasy, a dangerous dream, an irrational idea that somehow Israel can cling to every inch of the territories without destroying the Jewish democratic state and the prospects for peace.

Peace Now and Americans for Peace Now speak for Jews who live in the real world, who know that cramming these provocative buildings down the throats of Palestinians is a recipe for disaster. We speak for the vast majority of Israelis who, polls show, want to tear them down now, even before there are negotiations with the Palestinians.

The Sharon government has promised the U.S. that it will remove outposts created after March 2001. But most of them are still standing. Not only that, but Israel’s government is playing fast and loose with the numbers: it has told the Bush Administration that there are 28 outposts Israel is obligated to remove, but Peace Now’s Settlements Watch project has documented that there are actually 51.

The U.S. has responded with tepid objections that have not altered any facts on the ground.

We are urging both Israel and the U.S. to stop fueling the fantasy of Greater Israel and to start removing obstacles to compromise. To find out how you can help, please visit [www.peacenow.org](http://www.peacenow.org) and support Americans for Peace Now today.

## Americans for Peace Now

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