

Readjustment Plans for Urbanizing the Palestinian Society in Israel

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Abstract : Arab-Palestinian citizens in Israel account for approximately 21 percent of the country's overall population. Due to the prolonged negligence of planning institutions, a large portion of Palestinian localities in Israel lack basic infrastructure, development, and urbanism and suffer from a severe shortage of housing. In the past years, planning institutions in Israel began to promote master planning for Palestinian localities, and for new neighbourhoods. Land readjustment plans (PLIs) were the primary planning mechanism. According to Israel's planning institutions, readjustment plans aimed to afford housing and to ensure that new neighbourhoods enjoy developed infrastructure, modern construction, public lands, and urbanism. Based on this explanation, Palestinian landlords would be expected to support the planning process, as it serves to increase the value of their land and ensures urban building and urban services. However, a wide group of Palestinian landlords and stakeholders opposed PLIs. Why and what are the reasons behind such objection? This is the article's question. Methodology: The research carried out in-depth analysis of approximately 1,780 objections to PLIs that have been advanced in recent years. These objections reveals what really concerns landlords, what they defend indeed, and how did planning institutions in dealt whit their arguments. Initial Findings: Analysis of the objections indicates that the landowners have focused their opposition on what they perceive as an intentional effort to change the lifestyle and the characteristic form of residence within PLIs using land readjustment, which is meant to promote modern high-density urban construction. Many of the residents who lodged objections viewed planning as a means of controlling the development of Israel's Palestinian minority and its way of life without showing respect for and assigning the appropriate weight to the culture of the society and its existence as a national minority.

Keywords : land use, land readjustment, way of life, indigenous people

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