
Greenwashing the Golan: The Israeli Wind Energy Industry in the Occupied Syrian Golan

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Introduction

Though neither sun nor wind are finite resources, their exploitation for electricity generation is not without material constraints. Green energy requires favorable geographic conditions and extensive swathes of land. In the Israeli context, the emergence of the green energy industry over the past decade, has been inextricably tied to Israeli control over Palestinian and Syrian land.

Previous research by Who Profits demonstrated the centrality of Palestinian land to the development of Israeli solar energy.¹ We revealed that the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank and the Naqab (Negev) region have been the focus of solar energy production. By contrast, wind energy development has predominantly targeted the occupied Syrian Golan. Here, private companies are increasingly vying for a foothold in the nascent industry. As shown below, access to illegally annexed Syrian land, where air flows are ideal for generating wind-powered electricity, is vital to Israel's ability to meet its national energy goals. Wind energy is also highly profitable to investors, with expected annual revenues of hundreds of millions of shekels. Israeli settlements are also set to benefit from the development of wind energy in the Golan, through the leasing of their agricultural land to developers. In some cases, settlements are even offered minority holdings in projects.

This flash report investigates four commercial wind farm projects currently under development in the occupied Syrian Golan. These projects are al-A'saniya; Valley of Tears; Ruach Beresheet; Clean Wind Energy (ARAN) Farm.

1 Who Profits, [Greenwashing the Occupation: The Solar Energy Industry and the Israeli Occupation](#). February 2017; Who Profits, [Plundering the Sun: The Israeli Solar Industry and the Palestinian Forced Displacement](#). May 2018; Who Profits, [Greenwashing the Naqab: The Israeli Industry of Solar Energy](#). February 2017

For each farm we expose the involvement of international and Israeli companies which include, Enlight Renewable Energy, Energinex Group and General Electric, among others.

The report argues that the emergence of this sector is a case of greenwashing: while touted as the "green solution" to Israel's national energy requirements, the growth of this industry in the occupied Golan is in fact an inherent part of the expansion of Israel's control and presence in the Syrian Golan.

Methodology

This flash report is based on both desk and field research. The desk research includes the collection and analysis of information from various public sources, including company records and publications, documents from the Israeli Registrar of Companies, newspapers and other media sources and publications by various state authorities. The field research included a visit to the al-A'saniya wind farm, in the eastern Golan, as well as a visit to the site of a planned wind farm on the outskirts of the Syrian town of Majdal Shams. The sources for the corporate information presented are on file with Who Profits.

Prior to publication, Who Profits contacted all the companies profiled herein and requested their comments. To date, only one company, Aveeram Ltd, responded (see annex I).

The Israeli Wind Energy Industry

In 2009, the Israeli government adopted Decision No. 4450, which set a target that 10% of the country's energy needs to be generated from renewable energy sources by 2020.²

2 "[Government Decision No. 4450: setting a guideline target and formulating measures to promote renewable energy sources, especially in the Negev and Arava regions](#)" (Hebrew), Prime Minister's Office, *gov.il*, 29 January 2009.

In 2011, Government Decision No. 3484 ratified the objective determined in 2009, and defined specific quotas for the installation of solar, wind, biogas and biomass technologies.³ Subsequent decisions have affirmed the development of a renewable energy industry as a national priority.⁴

This nascent industry has been led by the private sector, with the state acting to incentivize and facilitate private investments. In order to encourage developers to invest in renewable energy production, the Israeli government established feed-in-tariffs for renewable energy projects, committing to purchasing the electricity at high rates for an extended period of time (typically 20 years).⁵

Since the adoption of Decision No. 4450, the vast majority of green electricity in the Israeli market has been generated through solar energy projects.⁶ Wind energy was allotted a quota of 740MW (larger than the combined quota allotted to medium and large solar projects), but its actual capacity remained

a negligible 27MW.⁷ This reality, however, is positioned to undergo a drastic change in the coming years.

National Outline Plan 10/ת/2, approved by the Israeli government in 2014, established the guidelines for plans and permits for the construction of wind turbines.⁸ Its policy documents, published in 2012 by an inter-ministerial team,⁹ identified potential sites for wind energy projects. In the absence of a mapping of wind regime characteristics by the Israeli meteorological service, the process was based on proposals made by private developers, solicited through an open call for submissions.¹⁰

As of December 2018, 23 wind energy projects have been granted a conditional license by the Israel Electricity Authority (IEA), with total capacity of 816.8MW. All projects are expected to become connected to the national electricity grid between 2020 and 2023.¹¹

Targeting the Syrian Golan For Wind Farm Construction

Three projects slated to be connected to the grid in 2020, and accounting for nearly half of the expected capacity (395MW), are located

3 Shapira, Yosef Haim, "The impact of electricity generation on air quality in Israel." In [Annual Report 68X](#), State Comptroller of Israel, *mevaker.gov.il*, 25 October 2017.

4 See for example [Decision 542](#) (September 2015), [Decision 1403](#) (April 2016) and [Decision 3269](#) on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the efficiency of the national energy consumption, *gov.il*.

5 Ronen, Yaniv, "[Electricity generation from renewable energies in Israel - follow up on the implementation of Government Decision No. 4450. Submitted to the Committee of Interior and Environmental Protection.](#)" The Knesset: Research and Information Center, *Knesset.gov.il*, 3 March 2013.

6 According to a 2017 report by the Israeli state comptroller, out of 732.94MW of installed capacity from renewable energy sources, 678.33MW were generated using small, medium and large PV (solar) technology. Shapira, Yosef Haim, "The impact of electricity generation on air quality in Israel." In [Annual Report 68X](#), State Comptroller of Israel, *mevaker.gov.il*, 25 October 2017.

7 Ibid.

8 "[Government Decision No. 1995: National Outline Plan for Wind Turbines - NOP 10/d/2](#)" (Hebrew), Prime Minister's Office, *gov.il*, 29 August 2014.

9 The team consisted of representatives from various governmental and nongovernmental bodies, including the Israeli Planning Administration, Israel Electric Company (IEC) and the Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD).

10 "The Inter-Ministerial Team for the Examination of Land Cells with Potential for the Establishment of Large Wind Turbine Farms: Recommendations to the National Council of Planning and Construction: Phase I Summary" (Hebrew), Israeli Planning Administration, *iplan.gov.il*, April 2014. On file with Who Profits.

11 "[List of conditional licenses \(updated to 11/2018\)](#)" (Hebrew), [Status of conditional and permanent licenses](#), The Electricity Authority, *pua.gov.il*. Accessed 16 January 2019.

in the occupied Syrian Golan.¹² An additional 152MW wind project in the northern Golan is also being advanced through the Israeli Committee for National Infrastructures.¹³

The strategic importance of the Golan to Israeli green energy production is such that the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures has instructed the Israel Electric Company (IEC) to prepare an outline plan specifically to ensure the transfer of energy generated by wind turbines in the Golan to the national electricity network.¹⁴

National Infrastructure Plan 62/κ- High Tension Cable 161KW, Hula - Bar'on Junction, approved by the Israeli Committee for National Infrastructures on 26 March 2018, entails the establishment of electricity infrastructure on occupied land to receive energy generated by wind projects in the Golan and transport it to the Israeli electricity grid. The plan also involves the expansion of the existing electrical substation in the settlement of Katzrin.

The fact that several of the wind farms, as well as their associated infrastructure, have been classified as national infrastructure, makes clear that they are primarily intended to benefit the Israeli economy and population. As noted in a meeting of the North District's Regional Committee for Planning and Construction regarding NIP 62/κ, the wind



Al-A'saniya wind farm, Occupied Syrian Golan.

Photo: Who Profits. November 2018

projects are expected to power 500,000 Israeli households,¹⁵ nearly 100 times the number of Syrian households.

Article 55 of the Hague Regulations designates that the Occupying Power is only the administrator and usufructuary of public immovable properties such as land. Accordingly, Israel is prohibited from exploiting the land in a manner that benefits its own citizens or national economy. Moreover, the rules of usufruct, under international humanitarian law (IHL), state that the Occupying Power is prohibited from using any of the land of an occupied territory in a manner not primarily benefiting the occupied population for any

12 The three projects are Emek Habacha Wind Energies Ltd (96MW), Emek Haruchot LP (169MW) and Ruach Beresheet (130MW). A fourth project by Green Wind Energy (15MW) in Al-A'saniya in the Golan is slated to be connected in 2023. "[List of conditional licenses \(updated to 11/2018\)](#)" (Hebrew), [Status of conditional and permanent licenses](#), The Electricity Authority, [pua.gov.il](#). Accessed 16 January 2019.

13 "[Energix Renewable Energies 2017 Annual Report](#)" (Hebrew), Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Corporate Actions Systems (MAYA), [maya.tase.co.il](#), 12 March 2018.

14 National Infrastructure Plan 62/κ - High tension cable 161KW Hulah Bar On Junction and Katzrin substation

15 Protocol for the meeting of the Regional Committee for Planning and Construction North District, meeting no. 2018007, 5 March 2018.

purpose other than a military necessity. As wind farms serve no such purpose, there is no legal justification for this blatant violation of international law.

The construction of wind turbines in the Golan has been met with opposition from the Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD), which claims the turbines would interfere with its airspace and compromise strategic military interests.¹⁶ As a precondition for approving wind projects, the IMOD has demanded the development of a technological solution estimated at 250 million USD, financed entirely outside of the defense budget.¹⁷ This further proves the lack of military necessity and in fact points overtly to the lack of military necessity in the establishment of wind farms in the occupied Golan thereby further strengthen our claim that this is a blatant violation of international law.

About The Occupied Syrian Golan

Following the Israeli occupation of the Golan in 1967, 95% of the Syrian population was forcibly expelled, and 340 towns and villages were completely destroyed.¹⁸ At present, approximately 20,000 Syrians¹⁹ live in five towns, Majdal Shams, Buqatha, Ein Qenia, Ghajar and Masaada, which constitute around 5% of the Golan. The remaining 95% is taken up by Israeli settlements and Israeli military and authorities²⁰. Today, 26,261 Jewish-Israeli set-

tlers live in 34 illegal settlements²¹ that were built on the ruins of the destroyed villages.

In December 1981, the Israeli Knesset passed the Golan Heights Law, unilaterally extending Israeli law to the Golan. The law, which effectively annexed the occupied Golan, was met with opposition by the occupied Syrian population. To date, the vast majority of Syrians refuse to accept Israeli citizenship.²² The international community does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan, and UN Security Council Resolution 497 declared the 1981 annexation law “null and void.”²³

Private corporations are reaping enormous profits from exploiting the fertile lands and resources of the Golan, in addition to land expropriation, tourism development, and the establishment and expansion of the Israeli settlement enterprise. Corporations are also involved in home demolitions carried out against Syrian homes in the Golan, a policy that constitutes a direct breach of the provisions of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.²⁴

One of the most important natural resources controlled and exploited by Israel in the Syrian Golan is water. The Golan provides one-third of the water in the Sea of Galilee, Israel’s main source of water.²⁵ These resources are denied to the Syrians in the Golan who are unable

16 [“Ministry of Defense: Technological means in hundreds of millions as a condition for operating turbines for electricity generation”](#) (Hebrew), Israeli Knesset, *knesset.gov.il*, 18 January 2017.

17 Zafrir, Rinat, [“Golan Wind Turbine Project May Be Shelved Over Objections of Israel Air Force”](#) Haaretz, *haaretz.com*, 14 January 2018.

18 Al-Marsad: Forgotten Occupation- Life in the Syrian Golan after 50 Years of Israeli Occupation, March 2018.

19 See <https://www.un.int/syria/syria/syrian-golan>

20 Al-Marsad: 50 years of Occupation of the Syrian Golan. June 2017.

21 Ibid.

According to the Forth Geneva Convention, the occupying power is not allowed to transfer population into an occupied territory. This means that any establishment, consolidation and expansion of settlements is illegal under international humanitarian law.

22 Al Marsad, Elections in Syrian Villages in Occupied Golan. February 2018

23 See <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/ga11982.doc.htm>

24 For more information check out Who Profits’ report [House Demolition in the Syrian Golan: Hyundai Heavy Industries](#)

25 [“Golan Heights,”](#) Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *mfa.gov.il*. Accessed 15 January 2019.

to control them and benefit from them. This has a particularly adverse impact on Syrian farmers who are given smaller water quotas compared to Israeli settlers and are unable to compete in the agricultural market.²⁶ Israel has also granted a petroleum exploration license to private corporations in the Golan, in clear violation of Article 55 of the Hague Regulations.²⁷ In previous years, the petroleum council of the Israeli Ministry of Energy and Water has granted the company [Afek Oil and Gas](#) a three years exclusive petroleum exploration license in the occupied Golan. The petroleum exploration license covered 396.5 square kilometers in the southern part of the Golan.

Israel's emerging wind energy industry represents a new frontier for the exploitation of Syrian natural resources by the Israeli state and private corporations. The Golan has been found to be wind rich, with wind speed almost double that of Israel's coastal plain, and vast open areas and low population density. These conditions make the region ideal for wind energy generation.

Four out of five wind projects currently under development benefit Israeli agricultural settlements.²⁸ One project, though claiming to benefit Druze communities, involves exploitative land rental agreements and threatens to restrict the future growth of Druze towns. Israeli wind projects target not only the wind, but also Syrian land, thus strengthening Isra-

el's control over the Golan and greenwashing its presence on occupied land.

Commercial Wind Farms in the Syrian Golan and complicit companies

Al-A'saniya Wind Farm

Status: Active; undergoing upgrade

Location: Al-A'saniya Hill

Project Area: 3475.685 Dunam

Capacity: 15.0 MW

Corporations: Green Wind Energy, EffiSolar
Owned by the private Israeli company Green Wind Energy, the al-A'Saniya wind farm is located at the top of Al-A'saniya Hill (Mount Bnei Rasan). An upgrade of the existing wind farm is planned. The company's major shareholder is Effiwind Energy Ltd, owned by the Canadian company EffiSolar. The other two companies involved in the project are Multi Green (2010) Ltd and Gunther Wind Energy Ltd, both owned by the Israeli company, Tracks Holdings Ltd.

The wind farm includes 10 wind turbines built in 1992. Under a plan to upgrade the wind farm, the existing turbines will be dismantled and replaced by six new 80-meter-long turbines that will generate 15.0 MW of electricity. According to the Golan Regional Council, this wind farm is considered "a tourist attraction that attracts tens of thousands of travelers. Following the establishment of the farms, the spectacular sight will attract the travelers, who would also learn about the production of green energy from wind."²⁹

In addition to the al-A'saniya project, Effisolar is planning to develop another 15 MW wind farm in the settlement of Merom Golan.³⁰

26 Al- Marsad, Israeli Agricultural Settlement Expansion in the Occupied Syrian Golan During the Syrian Conflict. 2014

27 Al-Marsad, Oil and natural gas in the occupied Syrian Golan Illegal exploitation by Israel as occupying power. For more information see the company profile of [Genie Energy](#) and its subsidiary [Afek Oil and Gas](#).

28 Most settlements in the Golan are cooperative agricultural settlements (Kibbutzim and Moshavim).

29 Golan Regional Council Website <https://golan.org.il/green/energy/>

30 <https://effisolar.ca/merom-golan->

Effisolar

A private Canadian renewable energy company founded in 2008, with sites in Ontario, New Jersey, Saipan and Israel.

President: Lawrence Neuman

CEO: William Xu

Subsidiaries: The company owns an Israeli subsidiary under the same name. Other subsidiaries include EffiSolar New Jersey LLC.

Partners: GDF SUEZ Canada, Inc; Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp; Kalix Wind AB

Head Office: 220-17 Fawcett Rd, Coquitlam, BC V3K 6V2, Canada

Phone: +1 604 6762457

Website: www.effisolar.ca

Valley of Tears (Emek Habacha) Wind Farm

Status: Approved; conditional license

Location: Occupied Syrian Golan; Ortal, Alonei Habashan, Kidmat Zvi, Neve Ativ and Odem settlements

Project Area: 523,200 m²

Capacity: 96 MW

No. of Households Powered: 40,000

Corporations: Enlight Renewable Energy, E. A. Ben Dov Wind Energy

Jointly owned by Kinetic Energies - Alternative Electrical Energies Ltd³¹ and Eli

[wind-project/](#). The settlement is built on the ruins of Bab Al-Hawa village (see Zochrot Report of 2006: Zochrot Report: "זוכרות את כיבוש הגולן" (Remembering the Occupation of the Golan)

31 Kinetic Energies - Alternative Electrical Energies is majority owned (60%) by the publicly traded Israeli company Enlight Renewable Energies. The remaining shares were previously owned by a subsidiary of the Israeli private company Aveeram Ltd. However, in a letter to Who Profits dated 18 February 2019, Aveeram stated that on 26 January 2017, Israel Tax Authority approved the transfer of Aveeram's wind energy activities to a third party. At this time, Who Profits does not know the identity of the third party.

Ben Dov, the Valley of Tears (Emek Habacha) wind farm is a wind energy project to be built in the northeastern Syrian Golan. Once operational, it would be the largest wind farm in the Israeli market.

The project takes up 523,200 m² of occupied Syrian land and is expected to generate 96 MW through 30 wind turbines, enough to power approximately 40,000 households. The cost of the project is estimated at 660 million NIS, with anticipated annual revenues of 100-110 million NIS from the sales of electricity for the 20-year license period.

In May 2018, Minrav and Nextcom were contracted to build, operate and maintain the wind farm project at a profit of 136 million NIS for the duration of the license period. The project also has TSA (Transitional Service Agreement) and FSA (Functional Support Agreement) agreements with the US-based publicly traded multinational General Electric (GE). Under the TSA, GE will supply, transport, erect and commission the turbines. Under the FSA, GE will operate and maintain the turbines for the license period.

The project is financed by a consortium led by Hapoalim Bank under a non-recourse financing agreement signed in July 2018. According to the Israeli financial newspaper Globes, the 525 million NIS index-linked loan will cover the construction period, during which the loan will bear 3-3.5% interest, and 18 more years, during which it will bear 2.3-2.8% interest. The consortium holds as collateral all the assets and rights, and income derived from them, to which the project company is entitled.

The project will benefit the settlements of Ortal, Alonei Habashan, Kidmat Zvi, Neve Ativ and Odem.

The company response is annexed to the report.



Project sign near Al-A'saniya wind farm, Occupied Syrian Golan. Photo: Who Profits. November 2018

The Israeli military will have the ability to directly control the operation of the turbines through a switch located in the air force control center.

Enlight Renewable Energy

A publicly traded Israeli company specializing in the development, construction and operation of renewable energy projects.

Traded: Publicly traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol ENLT

Revenues: 37.388 million NIS in 2017

Ownership: Major shareholders: Psagot Investment House (10.58%), Phoenix Insurance Company (9.41%), Noked Capital (8.11%) Harel Insurance Investments and Financial Services (7.62%), Clal Insurance Enterprises Holdings Ltd (6.8%), Migdal (5.13%)

CEO: Gilad Yavetz

Subsidiaries: Enlight Eshkol Havazelet (100%), Tlamim Enlight (100%), Talmey Bilu Green Energies Ltd (100%), Eshkol Ella Kramim-Enlight L.P (100%), Eshkol Brosh -Idan-Enlight L.P (100%), Eshkol Zait - Zait Yarok - Enlight, L.P (100%), Sde Nehemia-Enlight L.P (100%), Eshkol Havazelet - Halutzut Enlight L.P, (79.49%) Mivtahim Green Energies (51%), Golan Fruits - Enlight L.P (51%), Eshkol Gefen-Barbur-Enlight L.P (51%), Kinetic Energies - Alternative Electrical Energies Ltd (60.09%), Emek Habacha. Wind Energy Ltd (36.54%), Orsol Energy 3 (90%), Tullynamoyle Wind Farm 3 Limited (Ireland) (50.1%), Vjetroelektrana Lukovac D.O.O (Croatia) (50.1%), Ew-K-Wind D.O.O (Serbia) (50.1%)

Global presence: Ireland, Serbia, Croatia, Poland, Spain

Head Office: 13 Amal St., Rosh Ha'ayin, 4802949, Israel

Tel: +972-3-9008700

Website: www.enlightenergy.co.il

General Electric

A US-based publicly traded global digital industrial company active in the fields of power, renewable energy, oil and gas, aviation, healthcare, transportation, lighting and finance.

Traded: Publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol GE

Revenues: 122.1 billion USD in 2017

Ownership: Major shareholders: The Vanguard Group (7.25%) and BlackRock Inc. (6.24%), State Street Corporation (3.76%), FMR LLC (2.37%)

CEO and Chairman: John Flannery

Subsidiaries: The company has over 150 principal subsidiaries worldwide.

Partners: Microsoft, South32, Danfoss. The company has agreements with Enlight Renewable Energy and TAHAL Group.

Global presence: Global

Head Office: 41 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210, USA

Tel: +1-617-443-3000

Website: www.ge.com

Nextcom Group

A publicly traded Israeli company specializing in communication infrastructure, renewable energy, security and civil engineering.

Traded: Publicly traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol NXTM

Revenues: 239.4 million NIS in 2017

Ownership: Guy Israeli, who serves as CEO and president of the company, owns 62.37% of the shares.

Subsidiaries: EVI MNG Ltd (100%); Nextcom Angola (100%); Bnext Ltd (50%); Nextcom

Communication Ltd (100%); Bintech Communication services Ltd (100%); Harel Antennas (100%); Nextcom Energy (100%)

Partners: Company clients include: Israeli Ministry of Defense; Hot Telecommunication Systems; YES Telecom Corporation; Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Israel Prison Service; Elbit Systems; Delek Natural Gas; Nokia Siemens Networks; Israel Police; Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI); Israel Electric Company.

Global presence: Ghana, Senegal, Angola

Head Office: 1 Horesh Halonim St., Ramat Ishay Industrial Park, Kefar Yehoshua 36582, Israel

Tel: 1-800-488-488

Website: www.nextcomgroup.com

Minrav Group

A group of companies specializing in construction and engineering services, managed by the publicly traded Israeli company Minrav Holdings.

Traded: Publicly traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol MNRV.

Revenues: 831.49 million NIS in 2017

Ownership: The company is majority owned (62.01%) by Avraham Kuznitsky. Other shareholders include Menora Mivtachim Holdings Ltd (7.45%), Ziva Kuznitsky (5.20%) and The Phoenix Holdings Ltd. (4.85%).

Subsidiaries: Minrav Engineering (100%), Unihead Biopark (100%), Minrav International Ltd (100%), Minrav Projects (71.77%), QualiTest (49%), Mabat LaNegev (33%), Minrav Investments (71.77%), Minrav Infrastructures (71.77%)

Global presence: Hungary, USA

Head Office: 3 Habosem Street, Ashdod, Israel

Tel: +972-8-8516262

Website: www.minrav.co.il

E. A. Ben Dov Wind Energy

A private Israeli company specializing in wind energy development.

Ownership: Privately owned by Eli Ben Dov.

Subsidiaries: E.A. Ben-Dov Emek Habacha Ltd

Partners: Enlight Renewable Energy

Head Office: 8 Sderot HaNadiv, Haifa 3461108, Israel

Ruach Beresheet Wind Farm

Status: Planned; conditional license

Location: Occupied Syrian Golan; Yonatan, Ramat Magshimim, Mevo Hama, Avnei Eitan, Alonei Habashan, Natur, Kanaf and Maale Gamla settlements

Project Area: 12,654,000 m²

Capacity: 130 MW

No. of Households powered: 60,000

Corporations: Enlight Renewable Energy

Approved by the Israeli National Committee for Planning and Construction of National Infrastructures in July 2018, the Ruach Beresheet wind farm is a wind energy project to be built in the Mount Peres (Tall al-Faras) area in the southeastern Golan. The project's final approval by the Israeli Housing Cabinet is still pending.

Majority owned by the publicly traded Israeli company Enlight Renewable Energy (60%),³² the planned wind farm takes up an area of 12,654,000 m² of Syrian land and is expected

³² The remaining shares (40%) were previously owned by the Israeli private company Aveeram Ltd. However, in a letter to Who Profits dated 18 February 2019, Aveeram stated that on 26 January 2017, Israel

to generate 130 MW through 42 wind turbines, enough to power approximately 60,000 households. The estimated cost of the project is 750 million NIS, with expected annual electricity payments of 117 million NIS once the farm is fully operational.

The electricity generated at the wind farm would be transferred through an underground network of high-tension cables to a top transformer station within the farm and from there, through an underground high-tension cable, to a substation near the existing high-tension cable "Kursi-Kinarot," located in the jurisdiction of the Golan Regional Council.

The project's proponents claim it would "entail significant economic benefits" for the settlement enterprise in the southeastern Golan, especially in light of the fact the turbines take up little land and do not disrupt agricultural work. The settlements of Avnei Eitan, Kanaf, Yonatan, Mevo Hama, Ramat Magshimim and Alonei Habashan have the option of joining as partners with minority holdings.

The project has received the conditional approval of the Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD), provided that the latter receives hundreds of millions of shekels for the "development and purchase of technological means that would enable the tackling of a very significant problem that disturbs the IDF [sic] that cannot be discussed in detail."

Clean Wind Energy (ARAN) Wind Farm

Status: Planned

Location: Occupied Syrian Golan; Majdal Shams and Masaada towns

Tax Authority approved the transfer of Aveeram's wind energy activities to a third party. At this time, Who Profits does not know the identity of the third party. The company response is annexed to the report.

Project Area: 6013.096 Dunam

Capacity: 152 MW

No. of Households powered: 66,000

Corporations: Energix Renewable

The project is developed by Energix, through its subsidiary Clean Wind Energy (ARAN), in which Energix holds 73% of ordinary shares and a 100% of shares that grant management rights, including the appointment of all board members.³³

The 52 wind turbines are expected to generate 152MW of electricity, enough to power 66,000 homes.³⁴ The estimated annual revenues from the wind farm reach 41-44 million USD.³⁵ The project is being advanced through the Israeli Committee for National Infrastructures, tasked with promoting plans for infrastructure projects deemed to be of “national importance”. The wind farms will be established in two locations: the Suheita compound, on the southeastern side of Majdal Shams, and the Ra’abana compound, on the southwestern side of the village of Masaada, both of which are agricultural lands owned by Syrian farmers. A third location is the Bar’on Junction, where the electrical substation will be located.

As of 2017, the company claims to have reached an agreement with over 200 local farmers.³⁶ The contracts include a demand that all farmers register their lands with Israel, give the company “a designation of land rights that allows the company to destroy and utilize whatever it wants on the leased land”³⁷ and assure “a lack of

exclusivity between Energix and landowners that allows Energix an unrestricted ability to pass the rights and obligations of the contract to another company or person.”³⁸

According to Al-Marsad, the compensation given to the Syrian farmers is considerably lower than compensation given to Israelis who rent their lands for similar projects. While the Syrian farmers are offered one percent of the project’s revenues, Israelis have been offered as much as five times more.³⁹ Many of the landowners that have signed the contracts have already shown discontent with Energix, stating they were manipulated into signing the contracts, and expressing a willingness to cancel agreements reached with the company.⁴⁰ The construction of the project on the lands of two Syrian towns (Majdal Shams and Masaada) might restrict their expansion.⁴¹

Energix

One of the largest renewable energy companies in Israel. Energix constructs and owns long-term renewable energy projects.

Traded: Publicly traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol ENRG.

Revenues: 141.3 million NIS in 2017

Ownership: Energix Renewable Energies is controlled by Alony-Hetz Properties and Investments Ltd.

CEO: Asa Levinger

Subsidiaries: Energix Projects 2 Limited Partnership (100%); Clean Wind Energy (73%); Energix Projects 1 Limited Partnership (100%); Granot Energix Solar Projects (50%); Energix Neot Hovev Ltd (100%); Energix

33 Company’s annual report (2017).

34 Ibid.

35 150-160 Million NIS. Company presentation to the Capital Market, November 2018.

36 Company’s Annual Report, 2017.

37 Southlea, Aaron, WINDFALL Developing Wind Energy in the Occupied Golan. Al-Marsad, 2019

38 Ibid.

39 Ibid.

40 Ibid.

41 Ibid.



Energix Group offices in Majdal Shams, Occupied Syrian Golan. Photo: Who Profits. November 2018

South Har Hebron Limited Partnership (50.1%); Orlik (75%); Wintromill (100%); Caden Energix.

Global presence: Poland, USA

Head Office: 2 Jabotinsky St., Ramat Gan 5250501, Israel

Tel: +972-3-5668855

Website: www.energix-group.com

Conclusion

Private corporations play a major role in Israel's booming green energy industry. This industry is directly involved in the occupation of both Syrian and Palestinian land,⁴² as well as in the forced displacement of Palestinians in the Naqab.⁴³

In this flash report, Who Profits investigated

42 Who Profits, [Greenwashing the Occupation: The Solar Energy Industry and the Israeli Occupation](#). January 2017.

43 Who Profits, [Greenwashing the Naqab: The Israeli Industry of Solar Energy](#). February 2017

plans to build new wind farms in the occupied Golan. It showed that these plans are part of a strategy to greenwash the occupation of the Syrian Golan. Whilst portrayed as a positive endeavor to provide clean and economic energy, producing wind energy in the Golan is a ruse to further expand Israel's control and presence in the region, whilst disregarding the Syrian community's rights over its own resources.

These wind farm projects exploit Syrian lands and provide services to illegal Israeli settlements. This constitutes a violation of IHL and is directly connected to Israel's policies of de-development and exploitation in the Golan. Moreover, private corporations, supported by the Israeli government, are set to reap immense profits from wind energy projects in the occupied Syrian Golan.

This flash report has exposed that in the case of the wind energy sector, as in the green energy sector more broadly, private companies are directly complicit in, and benefit from, Israel's occupation and exploitation of Palestinian and Syrian land.

Annex I: Aveeram Ltd. company response

ARNON SEGEV & CO.

February 3, 2019

By email: whoprofits@gmail.com

Who Profits from the Occupation
P.O. Box 1084
Tel Aviv 6101001

Re: Request for Response Letter dated January 16, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have been retained by Aveeram Ltd. with respect to the Request for Response Letter dated January 16, 2019 in which you have falsely and maliciously asserted that Aveeram Ltd. is involved in two wind energy projects in the Golan Heights, with the intent to interfere with its business and reputation, and to deliberately cause economic harm.

Despite your assertions, Aveeram Ltd. has been active in various businesses for over 30 years and has no activity whatsoever (directly or indirectly) in the field of renewable energy or any similar activity linked to the Golan Heights.

We therefore demand that Who Profits from the Occupation, its directors, officers, agents, and employees immediately cease and desist from making any such false and misleading statements about our client and its business operations on your website and/or in any printed publications or otherwise.

To the extent that you continue to make such false accusations, whether verbally, electronically or in writing, we will be forced to commence civil legal proceedings seeking appropriate remedies as well as initiate criminal proceedings against you, your directors and your executives as part of a private criminal complaint pursuant to Section 8 of the Israeli Defamation Law of 1965.

Sincerely,

Adv. Arnon Segev

cc: Aveeram Ltd.

Arnon Segev & Co. Law Offices
57 Rothschild Blvd., Tel Aviv 6578504, Israel

ארנון סגב ושות' חשרד עו"ד
6578504 תל-אביב 57

www.segevlaw.com

office@segevlaw.com

פקס. 972-3-5252580

טל. 972-3-5252530

ARNON SEGEV & CO.

18 פברואר, 2019

לכבוד
עו"ד סופיה פרודסקי
מיכאל ספרד משרד עריכת דין

באמצעות דוא"ל contact@sford.co.il בפקס 036206950

א.ג.נ.,

הנדון: התראה לפני פרסום המהווה לשון הרע

- בהתייחס למכתבך מיום 13.2.2019 שנשלח במענה למכתבה של מרשתנו – חברת אוירס בע"מ ח.פ. 5104700826 (להלן: "אוירס"), אתכבד לפנות אליך בדברים, כדלקמן:
1. המידע הכלול בפניית מרשתך המתייחס לחברת אוירס בע"מ שגוי. החל מיום 26 בינואר 2017 רשות המיסים אישרה העברת פעילות אוירס לתאגיד אחר כל זאת בדרך של "פיצול" לפי סעיף 104 ב לפקודת מס הכנסה. החל ממועד אישור כאמור כל העסקים שצוינו בפנייתכם והמתייחסים לפרויקטים של אנרגיית רוח (עמק הבכא ורוח בראשית) אינם בבעלות מרשתנו ומרשתנו אינה מפיקה כל טובת הנאה – לא במישרין ולא בעקיפין, מאותם פרויקטים.
 2. אין בדעתנו להתייחס למידע המופיע אצל צדדים שלישיים וככל שתחליטו להסתמך על מידע כאמור, ובסופו של יום יסתבר כי המידע עליו הסתמכתם אינו מדויק או נכון, ברור כי מרשתך תשא במלוא האחריות לכל נזק ישיר או עקיף שעשוי להיות מנת חלקה של מרשתנו.
 3. כפי שהובהר במכתבנו הקודם, פרסום המתייחס לחברת אוירס בע"מ בהקשר של אנרגיית רוח ברמת הגולן ייענה בתביעה מתאימה. למען הסר ספק בנסיבות העניין למרשתך לא תעמוד כל הגנת תום לב.
 4. בשים לב לכל האמור דומני התכתובת ביננו מיצתה עצמה.

במלכה,
משרד ארנון שגב נשות, עורכי דין

Arnon Segev & Co. Law Offices
57 Rothschild Blvd., Tel Aviv 6578504, Israel

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