
Plans to deepen control of northern perimeter of East Jerusalem advance

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This Thursday, the District Planning and Building Committee will discuss objections to two plans along the northern perimeter of East Jerusalem: TPS 11094 in **Ramat Shlomo** and TPS 192815 in **Ramot**. Approval of these plans would serve to deepen Israel's reach into adjacent Palestinian areas, further complicating division of the city under any future political agreement providing for the establishment of two capitals in Jerusalem.

The Ramat Shlomo 500-unit plan is designed to expand the western part of the neighborhood north towards Beit Hanina. The Ramot plan, for 152 units, will extend the neighborhood northeast toward the enclave of Beit Hanina al-Balad and Bir Nabala. Please note light blue areas on [attached map](#) for reference – in Ramot, the isolated nob on the northeast edge and in Ramat Shlomo, the large finger along the northern rim.

Promoted by Israeli developers claiming ownership of the land in question, the Ramat Shlomo plan exemplifies the endemic discrimination in the planning process that serves to foil Palestinian planning and development. The plan includes Palestinian-owned land, in an area developers have now designated for a park and access road. In order to overcome the legal prohibition against submitting a plan on land not owned by the applicant, the developers successfully engaged the Jerusalem Municipality to sign on as an additional applicant, thereby enabling the expropriation of private Palestinian land.

Despite this process contravening the Planning and Building Law, the District Committee approved the plan for deposit, circumventing the normal process of land reparcelization conducted to ensure an equitable distribution of land rights.

The Ramot plan represents a bold push toward Israel consolidating control of the undeveloped area between Ramot and Bir Nabala. Ir Amim has acquired documents showing plans to expand the entire northern section of the Ramot settlement toward the Palestinian area. As can be seen on the map, the large open area between the Israeli settlement and the Bir Nabala enclave is already cut by the Separation Barrier, which completely encircles the enclave, isolating its residents from the surrounding Palestinian space and imposing severe economic hardship.

Today's developments follow announcement of a tender for 603 housing units in Ramat Shlomo (specifically, "The Biden Plan") in August.

In 2017, advancement of settlement plans in Jerusalem was renewed with vigor. The two waves of plan promotion in July and November involved the promotion of 2,328 residential units, concentrated almost entirely on the northern perimeter of East Jerusalem: Ramot, Ramat Shlomo, Pisgat Ze'ev and Neve

Yaakov, where 11 plans comprising 2,058 residential units moved forward in the planning system. [For more on recent settlement trends in Jerusalem, see Ir Amim's 2017 annual report.]

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