פורום דו-קיום בנגב לשוויון אזרחי
منتدى التعايش السلمي في النقب من أجل المساواة المدنية
Negev Coexistence Forum For Civil Equality

Dear NCF friends and partners,

We're thrilled to introduce our new logo, marking the beginning this new year for our organization. With a fresh look comes renewed energy and commitment to our mission.

Alongside our revamped appearance, we're excited to announce several new projects that will further advance our cause.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in our cause!

Our New Research Center.

We are excited to introduce Nagabiya, our Bedouin Society Knowledge And Research Hub.

The existing official databases, notably from the Central Bureau of Statistics, overlook the unrecognized villages, leaving over 80,000 residents with hardly documented living conditions.

Over the years, a government policy of neglect and mistreatment has targeted Bedouin citizens, leading to demolitions, displacements, and forced relocations, leaving them with limited job opportunities. Nagabiya aims to counteract this by focusing on consistent data collection and documentation to provide an annual snapshot of life in unrecognized villages, with a particular emphasis on the employment challenges faced by Bedouin women.

The focus of the Research Center is on collecting data and documenting the reality of life in the unrecognized villages in order to present an annual situation picture, emphasizing employment issues among Bedouin women. Based on the research findings, the center will draft practical proposals and produce policy documents.

The topics studied at the Center:

• Economic viability of women from the unrecognized villages to integrate into the labor market,

• 'Employment Circles' program for Bedouin women in the unrecognized villages,

• Characteristics and patterns of women's employment according to form of villages,

• A snapshot of the Bedouin population for 2023.

The most recent research, based on a survey on protection and feelings of security among the Bedouin community in the Negev-Naqab in the

of security among the Bedouin community in the Negev-Naqab in the shadow of the war between Israel and Hamas, is available on our website in Hebrew and in English and soon in Arabic.

Nagabiya

Bedouin Society Knowledge and Research Hub

Nagabiya, NCF's Bedouin Society Knowledge And Research Hub.

- **Letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu**

A few days ago, NCF's Executive Director, Haia Noach, sent a letter to the Prime Minister expressing strong opposition to his decision of transferring The Authority for Development and Settlement of the Bedouin in the Negev. Minister Amichai Chikli resigned from the Ministry for Civil Equality and remains with the Diaspora Ministry. Namely, the Authority will be under the auspices of the Diaspora Ministry. This is an absurd decision that emphasizes the lack of relevance of the Diaspora Ministry to the Bedouin community's needs. The letter pointed out the importance of consistent and knowledgeable leadership in addressing the complex issues faced by the Bedouin population. The letter urged the reconsideration and cancellation of this decision, proposing the transfer of powers to a central government office with ongoing responsibility and high professional standards.

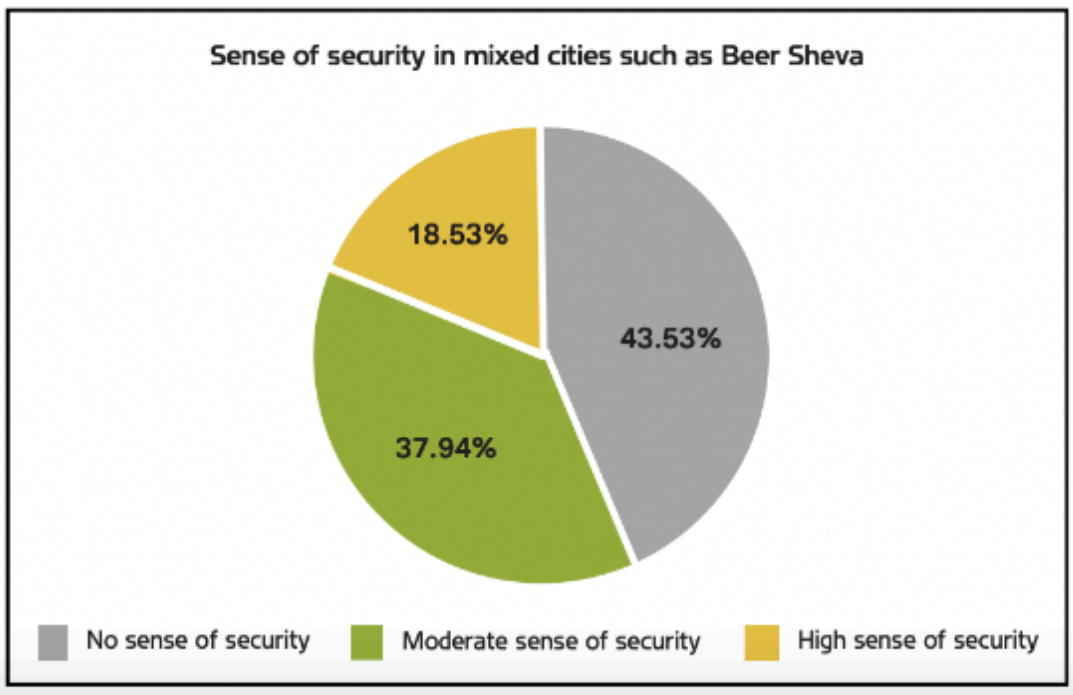
Nagabiya | נגבייה | نقبية
מרכז הידע והמחקר של האוכלוסיה הבדואית בנגב
مركز المعرفة والأبحاث للمجتمع البدوي في النقب
Bedouin Society Knowledge and Research Hub

Sense of security in social space:

43.5% of the respondents reported that they did not feel safe at all to enter cities such as Beer Sheva during the war.

Regarding sense of security in the social space, three aspects were examined: the feeling of security in the public space in the respondent's own residential area, the feeling of security when leaving that residential area, and the feeling of security in mixed or Jewish cities.

Of all the respondents, 16.7% stated that they feel safe walking around in their own residential area,



Part of results of the last research on protection and feelings of security among the Bedouin community in the Negev-Naqab, conducted by Nagabiya.

Home demolitions are back

After a period of grace, probably due to the war, Bedouin communities face once again government ordered home demolitions. Over the last two weeks, structures were demolished by law enforcement in Bīr Haddāj (recognized village), Az-Zarnūg and Tal ʿArād (both unrecognized).

Or in the words of MK Atawneh, "House demolitions have begun as if there is no war".

Establishing an inclusive society in the Negev necessitates the active involvement and fair consideration of the Bedouin community, not at its expense. Sustainable progress can only be achieved through egalitarian distributive justice, ensuring equal development for both communities residing in this shared space. Exclusion or prioritizing one community over the other is not conducive to a lasting and harmonious shared society.



Home demolition in Tel Arad, January 2024. Photo: NCF staff.

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude to all our supporters, partners, and advocates who tirelessly champion human rights alongside us, especially during these challenging times.

We look forward to continuing this vital work together.

Donate Here to support our work

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Negev Coexistence Forum For Civil Equality

Dear NCF friends and partners,

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter! As we enter this new month, we're eager to update you on the latest developments and initiatives within our organization. Thank you for your continued interest and support in our mission.

- **Budget cuts in Arab communities**

We have submitted a paper to the Chairman of the Finance Committee, MK Rabbi Moshe Gafni, highlighting the critical issue of proposed budget cuts to essential programs benefiting the Arab and Bedouin communities, as well as initiatives aimed at addressing crime within Arab society. These proposed cuts, totaling 15%, directly threaten the progress and development of these communities, particularly in the Negev region, and could have severe implications for employment, poverty levels, and overall societal well-being.

We strongly urge the Finance Committee to reconsider these proposed cuts, as they disproportionately affect Arab and Bedouin communities without valid justification. Our demands include the cancellation of these cuts and the preservation of essential funding for programs aimed at reducing disparities, promoting employment, and addressing societal challenges. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of maintaining support for initiatives that contribute to the economic development and empowerment of these communities, thereby fostering civil equality and gender equality in Israeli society.

Human Rights & Civil Society Organizations
in Israel Demand:

הפסקת אש עכשיו

وقف إطلاق النار الآن



Petition supported by NCF and other civil society organizations

- **Petition for a ceasefire with Gisha with other NGOs**

NCF has joined several other civil society and human rights organizations based in Israel in supporting a petition calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the immediate release of hostages held there. The ongoing conflict, which was exacerbated by the Hamas attack on October 7, has had devastating consequences.
The healthcare system is on the verge of collapse, hospitals are overburdened and there is a shortage of vital supplies. Food and clean water are in short supply. 1.7 million people have been displaced and are living in catastrophic conditions in overcrowded accommodation. Urgent action is needed to prevent further loss of life and address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. “We urgently call for an immediate ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza, as well as the unconditional release of all hostages by Hamas. We also call on the international community to uphold international humanitarian law to protect civilians and ensure human rights for Israelis and Palestinians”.



NCF tour with Israeli students

- **Exciting News: You can book a tour**

As we enter the new year, we are excited to relaunch our Human Rights Tours of the Negev!

These tours offer a unique opportunity to explore the reality of the Arab

Bedouin communities in the Negev/Naqab. Join us on an insightful journey into the challenges faced by the Bedouin population.
Our tours, which focus on civil rights, politics and women's rights, offer valuable insights into the historical, social and political landscape of the region. Our tours promise an educational experience.**Contact** our tour coordinator **Huda Abu Obaid** at Toursnaqabncf@gmail.com or call **+972 543387208** to book your tour or for more information. **You can also book a tour by filling out** the form available on our website.

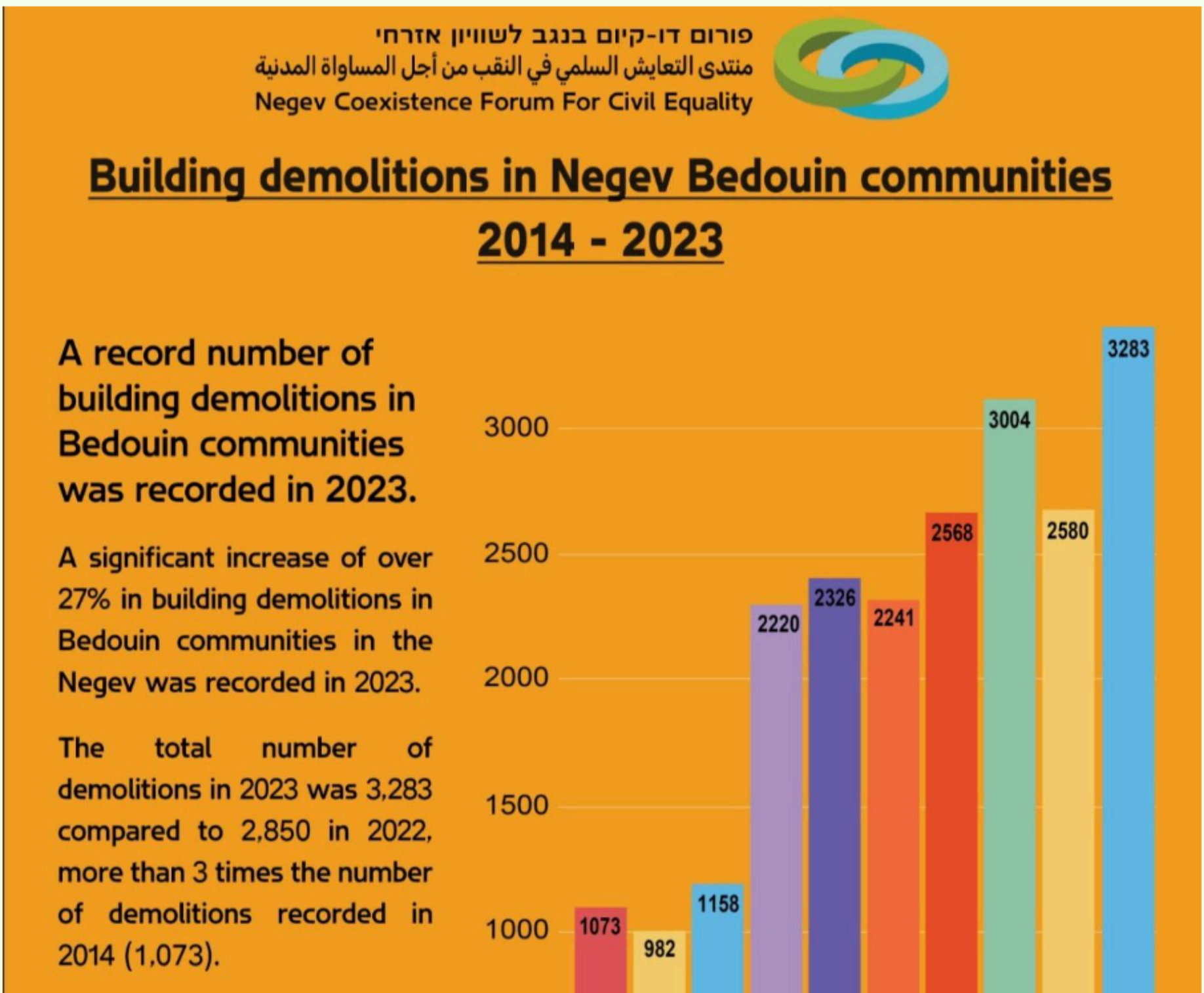
We look forward to embarking on this journey with you!

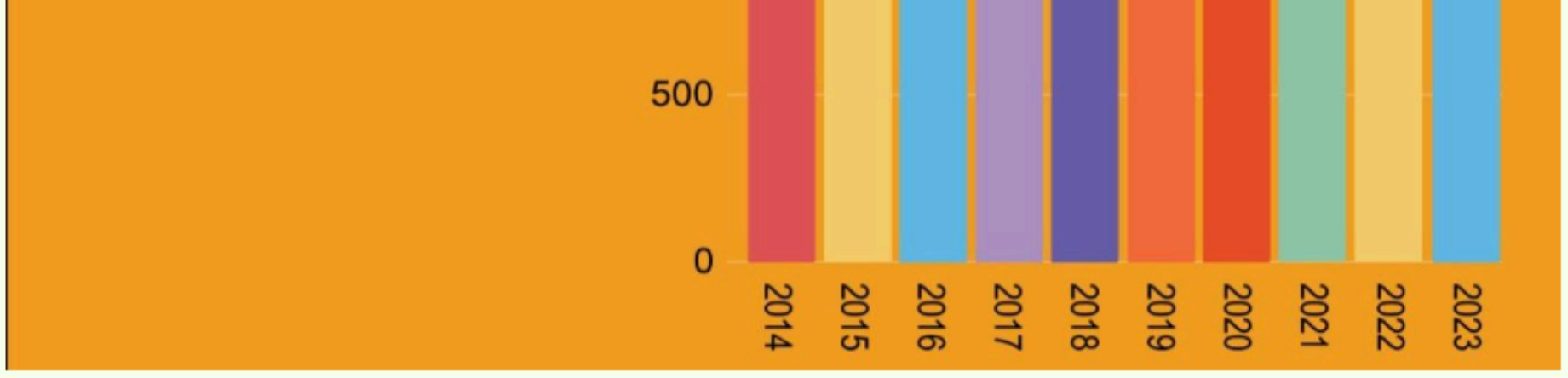


Home Demolition in Bīr Haddāj

- **Record numbers of demolitions**

A record number of structures and house demolitions was recorded in the year in 2023 in the Bedouin communities of the Naqab/Negev in 2023. 3283 demolitions took place , according to the Israeli newspaper Maariv, with an increase of 27% from last year.





We stand in solidarity with the Bedouin citizens of Israel and all others who are still held hostage in Gaza, hoping for their swift and safe return. We continue to strive for a ceasefire and pursue diplomatic solutions that will end the bloodshed. Our thoughts are with them, and we remain committed to their liberation and the pursuit of lasting peace.



Israeli Bedouin citizens still being hed hostage in Gaza

Donate Here to support our work

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In accordance with the law, the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality is proud to note that as a result of cooperation with friendly countries and international organizations that promote human rights, most of the funding for our activities comes from "foreign entities.