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ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES  
CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA  
PUBLIC INQUIRIES  
FILE: GENERAL  
REFERENCE: EVEN465-01-1300  
13 NISSAN 5780  
07 APRIL 2020

To,  
**Atty. Roni Pelli**  
Via email: [roni@acri.org.il](mailto:roni@acri.org.il)

**RE: "Freezing home demolitions in the West Bank" - Civil Administration of Judea and  
Samaria's reply**

Reference: Your letter from 18 March 2020

1. I herein confirm receipt of your appeal regarding the subject at hand.
2. First, we will note that the local authorities are aware of the prevailing state of emergency due to the spread of the coronavirus, and are required to contend with it through various diverse means.
3. In view of the above, regional authorities have decided to adjust their current enforcement policy in relation to planning and construction offenses, as follows:
  - a. In general, planning enforcement actions will presently focus on new illegal construction, particularly that which has been carried out to take advantage of the state of emergency. It should be emphasized that the aforementioned does not preclude necessary enforcement actions due to reasons grounded in security, safety, or maintenance of public order in the area, even in the absence of new illegal construction.
  - b. In general, no final demolition orders issued for populated structures will be executed at this time, and efforts will be made to reduce friction with the population, aside from cases in which a special security need arises, or a special need to maintain public order in the area.

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- c. For cases in which this is required, an extension will be granted until the supervisory subcommittee convenes to discuss stop work orders that have been issued. This extension will enable those in possession of structures for longer periods of time to submit claims and act to regulate construction, as needed.
  - d. Regarding the enforcement actions referenced in your appeal from 25.03.2020, we wish to note that contrary to what you noted in your appeal, not one of the structures was used for residential purposes, and on 19.03.2020 in the area of Al Muntar, enforcement actions were taken with respect to an agricultural structure, water tank, fenced compound, and two concrete surfaces, and in the Jordan Valley (Tubas land) inspection and enforcement procedures were executed with regard to a shipping container, deep drilling, and a complex of solar panels. It should be clarified that in accordance with information retained by local authorities, all the structures were illegally constructed against the law.
4. Before signing, we will note that even amid emergencies, there is no place to enable or assist in the execution of planning or construction offenses, and the military commander and local enforcement authorities are obligated to enforce them, as part of their duty to maintain public order and rule of law. Unfortunately, similarly to the situation in Israel, in this area, too, there are those who take advantage of the state of emergency to violate the law and illegally establish structures.
5. For your information.

Sincerely,

**Bar Yehuda**, First Lieutenant  
**Public Inquiry Officer**  
**Civil Administration Service Branch**