



Breaking the Silence Annual Report 2018

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January 2019

Dear friends and partners,

"The right wing has realized that as long as the occupation continues, with Hebron at its heart, the left will continue dying and so will democracy and peace."

I wrote those words in [an opinion piece that was recently published in Haaretz](#), and I think they aptly summarize the past year for Israelis, Palestinians, the occupation, and Breaking the Silence.

This year broke the record, again, for the most right-wing government in Israel's history. It also marked 50 years of Israeli settlements in Hebron, and a new phase in the process of deteriorating Israeli democracy.

Following three years of a delegitimization campaign, this year saw legislation enacted to halt civil society organizations' work by restricting those who dare to criticize the occupation abroad or within Israel, be they non-profit organizations, art galleries, or former Chiefs of the IDF. What began with defamatory news stories and threats, has now developed into legislation (the passing of the "Breaking the Silence Law" and the implementation of the "NGO Bill") and physical assaults against the BtS staff. I repeat, as long as the occupation continues, with Hebron at its heart, democracy and peace will continue to die. As Israeli policies continue to creep toward de facto apartheid, we see how crushing Palestinian life and freedom is only a precursor to disregarding the civil rights of Israelis Jews as well. The occupation corrupts.

Alongside this misery, we have had some important and impactful successes. We achieved widespread media coverage for our two newly published testimony collections: *Why I Broke the Silence* and *Occupying Hebron: Soldiers' Testimonies 2011-2017*. I even had the opportunity to appear on BBC's [Hard Talk](#). In addition, we were joined by more American synagogue groups and young Jewish diaspora leaders than ever before, as we watch the next generation of America's progressive Jewish communities take a stand for Israel but against the occupation. This is a significant moment in our struggle to bring the occupation to an end, and we will be watching these developments closely in the coming year.

Thank you all for your extraordinary solidarity, dedication and support – for enabling us to do this crucial work. Even when the wheels of change are slow, we are spurred on by the knowledge that you are committed to standing alongside us, until the occupation ends. It is always particularly uplifting to see you during your visits to the region, or for me and the team to visit you. Thank you.

Finally, it would be remiss not to mention someone important whom we lost this year, namely Israel's very first 'silence breaker.' We were devastated to learn of the recent passing of our long time friend and supporter, Amos Oz, in late December.

We were beyond honored to work closely with Oz over the years. In 2016 he came to our aid in giving [a moving speech](#) on silence breakers at an award ceremony held by the Middle East faculty at Ben Gurion University. Just this past year we were in close working contact with Oz who graciously agreed to adapt that speech into an article that was published in the [Australian Jewish News](#) (ahead of my visit to Australia). [El Pais](#) (Spain) and [La Republica](#) (Italy) also published the piece on their front pages. It was truly an honor to work with Oz over the years. He has consistently served as a guiding light for us and the Israeli human rights and anti-occupation sector at large. In the words of former Meretz chairwoman Zehava Galon, "It is impossible to comprehend that Israel continues to exist without Amos Oz."

For now, we carry on. I wish us all a year of peace – one year closer to the end of the occupation.

Sincerely yours,
Avner Gvaryahu

10 2 e


Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

GOAL 1

To produce materials based on soldiers' testimonies about the nature of Israel's occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)

Objective 1

An up to date internet-based testimony database that provides access to soldiers' testimonies on IDF activities in the oPt

Objective 2

Production of testimony collections that shed light on specific military practices and incidents in the oPt

GOAL 1

Objective 1

An up to date internet-based testimony database that provides access to soldiers' testimonies on IDF activities in the oPt

Outcomes & Target Groups

Target audiences are exposed to the everyday realities of the occupation and the human rights violations it implies.

A trained team of interviewers who undergo regular professional development.

Professional and effective work processes for the department.

Outputs

10 2 interviews with soldiers are conducted and made accessible to the public via the database.

10 2 interviews fact-checked and uploaded into database.

10 2 testimonies are translated into English and made available on the database.

1 0 interviewers are trained.

Indicators

Number of Interviews conducted, testimonies produced and made available on the database in Hebrew and English.

Interviews conducted over the years covering the diversity previously defined.

Activities

Interviews with soldiers who have served in the oPt within the past 5 years are conducted.

Fact checking and processing of interviews undertaken.

Uploading testimonies from the interviews to the database. Each of these interviews will be processed within a 4-month period from the date of the interview.

Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)

1 0 interviews with soldiers who served in the oPt within the past 5 years have been conducted.

1 0 interviews fact-checked and uploaded into database.

1 0 testimonies from the interviews were uploaded to the database and published.

1 0 testimonies were translated into English.

> 1 interviewer concluded training.

> 1 interviewer recruited to start training in January 2019.

Objective 2

Production of testimony collections that shed light on specific military practices and incidents in the oPt

Outcomes & Target Groups

BtS materials collated in an accessible format together with BtS analysis of IDF operational methods, which can be leveraged for advocacy and educational purposes.

10 2 g [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Outputs

Publication of a testimony book about Hebron to mark 50 years of the Israeli settlement in Hebron.

10 2 g [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

2-3 investigations are opened with one potentially resulting in a new testimony collection to be used as a base for communications and advocacy work.

Indicators

Number of collections produced.

10 2 g [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Activities

Conducting interviews with soldiers on specifically identified topics or incidents.

Managing ongoing investigations on selected topics, incidents, and military practices.

Production of testimony collection about Hebron and one other topic (to be determined).

10 2 g [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)

> Publication of two booklet of testimonies: *Why I Broke the Silence* and *Occupying Hebron*.

> 1 investigation on military practice undertaken and used for advocacy work: Checkpoints to collect Palestinians' personal details.

1 [redacted]
0 [redacted]
2 [redacted]
g [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

GOAL 1

Collecting testimonies from former IDF soldiers has always been at the heart of our work at Breaking the Silence (BtS), and remains the case in 2018. Over the course of the year, we conducted **10** interviews with soldiers who served in various units in the West Bank and Gaza over the past five years. This year we published two new testimony collections: *Why I Broke the Silence and Occupying Hebron: Soldiers' Testimonies from Hebron 2011 -2017*, along with a smaller investigation of testimonies on how the IDF collects and uses Palestinian data. Together these three publications released 81 new testimonies in Hebrew and English in print and online. Both of the collections are available to [download online](#).

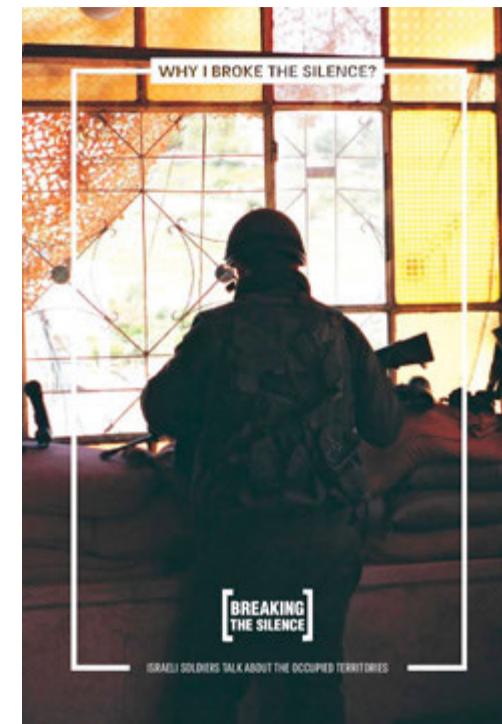
Publication of Testimony Collection: *Why I Broke the Silence*

In January 2018 we released *Why I Broke the Silence*, a brand new booklet of testimonies shared by soldiers who served in the occupied territories spanning from the Second Intifada to date.

Attacks against BtS over the past two years were carried out with the intention of deterring us from exposing the reality of what takes place in the oPt. They not only intended to delegitimize soldiers who chose to speak out, but also eroded the significance of our testifiers having been combat soldiers, namely the individuals in the field physically carrying out policies of occupation. In an attempt to do so, attackers made their strikes very personal by defaming the stories and character of individual BtS testifiers and staff. In response, we shared our testifiers' reflections on why they chose to break their silence.

Traditionally, at the conclusion of each interview conducted with a former soldier, we pose the question: "What led you to break your silence?" This question often gives way to a reflection by the soldier, on his or her process of coming to terms with what the occupation is, and the role they played in its implementation. Thus, the Testimony Collection and Research Department presented the idea of focusing on the answers to this question as a means of showcasing the testifiers' personal stories to the public, and the reasons why they each chose to break their silence.

The Testimony Collection and Research Department worked hard to filter through hundreds of testimonies to collate a diverse collection of testimonies. In addition to the inclusion of a few new interviews, this process resulted in the publication of testimonies from 15 soldiers. In addition to the answer to the question of why they broke their silence, we published one additional testimony from each of the soldiers, to provide an example of the types of activities in which he or she was involved as a soldier – the substance on which they broke their silence. Despite the fact that they served at different times (from the years 2001 through 2017), in different units, and in different regions, these testimonies collectively demonstrate striking commonalities in motivation to break the silence.



Why I Broke the Silence

GOAL 1

Publication of Testimony Collection:

Occupying Hebron: Soldiers' Testimonies from Hebron 2011-2017

BtS was established by a group of soldiers who all spent a significant portion of their service in Hebron during some of the most violent months of the Second Intifada. Having enacted the policies of the occupation firsthand during those years, these soldiers felt that the story of Hebron and the occupation must be shared with the Israeli public. Their first action as a group was to curate and host an exhibition called *Breaking the Silence: Soldiers Speak Out About Hebron*, which included personal photographs and testimonies from their period of service in the city. Since the organization's formal establishment in 2004 and through November of this year, BtS has maintained a close relationship with the city of Hebron. Over the years, the organization published three testimony collections documenting the development of the occupation in Hebron, which includes over 300 testimonies and has described the occupation in the city from the early 2000s through 2010, while operating hundreds of tours to the city for Israeli and international students, activists, public figures, journalists, and the general public.

2018 marked 50 years since the establishment of the Israeli settlement in Hebron. To mark this moment and draw attention to the ongoing escalating violence and oppression in Hebron against Palestinians, we decided to release a new testimony collection focusing on soldiers' experiences. The Testimony Collection and Research Department interviewed soldiers who had recently served in the city in addition to sourcing recent yet unpublished interviews with soldiers who had served in Hebron from our internal database. Testimonies were gathered, verified, and translated,

with ultimately 48 of them included in the publication. *Occupying Hebron* was published both in print and [online](#) in November of 2018. More details on the launch campaign that accompanied the publication may be found in our report on Goal 2 below.

IDF Collects Palestinians' Personal Details for 'Big Data' Use

Ongoing collection of soldiers' testimonies provides us with a unique and timely ability to identify new behaviors and trends on the ground in the oPt. This year, we identified a new army practice through soldiers' testimonies: as part of the IDF's surveillance of public spaces, soldiers spoke of setting up 'flying checkpoints' in the oPt to collect Palestinians' personal details, including their name, age, telephone number, identification number, type of vehicle, and license plate number. We were told that Palestinians were also often required to hand over their ID which was photographed, and to provide the origin and destination of the trip, all of which was filled out in an official form used by the soldiers.

When this practice was first described to us in an interview by a soldier who served in 2016, we immediately recognized it as something unique. In order to understand whether this was an exception or a new widely used practice, we launched an investigation and interviewed additional soldiers who served around the same time, who confirmed the practice. After an intense verification process, we decided to publish our findings, leading to an article in [Ha'aretz](#). Only one day after its release, Ha'aretz published an [additional article](#), in which the IDF announced that this tactic was a means of "using big data to foil potential terrorist attacks." The story also led to articles on international media platforms, including [La Croix](#) (French).

GOAL 1



Social media post about the investigation into IDF collection and use of Palestinian data

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Staff and Recruitment

Developing the Testimony Collection and Research Department was an integral part of the 2017-2019 strategic plan. Thus, several investments were made regarding the professionalization of this department over the past year.

[REDACTED] joined the BtS Testimony Collection and Research Department a year ago. In the first half of 2018, he completed an intensive training program as an interviewer. In addition, we spent the latter months of the year searching for and interviewing a new recruit for the department. Following an extensive recruitment process, we selected [REDACTED], who is set to begin his training as an interviewer in early January 2019. [REDACTED] was born and raised in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are thrilled to welcome him to the team.

GOAL 2

To strengthen a value-based opposition to the occupation in the Israeli public through the use of soldiers' testimonies

Objective 1

To contribute to a strong, value-based, anti-occupation voice in the Israeli media

Objective 2

To cultivate a cadre of Israeli opinion shapers that are motivated to promote a value-based opposition to the occupation

Objective 3

To expose the Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp to ongoing human rights (HR) abuses inherent in the occupation through educational activities

GOAL 2

Objective 1

To contribute to a strong, value-based, anti-occupation voice in the Israeli media

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
<p>BtS activists and materials (testimonies and analyses) appear frequently in traditional and new media in Israel.</p> <hr/> <p>BtS has ongoing contact with journalists and media personalities.</p> <hr/> <p>Israeli media personalities are able to represent BtS messaging in the media.</p>	<p>At least 100 quality BtS appearances/ quotes in traditional media.</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing work with at least 20 Israeli media figures.</p> <hr/> <p>At least 2 public campaigns - 1 of which aims to draw attention to 50 years of the settlements in Hebron.</p> <hr/> <p>NB: A quality media reference is a media piece that substantially addresses BtS, our testimonies, work, or messaging.</p>	<p>Number of visitors to BtS's Hebrew website.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of friends/ followers on Hebrew Facebook and Twitter pages.</p> <hr/> <p>Quantity of quality press appearances and references in Israeli press.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of journalists with whom we are in contact.</p>	<p>Ongoing work and relationship-building with media figures in Israel.</p> <hr/> <p>Responding in real time to current events in the media.</p> <hr/> <p>Development and implementation of campaigns.</p> <hr/> <p>Distributing BtS materials through user-friendly and innovative new and social media formats.</p>	<p>> Over 900 BtS appearances/quotes in traditional media.</p> <hr/> <p>> 62k visitors to BtS's Hebrew website.</p> <hr/> <p>> 443 Israeli journalists on our press release distribution list.</p> <hr/> <p>> 3 public campaigns: The launch of <i>Why We Broke our Silence</i>; campaign <i>Area G</i> on Gaza; the launch of <i>Occupying Hebron</i>.</p>

GOAL 2

Objective 2

Objective 2: To cultivate a cadre of Israeli opinion shapers that are motivated to promote a value-based opposition to the occupation

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
<p>Israeli public figures are equipped with information on the reality of the occupation and are able to represent BtS messaging within their own circles of influence.</p> <hr/> <p>Israeli public figures are motivated to espouse anti-occupation messaging in the public.</p>	<p>60 briefings or tours for Israeli public figures.</p>	<p>Number of briefings and tours carried out.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of media appearances of public figures connected to BtS (through previous tours/ briefings/ activities).</p>	<p>Briefings and tours with public figures.</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing communication with public figures.</p>	<p>> 45 briefings or tours for 174 Israeli public figures.</p> <hr/> <p>> 8 collaborative events with Israeli public figures.</p>

GOAL 2

Objective 3

To expose the Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp to ongoing human rights (HR) abuses inherent in the occupation through educational activities

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
<p>Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp is informed of HR abuses and the reality of the occupation based on information from testimonies.</p> <hr/> <p>Tools are made available to this target group (TG) to oppose the occupation.</p> <hr/> <p>Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp is motivated to publicly speak and act out against the occupation.</p>	<p>Maintain an ongoing relationship with educators and participants of education groups.</p> <hr/> <p>20 information booths/ activities on and off campuses.</p> <hr/> <p>130 educational events (lectures and tours to Hebron/ the South Hebron Hills) reaching members of the broader Israeli public (youth, students, teachers, etc.)</p> <hr/> <p>2 large tours to Hebron and 1 to the South Hebron Hills.</p>	<p>Number of tours.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of lectures.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of booths/ activities.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of participants in tours/ lecture.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of printed materials distributed.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of recipients of the BtS Hebrew language newsletter.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of visitors to BtS Hebrew website.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of friends/ followers to Hebrew Facebook and Twitter accounts.</p>	<p>Information booths set up on campuses and in off-campus settings (public spaces and events).</p> <hr/> <p>Tours of Hebron and the South Hebron Hills.</p> <hr/> <p>Lectures to groups.</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing communications (newsletters, social media, etc.) with the public.</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing briefings, communication with education groups.</p>	<p>10 information booths on and off campuses.</p> <hr/> <p>10 tours and lectures for 102g members of the Israeli public.</p> <hr/> <p>> 1 large tours 10 of Hebron and 1 of the South Hebron Hills) with a total of 10 participants.</p> <hr/> <p>> 102g publications distributed to the public.</p> <hr/> <p>> 102g recipients of the Hebrew newsletter distributed by BtS.</p> <hr/> <p>> 73.7K followers of Hebrew Facebook, 13K followers on Hebrew Twitter account.</p> <hr/> <p>> 1.1 million views of BtS Facebook and YouTube videos.</p>

GOAL 2

Following almost three years of attacks against BtS, which attempted to deter us from meeting with Israeli audiences, in 2018 we returned to a full schedule of programming for Israeli audiences. BtS testifiers and tour guides met with ¹⁰² Israeli groups for lectures and tours to witness the realities of the occupation in Hebron and the South Hebron Hills. Alongside these educational activities, over the course of the last year we focused primarily on the release of our new booklets *Why I Broke the Silence* and *Occupying Hebron*. The incidents at the Gaza fence earlier this year also required attention from BtS resulting in an ad-hoc campaign on Gaza and the rules of engagement at the fence.

Launch of *Why I Broke the Silence*

Earlier this year we published *Why I Broke the Silence*, a collection of testimonies from former soldiers who served in the oPt from the period spanning the Second Intifada to date, answering the question we ask in every interview: "Why did you break the silence?" The launch of the collection gathered significant media attention, including an interview with BtS testifier-activist Hillel Assaf, on London and Kirschenbaum on [Channel 10](#) (Hebrew) and a video of BtS spokesperson Dean Issacharoff on the [news-website Mako](#) (which gathered 340K views on BtS's Hebrew Facebook page and the Mako site, along with an additional 68K views in English) on why they broke their silence. We also published a supplemental version of the testimony collection in the weekend edition of Ha'aretz, exposing thousands of Israelis to the realities of what we and other BtS testifiers did in the oPt.

One week after launching the booklet we held an event at the Tmu-na Theater, a small, but long-running, privately operated theater in South Tel Aviv. In front of a crowd of 200 Israelis, Israeli author Dorit Rabinyan

moderated a panel of three former officers and a sergeant, who took to the stage to talk about the reality beyond the Green Line and what led them to break their silence. As with all of our events over the past few years, Culture Minister Miri Regev tried to shut down the event by intimidating the management of the theatre and threatening to cut its funding. Our hosts did not give in to the pressure and we are grateful to them for hosting us at their venue.

Since hosting us, Tmu-na has continued to endure harassment by Regev and the Ministry of Culture. In July, Regev demanded that Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon withhold money from the theater when it held an event called "Get Out of Gaza," planned by members of Knesset (MKs) from the Meretz and Joint List political parties, along with BtS. The event marked the anniversary of the 2014 Israeli military incursion into Gaza and aimed to raise awareness of Israel's ongoing control of the area. Over 200 people attended.



Launch event for the booklet at the Tmu-na theater

GOAL 2



Ha'aretz supplemental insert distributed on January 19, 2018

Responding to Gaza

When protests led by Gazan residents began along the fence separating Gaza from Israel, and IDF soldiers responded with live fire resulting in the death of 250 Palestinians, we felt obliged to sound important messages on the issue that needed to be heard.

Our first response came from five of our testifiers, previously members of sniper teams, who published a letter expressing their distress regarding orders permitting snipers to fire live ammunition at unarmed demonstrators. The letter was published in [Ha'aretz](#) (in Hebrew) and in multiple international news sources (further details below). As a result, we garnered much media attention, leading to several local and international interviews featuring Nadav Weiman, who was a sniper during his military service in an elite unit of the Nahal Brigade, and BtS Spokesperson Dean Issacharoff, who served in Gaza during Operation Protective Edge in 2014.

On May 15, the day after 58 Palestinians were killed at the Gaza fence, we also published a full-page advertisement in the mainstream

Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth with the headline: "How Not to Disperse Demonstrations," to attract attention to the fact that, as a matter of policy, live ammunition was being fired on unarmed demonstrators. This ad generated a significant amount of public debate on the topic.

Public Testimony Reading: *Area G*

The focus of the Gaza campaign was a public testimony reading entitled *Area G*. The concept of *Area G* was born out of our wish to demonstrate that, contrary to widespread Israeli public opinion, the occupation in Gaza did not end with the withdrawal from settlements in the region in 2005, but rather continues today through other means. Just as the Oslo Accords led to new and different forms of control in Areas A, B, and C, of the West Bank, the settlement withdrawal in the Gaza Strip changed the mechanism of control over the Palestinian population in Gaza, which we named Area G. Avner Gvanyahu's opening remarks at the event may be [viewed here](#).

At the event, 81 testimonies from soldiers who broke the silence about their army service in Gaza were [read by BtS testifiers and public figures](#), including MKs Tamar Zandberg, Dov Khenin, Mossi Raz, and Michal Rozin; executive director of the New Israel Fund, Mickey Gitzin; former deputy mayor of Tel Aviv and MK from the Labor Party,



"How Not to Disperse Demonstrations"
full page ad in Yedioth Ahronoth

GOAL 2

Yael Dayan; authors Iris Leal and Assaf Gavron; and the director of the Batsheva Dance Company and winner of the 2005 Israel Prize, Ohad Naharin. Hundreds of members of the Israeli public attended to listen to the testimonies. Once again, we found that public readings of testimonies are an effective mode of engaging the Israeli public in a conversation on the occupation.

At the event, well-known portrait photographer Elad Malka took pictures of the attendees, holding signs with messages such as “There is no military solution for political problems” and “The occupation in Gaza kills.” His photos were analyzed in a weekly photography column in [Ha’aretz’s weekend edition](#) (Hebrew).



Area G testimony reading at Habima



Examples of Elad Malka’s portraits from the Area G Testimony Reading

Marking 50 Years of Israeli Settlement in Hebron

This year marked 50 years since the first Israeli settlement was established in Hebron. To draw attention to the date, we focused a large portion of our public work with Israeli audiences on Hebron, including the release of a new testimony collection, special tours in the city, and other activities described below.

Launch of *Occupying Hebron: Soldiers' Testimonies from Hebron 2011-2017*

The release of *Occupying Hebron* was accompanied by a wide-scale media and communications campaign, garnering much press. The campaign included interviews with Executive Director Avner Gvanyahu on the military radio station [Galatz](#) and on the [Radio103FM](#) radio show Ben and Arie (both in Hebrew). Haaretz also published an op-ed on Hebron in both Hebrew and [English](#).

On December 3, the booklet was officially launched through an event at the Tel Aviv municipality-operated youth hub, Maze 9. Sixty people attended the panel discussion with three former soldiers who served in Hebron, which was moderated by journalist and feminist Mizrahi activist, Ortal Ben Dayan. The three former soldiers publicly broke their silence and spoke about their experiences serving in the city, along with developments in occupied Hebron since the organization's initial collection of testimonies in 2004.

Planned Conference in the Knesset

Following close work with several supportive MKs, we had originally planned to launch the testimony collection at a conference in the Knesset scheduled to take place on November 26. Entitled *Hebron First*, Michal Rozin (Meretz), Dov Khenin and Ayman Odeh (The Joint List) scheduled the conference to coincide with the launch of the publication and planned to present a new bill by the same name, calling for the evacuation of the settlements in Hebron. Avner Gvanyahu, the executive directors of Israeli anti-occupation human rights organizations B'Tselem and Yesh Din, along with Palestinian

residents of Hebron, were set to speak on the reality of Hebron at the event. As part of the launch of the testimony collection and the announcement of the conference, we [published a video](#) demonstrating the realities on the ground, and how government ministers have used Hebron as a political tool. The video has been watched by over 22,000 people.

Consistent with the current political environment of shrinking democratic space in Israel, Knesset speaker Yuli Edelstein cancelled the conference following its announcement, [falsely claiming](#) that there was no room for any additional events at the Knesset that day due to a scheduled visit by the Czech President. The Speaker's cancellation of the conference attracted widespread media coverage including an op-ed [published in Ynet](#) by the former Knesset Speaker Avrum Burg on the silencing effect of such conduct.

The conference hosts are still attempting to find a date to host the event, despite the political distraction generated by the announcement of a general election in early April 2019. In the meantime, Knesset Speaker Edelstein and MK Bezael Smotrich (The Jewish Home Party) held a conference in the Knesset with the pro-settlement caucus where genuine calls to annex Hebron were sounded.

Hundreds Join BtS for Tour to Hebron

On November 30, as part of the launch of *Occupying Hebron*, we organized a large tour to Hebron in order to show people the realities on the ground as depicted in the testimony collection. As a result, 220 Israelis and internationals joined us on six buses departing from

GOAL 2

Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa – with two tours guided in English and four in Hebrew. Along the route of the tour, guides read testimonies from the new booklet in the locations in which they took place, and participants saw for themselves the realities on the ground. They also met with local Palestinian partners at Youth Against Settlements and heard about daily life under occupation.



Tour to Hebron as part of the launch of *Occupying Hebron*. Photo by Elad Malka

Passover in Hebron

In addition, on Passover, our Palestinian partners at Youth Against Settlements and members of All That's Left, an anti-occupation collective of diaspora Jews, decided to celebrate the Jewish holiday of freedom in a place that is far from free – namely, occupied Hebron. We joined this Freedom Seder, which was held exactly 49 years after the first Freedom Seder organized by the civil rights movement on April 4, 1969, a year after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. We are proud that MK Mossi Raz and former head of the Jewish Agency Avrum Burg, whose mother was a survivor of the 1929 Hebron

massacre, attended the Seder at our invitation. The event received media coverage, including by [Ha'aretz](#) and [972 Magazine](#).



Participants at the Freedom Seder at Youth Against Settlements headquarters in Tel Rumeida, Hebron.

Army Throws Tear Gas Canister into Hebron School

Throughout the year we engage in ongoing media work to sustain awareness of the situation in Hebron among the Israeli and international communities. As part of this work, in early December, BtS received information from Palestinian partners in Hebron that tear gas canisters were regularly thrown into a school in Hebron. This report did not come as surprise as we are aware of such practices from soldiers' testimonies, including one published in our newest booklet *Occupying Hebron*. We subsequently reached out to media contacts in an effort to bring attention to the story. Initially, the IDF spokesperson denied this ever happening, yet shortly after [Haaretz reported](#) the story including a video of tear gas being thrown into the school.

GOAL 2

Hebron in the Arts

In November, artist Yoav Bartel premiered a performance art piece at the Tmu-na Theater in Tel Aviv. The performance, informed by the artist's participation in a tour to Hebron with BtS, is about the Goldstein Massacre and its precipitation of a policy of segregation in Hebron, 25 years later. The theater and dance piece is now being performed regularly to sold out audiences at Tmu-na. As part of the premier event, BtS Executive Director Avner Gvaryahu participated in a panel on the massacre, along with Israeli journalist Amnon Lord, journalist Anat Saragusti, and the artist Yoav Bartel himself.

Working with Knesset Members

The normalization of the occupation is significantly enabled by a dire lack of political opposition to the occupation. This is most obviously demonstrated in the Labor party's complete disregard of the occupation during its past election campaigns, something we expect to occur again in its upcoming campaign.



MK Michal Rozin and Avner Gvaryahu in Khan Al-Ahmar

To counter this, a strategic decision was made to place a greater focus on work with MKs throughout 2018. This was achieved by building on relationships the organization had cultivated with several MKs over the years, indicated through the following examples:

> Meetings with a slew of politicians including Tzipi Livni, the former head of opposition; Meirav Michaeli (Labor); Yossi Yona (Labor) and Ayman Odeh (The Joint List).

> MK Michal Rozin was invited to take part in a panel discussion on Area C at the J Street conference in Washington D.C. in early 2018. Prior to her participation in the panel and conference, and with the aim of receiving an update on recent developments in the region, MK Michal Rozin joined us for a tour of the South Hebron Hills. During this tour she met with Nasser Nawaja, a BtS partner and Palestinian activist from Susiya, and refreshed her knowledge on the issues faced by Palestinians in Area C, including the threat of Palestinian displacement. She then went on to speak about the reality on the ground at the J Street Conference. Later in the year, BtS continued to develop its relationship with MK Rozin and to deepen her understanding of the issues facing Palestinians in Area C during a tour lead by Avner Gvaryahu to the village of Khan al-Ahmar.

> Ongoing briefings and tours to the field for a variety of groups and individuals engaged in party politics. This included field visits to the oPt with the chairperson of the Labor youth wing (*Mishmeret Ha'Tzeira*); the director of the Labor-affiliated think tank, Berl Katznelson Center, Rami Hod; and the Chair of the Haredi faction within Labor, Michal Tzernovitzky.

> In July 2018, BtS was featured in a conference at the Knesset on Children under Occupation, hosted by Knesset Members Dov Khenin,

GOAL 2

Ksenia Sventlanova, Michal Rozin, and Mossi Raz. For this conference, we worked with the aforementioned MKs to prepare a short video on the dreams of children in the oPt and Israel. Yair Lapid criticized the Zionist Union for participating in the event and Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein forbade the screening of [the video](#) (though the article is in Hebrew, the video has English subtitles), which led to a public outcry and a wide public debate on the event. In the end, the event was attended by 90 people from different organizations and was widely reported, including in Ha'aretz (Hebrew) and on [Ynet](#) (English).

Working with Public Figures

Public figures are an especially important target audience for us, since they have the ability to shape public discourse and carry BtS's messages to their broader audiences. Over the course of 2018 we conducted 10 tours and briefings for 10 Israeli public figures. Some prominent examples include 10 2 e [redacted]; Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer, vice president of the Israel Democratic Institute, and professor emeritus at the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; as well Avi Primor, former Israeli ambassador to the EU and Germany; and retired general Shlomo Gazit, Head of COGAT in 1967. While most meetings with public figures are conducted one-on-one, in May our Executive Director Avner Gvanyahu was also invited to give a lecture to 50 leading scientists at the Weizmann Institute, one of the leading science research institutions worldwide.

The impact of these relationships is evident when these individuals speak out against the occupation and support the organization publicly. Some examples include:

> Israeli public figures attended and wrote about the launch of the testimony collection, *Why I Broke the Silence*: columnist Sever Plutzker who published an op-ed in the mainstream Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, and high school principal Ram Cohen who published an op-ed titled "[I, too, Break the Silence](#)" (Hebrew) in the most widely read Israeli tabloid, Israel Hayom.

> Actor and singer, Rivka Michaeli, named BtS Executive Director Avner Gvanyahu her "person of the year" in a segment on radio 103FM for *Rosh Hashanah* (the Jewish new year).

> Columnist Sima Kadmon, wrote in one of her weekly columns in Yedioth Ahronoth that BtS would be her preference as torch-lighters at the annual Israeli Independence Day torch lighting ceremony. Torch-bearers are traditionally individuals who are seen to have made an outstanding contribution to Israeli society and are selected by an official committee that includes a representative on behalf of the prime minister.

> Former Knesset Speaker Avrum Burg attended the Passover Seder organized by Youth Against Settlements, All That's Left, and BtS, at the Youth Against Settlements headquarters in Tel Rumeida in Hebron. He also published an op-ed tackling the sober realities of Hebron and in support of the organization, when the conference hosted by three MKs to launch the *Hebron First* bill was cancelled by Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein.

> Israeli author Dorit Rabinyan, and journalist Ortal Ben Dayan, respectively moderated panel discussions for BtS upon launching the *Why I Broke the Silence* and *Occupying Hebron* testimony collections.

GOAL 3

To increase opposition in the international arena to Israel's prolonged occupation of the oPt based on global shared values

Objective 1

Key international public figures are challenged to respond to the prolonged nature of the Israeli occupation of the oPt

Objective 2

The international public is made more aware of the reality of the ongoing occupation and HR abuses in the oPt

Objective 3

To encourage diaspora Jewish communities to voice their opposition to the occupation

Objective 1

Key international public figures are challenged to respond to the prolonged nature of the Israeli occupation of the oPt

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
<p>Informed members of this target group who are able to influence Israeli policies based on shared values and support for Israel.</p>	<p>102 briefings/ tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills with key international stakeholders.</p> <hr/> <p>Maintain a frequent relationship with foreign policy makers.</p> <hr/> <p>Advocacy trips abroad to pre-identified target countries.</p> <hr/> <p>Advocacy campaign bringing attention to 50 years of settlements in Hebron.</p>	<p>Number of briefings and tours.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of meetings and participants in meetings conducted during advocacy trips abroad.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of recipients of international political newsletter distributed by BtS.</p> <hr/> <p>Advocacy campaign for 50 years of settlements in Hebron.</p>	<p>Reaching out to foreign public figures to introduce the organization</p> <hr/> <p>Leveraging opportunities to further develop existing relationships with diplomats.</p> <hr/> <p>Conducting regular tours and follow-up with the target group.</p> <hr/> <p>Networking to develop advocacy trips abroad.</p> <hr/> <p>Carrying out advocacy trips abroad</p> <hr/> <p>Preparations for exhibitions of soldiers who served in the oPt in parliaments worldwide to highlight 50 years of settlements in Hebron. (Possibly in Belgium, Denmark or the parliament of the European Union).</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing communication with contacts through mailing lists and personal correspondence.</p>	<p>102 tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills were conducted for 102 key international stakeholders.</p> <hr/> <p>102 meetings and briefings with 102 key international stakeholders.</p> <hr/> <p>102 advocacy contacts on the international political newsletter distributed by BtS.</p> <hr/> <p>> Advocacy tour was held in Brussels, Germany, U.S., Australia, Denmark and the Czech Republic.</p>

Objective 2

The international public is made more aware of the reality of the ongoing occupation and HR abuses in the oPt

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
International public is informed of HR abuses and reality of the occupation.	200 quality media items in foreign press.	Number of briefings and meetings.	Reaching out to foreign journalists stationed in Israel and abroad to introduce BtS and our work.	> Over 120 media items published on BtS activity.
Tools are made available to this TG to oppose the occupation.	Field tours and briefings to foreign journalists and editors.	Number of people who joined/ followed English Facebook and Twitter).	Conducting regular tours and briefings with the target group.	10 tours and briefings for 10 international journalists.
International public is motivated to oppose the policy of occupation.	Development of an ongoing frequent relationship with figures in the foreign media.	Quantity and quality of international media coverage based on BtS activity.	Carrying out English lectures and tours of Hebron and the South Hebron Hills.	1 contacts on the international journalists press release distribution list.
	70 English language tours and lectures conducted for the target group.	Number of recipients of the English newsletter distributed by BtS.	Producing English materials on BtS website, Facebook, and Twitter.	1 English tours and lectures for 102 general members of the public.
	Maintaining and expanding BtS online/ social presence in English.	Number of recipients of press releases distributed by BtS.	Coordination of tours to pre-identified countries.	1 recipients of BtS's English newsletter.
	Public campaign bringing attention to the 50th year of settlements in Hebron.		Development and carrying out public campaigns.	> There are 102 contacts on the international journalists distribution list.
	Additional public campaign based on one of the investigations completed by the Testimony Collection and Research Department.		International advocacy tours, promoting the book "Kingdom of Olives and Ash" marking 50 years of occupation.	> Book events for <i>Kingdom of Olives and Ash</i> in Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, and Australia

GOAL 3

Objective 3

To encourage diaspora Jewish communities to voice their opposition to the occupation

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
<p>Diaspora Jewish communities are informed of HR abuses and reality of the occupation.</p> <hr/> <p>Opposing the policy of occupation is legitimized in these communities through former soldiers who also speak out against the policy.</p> <hr/> <p>The spectrum of debate around the occupation is expanded in these communities.</p> <hr/> <p>The spectrum of debate around the occupation is expanded in these communities.</p> <hr/> <p>Tools are made available to this TG to oppose the occupation.</p>	<p>10 quality media items in Jewish press.</p> <hr/> <p>Participation in 2 Jewish community conferences globally.</p> <hr/> <p>70 lectures or tours to pre-identified organizations and target groups of the Jewish diaspora.</p> <hr/> <p>A group of young Jewish diaspora leaders are brought to a weeklong seminar in Israel and the oPt, learning about the occupation and the role played by the IDF.</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing work and relationship-building with Jewish new media outlets.</p>	<p>Quantity of quality news items in the Jewish press.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of participants in tours and lectures.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of tours and lectures.</p> <hr/> <p>Conference participation.</p> <hr/> <p>Internal debate raised in the communities in which we worked intensively.</p> <hr/> <p>Feedback from participants in conferences, tours, lectures, and briefings.</p> <hr/> <p>Quality and quantity of participants in a weeklong seminar for young Jewish diaspora leaders.</p>	<p>Conducting regular tours and follow up with the target group.</p> <hr/> <p>Organizing and carrying out lectures.</p> <hr/> <p>Participation in conferences abroad.</p> <hr/> <p>Identifying young leadership in diaspora communities and facilitating their participation in seminars led by the organization.</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing relationship with journalists and editors from Jewish online news outlets.</p> <hr/> <p>Speaking tour in the US with JstreetU at select universities.</p>	<p>> At least 34 quality news items in Jewish press.</p> <hr/> <p>> Participation in the Annual J Street Conference in D.C. and Limmud Australia.</p> <hr/> <p>102 g tours and lectures were provided to members of the Jewish diaspora.</p> <hr/> <p>> 10-day seminar for 15 young Jewish diaspora leaders from If Not Now.</p> <hr/> <p>> Month-long speaking tour to the U.S.</p>

GOAL 3

We continued our international advocacy in 2018, reaching out to both new and familiar audiences. Over the past year this included visits to Prague, Copenhagen, Brussels and Berlin, to meet with parliament members and decision makers abroad, in addition to hosting hundreds of partners, politicians, and diplomats visiting the region. The impact of carrying out field visits with journalists and public figures who visit the region also continues to grow. For example, visits to the field with the acclaimed journalists Roger Cohen and Donald Macintyre resulted in long think pieces in the [New York Times](#) and [Prospect](#), respectively. Likewise, tours to Hebron with popular German video-bloggers, Jung and Naiv, and a rising Danish actor, Victoria Carmen, resulted in [an hour long video-blog](#) and a trending Instagram post.

In addition, we continue to have great success with the media upon releasing new testimony collections, and journalists recognize the significance and unique nature of our testimonies. In this vein, [Le Monde](#) (French), [Cadenaser](#) (Spanish) and [Ara](#) (Catalan), among others, all extensively covered the launch of *Occupying Hebron*, with a focus on marking 50 years of the Israeli settlements in the city.

Avner Gvaryahu Appears on “Hard Talk”

A highlight of the media work carried out by the team was the appearance of Avner Gvaryahu on the hard hitting and well viewed BBC segment [Hard Talk](#) with journalist Stephen Sackur. “Hard Talk” is one of the most well-respected current affairs segments on television, and is known for asking difficult and controversial questions to world leaders and global public figures. Sackur’s interview explored whether BtS members are patriots or traitors. Avner took the opportunity to speak about his experiences in the field as an IDF soldier and BtS’s work, on this program that reaches millions of viewers globally.



Avner Gvaryahu on BBC Hard Talk

GOAL 3

Keeping the World's Eyes on the South Hebron Hills

Our long-term work with the Palestinian communities of the South Hebron Hills, along with ongoing briefings for policy makers, and tours that we conduct in this region of Area C, have all proven to be successful means of maintaining stability in the region and preventing the communities' displacement. Maintaining a media presence and interest in this area has been an integral part of this work. Among the ongoing work in touring journalists and arranging interviews, media outlets around the world were interested in covering important incidents in the South Hebron Hills that took place over the past year. This included swift coverage of demolitions in the South Hebron Hills by several European news outlets, among them the [NRC](#) (Dutch), [TAZ](#) (German), and [La Vanguardia](#) (Spanish and Catalan), when there was a spike in settler attacks against Palestinian children from Tuba on their daily walk to their nearby school.

Addressing the Situation in Gaza

After witnessing the shooting of live fire at the Gaza fence, it became clear that our amassed testimonies and analysis of the rules of engagement in Gaza over the past several years, has uniquely placed us in a position of knowledge on the current discourse about Gaza. Alongside the public campaign in Israel, we were approached by, and reached out to, international partners and media to sound our voice on this topic. The letter written by BtS testifiers and former members of sniper teams was widely published on platforms such as [The Guardian](#) (UK), [De Standaard](#) (Belgium), [Politiken](#) (Denmark), and [El Pais](#) (Spain). Additionally, BtS director of education and former sniper, Nadav Weiman, was interviewed and published in various international media outlets including [Sky News](#) (Britain), [Le Monde](#) (France), [Le Temps](#) (Switzerland), and [Politiken](#) (Denmark). Executive Director Avner Gvanyahu was also featured in the [Intercept](#) (U.S.), [BBC 4 Radio](#) (United Kingdom) and the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (Australia).

Kingdom of Olives and Ash around the World

Last year, in order to mark 50 years of occupation, we launched the book *Kingdom of Olives and Ash*, along with acclaimed international, Palestinian, and Israeli authors. This year, we continued to promote the book across the globe:

- > As part of the Cologne Literary Festival in March, authors Michael Chabon, Assaf Gavron and Eva Menasse spoke about their experience learning about the occupation and writing the book on a panel with former BtS Executive Director Dana Golan to an audience of over 250 people.
- > Contributors Assaf Gavron, Fida Jiryis, and Dana Golan also held events in Geneva, Zurich and Bremen in April, meeting a total of over 400 people.
- > BtS Co-director Yehuda Shaul and Irish author Ruth Gilligan spoke about the book to an audience of 85 people at the Dublin International Literature Festival, in an event organized by our partners Trocaire.
- > Executive Director Avner Gvanyahu and author Assaf Gavron launched the book in Australia, visiting Perth, Melbourne, and Sydney. They were joined by Australian author Geraldine Brooks at the Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival and the Sydney event, with over 700 people attending these events.

GOAL 3



Irish author Ruth Gilligan reads a passage of *Kingdom of Olives and Ash* with Yehuda Shaul.



Geraldine Brooks, Assaf Gavron and Avner Gvaryahu at the Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival

BtS and the Jewish Diaspora

Following years of working with the diaspora Jewish community, the past year specifically demonstrated some significant results as the narrative on the occupation has started to change within various progressive Jewish communities across the U.S. Among others, this included [an article published in the L.A. Times](#) by Rabbi Sharon Brous of the L.A. based Ikar Synagogue, explaining why she reluctantly took her 14-year-old daughter to Hebron on a tour with us and why, she was ultimately pleased that she did so. In addition, Rabbi Noa Kushner of a San Francisco based synagogue also gave [a moving Yom Kippur sermon](#) entitled "Whom Shall we Fear?" describing her experience on a BtS tour to Hebron, imploring her congregants not to relinquish the Jewish and Israeli symbols that settlers have co-opted as their own.

Working with Synagogues

Over the course of the past year, we have experienced a significant shift among progressive American Jewish communities and we have witnessed a new willingness to engage with questions on the occupation and cultivate authentic and honest connections with Israel. In light of this, leaders and congregants of progressive American synagogues are turning to us in search of a space to learn about, and ask difficult questions regarding Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

This year, for the first time, not only are progressive synagogues welcoming us in to speak to their congregants when we carry out speaking tours in the U.S., but some have also now begun bringing their congregants on tours to Israel, requesting to visit the oPt with BtS. This year alone we gave lectures to nine synagogues (reaching 800 people) and carried out

GOAL 3

six tours of Hebron for synagogue-led congregant delegations including [Congregation Beit Simchat Torah - CBST](#), Ikar, and Temple Emanu-el.

J Street Conference

As part of our ongoing work with the Palestinian communities in the South Hebron Hills and a strong partnership between BtS and the U.S. based advocacy group J Street, Nasser Nawaja, an activist from Susiya and long-term partner of BtS, was asked to be a keynote speaker at the J Street Conference, which took place in Washington DC this past April. The displacement of Palestinian communities in Area C was one of the main topics covered at the conference, with two panels designated specifically to the subject. On one of these panels our Executive Director Avner Gvaryahu, spoke together with Palestinian activist and BtS partner Eid Suleiman Hadaleen from the village of Umm al-Khair; foreign policy advisor for Senator Bernie Sanders, Matt Duss; and MK Michal Rozin, in front of over 200 attendees. Following the conference, 76 members of the House of Representatives signed a letter urging the Israeli prime minister not to demolish the villages of Susiya and Khan al-Ahmar.

In addition, Senator Bernie Sanders, who attended the J Street conference, made a groundbreaking speech concerning the occupation in Gaza. Shortly after the conference, Sanders [tweeted](#) parts of this speech together with statements and explanations by members of Israel's human rights community, including Avner Gvaryahu and BtS's Diaspora Coordinator Frima (Merphie) Bubis. The tweet received 437K views to date.



Nasser Nawaja speaks of the demolition threats facing his village, Susiya



Eid Suleiman Hadaleen, Avner Gvaryahu, MK Michal Rozin, and Matt Duss on a panel on home demolitions in Area C

GOAL 3

Working with Young Jewish Diaspora Leaders

As we witness shifts and changes within the U.S. Jewish community, younger generations are moving away from Israel, as they recognize the clash between their liberal progressive values and the truths of the occupation. However, there is a growing movement of young Jews, often those who grew up in summer camps and youth movements across North America, who are checking in, rather than out, of the debate and struggle on Israel and Palestine with their progressive values. One of the major groups leading this movement is If Not Now, which was established following the 2014 Israeli operation in Gaza, namely "Protective Edge." Since their establishment, leaders of If Not Now have sought out our knowledge and experiences to strengthen and inform their work.

This past March, we offered the group a means of further connecting and engaging with Israel, by hosting a group of 15 of their leading activists for a 10-day seminar. The seminar, led by BtS testifiers and guides, contained tours to Hebron, the South Hebron Hills, and the Ramallah area; tours to East Jerusalem with Ir Amim and Peace Now; a visit to the Ofer Prison with Military Court Watch; a tour to the Qalandiya Checkpoint with Machsom Watch; and meetings with Palestinian and Israeli activists, journalists, and human rights lawyers.

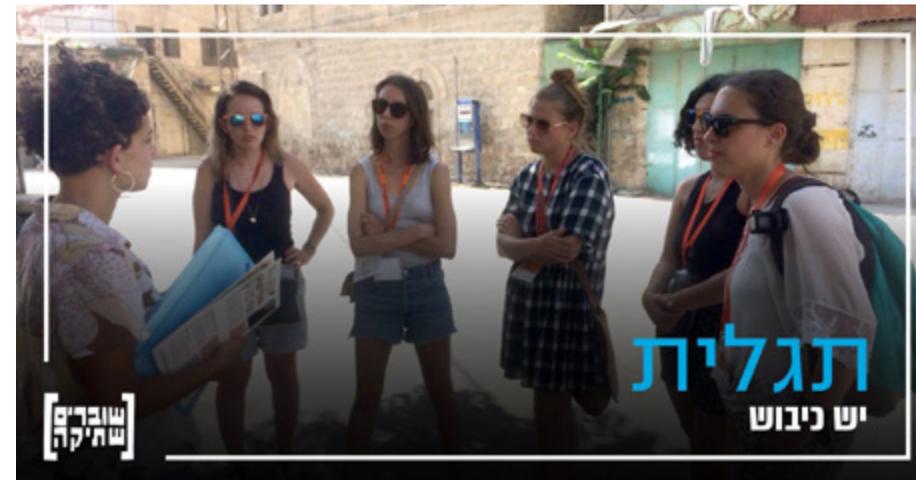
Connecting Birthright and the Occupation

10 2 g

Dissatisfied with the one-sided programming when asking about the rights of Palestinians and the occupation, the five young women decided to leave Birthright and join us for a tour of Hebron, to see the occupation

firsthand. Our tour gathered much media attention and was met with outrage from the right-wing in Israel and the Jewish diaspora, including MK and chairman of the Yesh Atid Party, Yair Lapid.

Understanding the importance of seeing the occupation firsthand, many public figures spoke out in support of us and the young American Jews, including American actor and comedian Sarah Silverman, who tweeted [this](#) article from the Intercept. The coverage of the walkoff by the online video platform [Now This](#) received over 3.8 million views on Twitter and Facebook, and former speaker of the Knesset and chairman of the Jewish Agency, Avrum Burg, also wrote [an article](#) in support of the walkout for the Forward. As winter Birthright delegations began in December, more walk-offs took place, as was covered in a [front page article in the L.A. Times](#). This new form of activism has now even led to [Birthright kicking participants off the program](#) when they raise questions about the occupation, in line with a new policy that prohibits participants from "[hijacking conversations](#)."



The five young women who left Birthright in Hebron

GOAL 3



If Not Now delegation visits the South Hebron Hills as part of their seminar

U.S. Campus Tour

In line with the organization's decision to focus on the U.S. Jewish community in 2018, Coordinator of Jewish Diaspora Merphie Bubis, and Director of Communications Achiya Schatz, spent two weeks conducting lectures and meetings on campuses and synagogues across the country in partnership with J Street U, the New Israel Fund, and Americans for Peace Now. During this tour we met with over 800 students across the country including Harvard Hillel and the Harvard Kennedy School, Berkeley, George Washington University, University of Chicago, [Penn Hillel](#), Tufts, Stanford, UCLA, and Columbia, as well as 600 members of synagogues and community groups as encapsulated in [this video](#). We were particularly excited to appear in the Hillel buildings, the leading Jewish student organization in the U.S., on four campuses, and to contribute to a vibrant conversation on Israel and the occupation.

New Israel Fund Australia

In June, BtS Executive Director Avner Gvaryahu, joined contributing authors to *Kingdom of Olives and Ash*, Geraldine Brooks and Assaf Gavron, for a book launch in Australia. The New Israel Fund Australia played a critical role in arranging lectures with local leaders from the Jewish communities in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne with Avner, Assaf, and Geraldine. The three also participated in a variety of media interviews to promote the book and engage people in a discussion on Israel and the occupation.

Despite significant pressure placed on various community organisations not to meet with Avner during his visit, leaders from Australian Zionist youth movements attended sessions and meetings with Avner and Limmud Oz programmed sessions with BtS. A strong relationship was forged with the New Israel Fund Australia, and important conversations on the occupation began in Australia. We wish to thank the New Israel Fund Australia for their dedicated work in arranging this tour and for the great outcomes of this visit.

GOAL 4

To ensure the ability of a value-based opposition to the occupation to operate within the reality of a shrinking democratic space in Israel

Objective 1

To provide a safe environment for BtS to carry out its mission

Objective 2

To cultivate a public and political environment more receptive to HR and anti-occupation messaging

Objective 1

To provide a safe environment for BtS to carry out its mission

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
Physical security of BtS offices and staff ensured.	10 2 g [redacted]	10 2 g [redacted]	10 2 g [redacted]	1 [redacted] 0 [redacted] 2 [redacted]
10 2 g [redacted]	Physical security services when required.	[redacted]	Security guards hired to secure office spaces and organizational activities when required.	9 [redacted]
Resources made available for all legal requirements of the organization's work.	Legal support when required.	[redacted]	10 2 g [redacted]	[redacted]
Support offered to BtS staff for their social and mental safety.	Mental health support sessions for staff.	Support solutions made available to staff.	[redacted]	> Staff continued to receive access to subsidized psychological support.
			[redacted]	1 [redacted] 0 [redacted]
			Lawyers and legal support procured and undertakes work together with BtS representatives.	
			Staff receive personal legal consultations, training and support, as required.	
			Support solutions offered to BtS staff for their social and mental safety.	
			10 2 g [redacted]	

Objective 2

To cultivate a public and political environment more receptive to HR and anti-occupation messaging

Outcomes & Target Groups

BtS is better prepared in the face of attacks and ongoing work of the organization is not suspended in the face of future attacks.

Attacks against the organization are leveraged as opportunities to sound our messages to the public through media and public appearances.

Cooperation between fellow HR organizations is advanced, to support the greater struggle against the occupation.

Outputs

Public campaigns (through traditional media, social media and other avenues).

Collaborative campaigns/events/support/messaging between civil society organizations.

Indicators

Number and impact of public campaigns carried out (indicators vary on characteristics of each campaign)

Development and participation in cross-organizational partnerships and initiatives.

Activities

Analysis of BtS's weaknesses.

Development of strategic campaigns based on analysis.

Coordination of cross-organizational partnerships, information sharing, and joint campaigns with fellow HR organizations.

Opposition research.

Developing strategic campaigns that help address challenges that the organizations are facing.

Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)

> 10 briefings on the shrinking democratic space in Israel for 10 participants.

GOAL 4

Over the past few years we have borne witness to an ever-shrinking democratic space in Israel, and attacks against those who dare to criticize the Israeli policy of occupation and the human rights abuses it entails. This has been carried out through a slew of attacks against civil society, artists, and anyone who speaks out about the occupation. BtS has been a primary target of these attacks. In late 2015, in its initial iterations, these attacks were largely expressed through politicians' inflammatory rhetoric and defamatory media reports fueled by pro-occupation organizations.

However, under the most right-wing government to date, 2018 has presented a new reality. We now understand that the previous years were only the prelude – they provided an opportunity for pro-occupation forces to prepare the Israeli public and international community for the more restrictive legislative silencing to come. Over the past year, pro-occupation bullies' threats against anti-occupation activists have turned into violence and politicians' rhetoric has turned into legislation.

This manifested itself with the passing of the "Breaking the Silence bill" and the attempted closure of Barbur Gallery in Jerusalem via court orders. In addition, the so-called "NGO Law," which was passed by the Knesset in July of 2016, came into effect in June of 2018. The legislation requires nonprofits that receive 50% or more of their funding from foreign governments to disclose that fact on all publications and public campaigns, and is directly designed to delegitimize anti-occupation civil society groups.

Amendment to the State Education Law: The "Breaking the Silence Law"

On July 17 the "Breaking the Silence bill," passed a second and third reading, which passed it into legislation. This law grants the minister of education absolute authority to prevent organizations or individuals from entering schools if they partake in activities that promote political action against the state of Israel or prosecution of IDF soldiers abroad.

In the lead-up to the passing of the law, we engaged in wide-scale advocacy work with MKs and other influential policy makers through emergency briefings and meetings with dozens of individuals. Nevertheless, 43 MKs voted for the law and 24 opposed. There were no abstentions. The law was initiated by MK Shuli Mualem of the Jewish Home party and MK Yair Lapid, chairman of Yesh Atid. All MKs on behalf of the Zionist Union, Meretz, and the Joint List, who were present at the vote objected to the law. Tzipi Livni, the head of the opposition, even gave an [impassioned speech in the Knesset](#) (Hebrew) against it, stating that, "This is a cowardly law, a law for the weak, a law that tries to push those who criticize out of Israeli society, because they're not capable of looking them in the eyes."

The far-reaching implications of the law lie primarily in the words added at the last-minute, which include organizations that act to promote "international political proceedings against the state of Israel." The term is so broad that it may apply to any institution, activist, or organization that has met with a member of parliament, foreign institution, or political body, having presented them with information, provided a lecture, or expressed their position – and within those contexts, promoted criticism of policies, including those that amount to condemnation or opposition to the Israeli government. The question of what exactly is considered "political activity against the State of Israel" will likely need to be clarified in court cases.

GOAL 4

The law, in its current form, will stifle human rights organizations' educational activities within the Israeli education system, and impose sanctions on anyone who does not present the official position of the Israeli government in foreign frameworks. The law is the most severe violation of freedom of expression on political grounds that exists under Israeli legislation.



Nadav Weiman, MK Michal Rozin and Avner Gvaryahu speak to high school students

Nevertheless, leading up to the law's passing, we continued to find ways to reach out to high school students despite the chilling effect the suggested bill had on high schools' willingness to meet with us. Earlier this year a class of 12th graders from the Harduf High School were scheduled to meet us in Hebron, following a meeting they coordinated with the settlers. While they were allowed to go to Hebron to meet with the settlers, the Ministry of Education forbade them from meeting BtS in Hebron. Nonetheless, we were able to meet with these students during a visit they had at the Knesset, in a meeting along with students from another high school, the Gymnasia Herzliya. In this meeting, we talked to the students about the realities of the occupation, highlighting our new testimony collection

Why I Broke the Silence. MKs Michal Rozin, Mossi Raz, Ilan Gilon, and Ayman Odeh also came to support us and speak to the students.

In October, several months after the law was passed, we met with students at the Tichonet High School in Tel Aviv among 20 other civil society organizations that were invited to speak to the students to mark Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Day. Avner Gvaryahu spoke with dozens of students who chose to attend the session and it marked the first time since the passing of the law that we met with students on the premises of a high school.

In addition, we met with multiple groups of high school students for lectures in their private homes over the course of the year. In one case, the teenage participants of one of these lectures even published [an inspiring op-ed](#) (Hebrew) on Ynet asking the education minister what he is scared of that prompts him to try and silence BtS. Our interactions with high school students in the first half of 2018 and following the passing of law continue to prove that Israeli youth will demand to know the truth about the occupation and the legislation will not prevent us from speaking to Israeli high-school students.



Avner Gvaryahu meeting with students from Tichnoet High School

Shutting Down Barbur Gallery

This January, following a year long battle with the Jerusalem municipality, [the Magistrate Court ruled that Barbur Gallery would need to vacate its premises](#). The judge conceded that the municipality's decision was based on political motives after they hosted a lecture by BtS in early 2017, stating: "It is crystal clear that the consideration at the basis of the demand is that the municipality is uncomfortable with the type of expressions there." Nevertheless, he ruled in favor of the municipality. Legal representatives have appealed this decision on behalf of Barbur Gallery.

Physical Assaults Against BtS Guides

Over the past year, the intensification of attacks against the organization have manifested through physical attacks against BtS staff and affiliated activists. This happened on several occasions over the past year. In July, settlers threw a can of paint at BtS Jewish Diaspora Coordinator Merphie Bubis in the city center of Hebron while she was conducting a tour. Days later, a right wing activist hit Co-director Yehuda Shaul in the face in the city center of Hebron. In response, we reached out to several media platforms that released articles covering the incidents. In addition, we initiated a large scale tour for the public to see the city, and to demonstrate that these attacks would not deter the organization from visiting the city. Roughly 100 people attended the tour and Meretz MKs Tamar Zandberg, Mossi Raz, and Michal Rozin, joined in solidarity.



MK Tamar Zandberg (Meretz) on a tour to Hebron following settler violence against BtS staff in the city

Roughly around the same time, [Ta'ayush activists were assaulted by settlers](#) from the unauthorized outpost of Mitzpe Yair in the South Hebron Hills, leaving four activists hospitalized. In response, we arranged for a large scale tour to the South Hebron Hills. The aim of the tour was, as always, to see the reality of the occupation and learn about it, as well as to show our support for the Ta'ayush activists who were violently attacked the previous weekend. About 120 people from all over Israel joined the tour, including public figures and MKs who all lent their voices of support. The tour, however, was cut short when security forces blocked us from our

GOAL 4

regular lookout point next to the Mitzpe Yair outpost where they produced a “closed military zone order” that was issued that morning for the purposes of restricting the BtS tour. They also detained Avner Gvaryahu, our executive director; Achiya Schatz, our director of communications; and Michael Sfar, our legal advisor and a renowned human right lawyer, for three hours, when they attempted to ask questions about the newly released military order.



Avner Gvaryahu and Achiya Schatz being detained in the South Hebron Hills

There was a flurry of media in response to the blocking of the tour and detainments including a [Haaretz editorial](#) covering the systematic attacks against BtS asserting that, “The systematic escalation in the persecution of Breaking the Silence should keep all Israeli democrats awake at night.” In addition to [an op-ed written by Avner Gvaryahu](#) and published on the mainstream newsite Ynet, many partner organizations graciously came to our support and included an article by the New Israel Fund’s Vice

President for Public Engagement Libby Lenkinski in [+972 Magazine](#), and press releases on the incidents in solidarity by [J Street](#), [Tru’ah](#), and [Human Rights Watch](#).

Attempts to Restrict BtS From Reaching Israeli Audiences

Lecture in Shilat

In April we were invited by members of the community to provide a lecture at a local retirement home in Moshav Shilat. Some members of the community protested the event, and the head of the regional council, Shimon Sussan, threatened to withdraw funding from the home. At the time of the lecture, the head of Shilat’s municipality, Amos Velinsky, shut off electricity throughout the entire Moshav for an hour, in attempt to turn the lights off at the event’s venue. The BtS lecturer and the 30 people in attendance decided to continue the lecture in the dark. The events were covered by [Channel 10 News](#) (Hebrew).

Tel Hai University

In May we were invited by students at Tel Hai College to provide a lecture on campus. Over 150 students attended the lecture, in addition to a group of right-wing activists who attended in order to disrupt the speakers. When they were asked to leave the lecture hall, the right wing activists stationed themselves at the exit of the parking lot, and at the conclusion of the lecture inspected passing cars for “leftists” who attended the lecture and attacked, egged, and blocked a car with three students who were recognized as having attended the lecture. [Channel 2 News](#) (Hebrew) aired video footage of the attack that was filmed by the students in the car. This event further demonstrates the influence of shrinking democratic

GOAL 4

space on all public spaces, including academic institutions. In spite of this incident, we have continued to hold lectures and set-up information booths at universities across the country.

Haifa International Film Festival

Minister of Culture Miri Regev, called on the finance minister to cut state funding for the Haifa International Film Festival, which included two short Israeli films about the occupation. One of them was a film written and directed by a BtS testifier and former staff member, Alon Sahar. The film was based on Sahar's own experiences working at BtS during a time in which pro-occupation activists were sent into the organization to spy on us. Regev's threats led up to her campaign to pass the "Loyalty in Culture bill," which would have all artists sign a "loyalty clause" to the state before receiving state-funding. The bill was overruled in the final hour when the finance minister, the leader of the Kulanu party, allowed his party members to each vote as they saw fit, breaking majority support for the bill.

Slander in the Press

Israel Hayom Accuses BtS of Prosecuting Israeli Soldiers in the ICC

Earlier this year, Israel Hayom printed a front page article based on a report by NGO Monitor, accusing BtS and our partners Yesh Din and Physicians for Human Rights of prosecuting individual soldiers in the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, through a joint project funded by the European Union. This blatant lie is based on a mistranslation of the sentence, "Yesh Din has worked to identify and address systemic failures in the military administrative and judicial procedures that stand in the way of access to justice for Palestinians," used in a project proposal to the EU. The NGO Monitor report and the journalist reinterpreted that sentence, "to

identify and find the address of" the individual soldiers, in order to promote their prosecution overseas. Despite the blatant lie behind this statement, Minister of Culture Miri Regev jumped on the bandwagon and used this report to attack us in Israel Hayom the following day, fanning the flames of incitement against BtS.

Australian Jewish News Forced to Retract Claims Made by "My Truth" Against BtS

The Australian Jewish News (AJN), the most widely read Jewish news source in Australia, was co-opted by "My Truth," an ultra nationalist, pro-occupation organization, when they agreed to publish an op-ed by a member of "My Truth," ahead of Avner Gvaryahu's visit to the country. The author of the article falsely claimed he served "shoulder to shoulder" with Avner throughout his IDF service in an attempt to debunk remarks made in an interview Avner gave to the newspaper a week earlier, to defame his name leading up to his visit. After checking the facts, the AJN understood that the author of the op-ed only trained together with Avner during their initial army training period, without spending one day together in active duty in the occupied territories, rendering his account irrelevant.

Israel Hayom Makes Absurd Accusations About BtS and TIPH Coordination in Hebron

Yet again, Chief Diplomatic Correspondent of Israel Hayom, Ariel Kahana, published absurd accusations against BtS. This time, the paper reported that BtS works in close coordination with TIPH (Temporary International Presence in Hebron, namely an international observation mission established by five countries and led by Norway, with a mandate to monitor the Hebron Protocol) in arranging briefings and tours in Hebron. This article is part of

GOAL 4

a campaign, initiated by Hebron-based settlers, that aims to defame TIPH and have them expelled from the region.

Attempts to Silence BtS Through the Legal System

SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) cases are a tool commonly used by Israeli pro-occupation organizations to swamp their opponents with legal fees and work, in order to divert and distract them from their aims. BtS has already been threatened with two such cases in the past few years, and was compelled to address one that reached the courts in the first half of 2018.

This case was submitted by pro-occupation activist, Shamai Glick, who over the past several years has incessantly taunted, attacked, and verbally abused BtS staff and volunteers, along with a variety of other human rights and anti-occupation NGOs. Earlier this year, Glick filed a defamation suit against the BtS for calling him a “troll who spreads lies” in a statement responding to an article he had published against the organization. There is no doubt that Glick pursued this case in attempt to distract BtS staff from their work, and divert funds into a legal battle that he had no chance of winning. Eventually, Glick was compelled to withdraw the suit in July of 2018, and the court demanded that he pay BtS a symbolic fee to contribute to the legal fees incurred.

In parallel we have been contending with an additional legal case over the past year. Over two years ago, the pro-occupation organization, “Ad Kan,” claimed that BtS collects state secrets after sending a mole to provide a false testimony on his service with the aim of sharing classified information with the organization. Not only did we identify that the information was

classified, but also that the testifier was not who he said he was. We took the story to the media, yet “Ad Kan” proceeded to file a complaint with the police demanding that they open an investigation against BtS for collecting classified information. The case was dismissed earlier this year, but Ad Kan has appealed the decision via the Supreme Court. We are currently waiting for Attorney General Mandelblit to declare the state’s position regarding this case.

Detaining and Expelling Activists at Ben Gurion Airport

Over the past couple years, we have witnessed a growing trend of detaining and even expelling non-Jewish foreign activists at Ben Gurion Airport. In 2018 the Shin Bet Security Service extended this policy to apply to members of the Jewish diaspora visiting Israel who are opposed to the occupation. This July, ^{10 2 e} [REDACTED] was detained at Ben Gurion Airport by Shin Bet officials for a “cautionary conversation” because of his involvement in left-wing organizations. ^{10 2 e} [REDACTED] was asked about his involvement in several anti-occupation organizations, including BtS, during his two hour questioning. In response to the wave of detainments and the practice of turning away activists arriving at Ben Gurion airport, former Meretz chairwoman, Zehava Galon, wrote a stirring op-ed [published in Haaretz](#).

“Know Your Rights” Legal Workshop on the Rights of Detainees

In May, Alma Biblash, director of the Human Rights Defenders Fund, provided BtS staff with a “know your rights” legal workshop in the case of detention or arrest. In this seminar, we learned about how the army and police are authorized to act and received recommendations on how

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to respond in the case of detention or arrest. In light of the shrinking democratic space in Israel and our frequent interactions with the army and police, especially in Hebron, we felt it was important to empower our employees with knowledge on how to navigate these situations to the best of their abilities.

Staff Group Processing Sessions
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GOAL 5

To strengthen BtS's organizational capacity

Objective 1

BtS staff members and activists acquire the skills and knowledge needed to effectively implement the organization's work

Objective 2

Organizational memory and data are preserved and leveraged. Ability to track activities is enhanced

Objective 3

BtS's financial sustainability is strengthened through a strong and diverse funding base

Objective 4

Diverse and strong political and managerial leadership is developed and implemented to guide the organization

Objective 5

Trainings, evaluation mechanisms, regulations, and materials for tours and lectures, are developed for organizational use

GOAL 5

Objective 1

BtS staff members and activists acquire the skills and knowledge needed to effectively implement the organization's work

Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)
A skilled staff body on topics relating to BtS's work.	Each department will take part in 3 professional training sessions.	Number of training sessions carried out successfully	Enrichment activities for the staff on an ongoing basis.	> 4 new staff members, including director of education, recruited.
Professionalized and skilled staff each trained in their specialized field of work (collection and research, education, advocacy and communications).	Staff recruitment and new training as necessary (at least one new researcher, director of education).	Staff participation and involvement in learning sessions on the global civil rights movement.	10 2 e [REDACTED]	> 15 enrichment sessions for all staff carried out.
A well-educated staff body on global historic human and civil rights struggles.	Staff training (for old staff) as required.	Feedback from staff and activists taken after educational meetings.	Professional development sessions designed specifically for each department.	> Sexual harassment seminar with expert from Layla Tov, an organization working for safety in work and public spaces.
A well-educated staff body on local issues relating to the occupation and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.	Annual week-long seminar on an HR struggle.		Staff-wide seminar on Hebron and South Hebron Hills.	1 0 [REDACTED]
	Enrichment sessions for all staff.		Training guides for advanced lecture on our book "Our Harsh Logic."	> Staff-wide seminar on the South Hebron Hills.
	Two new guides trained to provide the "Our Harsh Logic" book lecture.			> 68 feedback sessions with tour guides and lecturers.

Objective 2

Organizational memory and data are preserved and leveraged. Ability to track activities is enhanced

Outcomes & Target Groups

Updated policies and protocols for each department are in place and implemented within the organization.

Evaluation mechanisms for internal organizational activity are in place and implemented on a regular basis.

The capacity of the testimony database is constantly upgraded and updated to ensure its technical relevance.

Increase in organizational capacity to process and publish testimonies.

Increase in organizational capacity to forge and maintain relationships with contacts/colleagues.

Outputs

Policies and protocols.

Upgraded CRM system.

Upgraded testimony database.

Indicators

Internal contact management system up-to = date with organizational contacts utilized on a regular basis.

A cutting edge testimony database in use.

Contact management and testimony databases are respectively used to enhance BtS's work.

Activities

Updating policies and protocols.

Improvement and utilization of organizational evaluation mechanisms.

Development and maintenance of internal contacts management system.

Continue to develop mechanisms for ongoing summaries and evaluations of all BtS activities.

Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)

> Up-to-date internal contact management system utilized on a regular basis.

> A cutting edge testimony database in use.

> Contact management and testimony databases are respectively used to enhance BtS's work.

Objective 3

financial sustainability is strengthened through a strong and diverse funding base

Outcomes & Target Groups

Stable annual income that covers planned budget.

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[Redacted]

Outputs

Income generated by strong and committed private donor base.

Income generated by committed institutional donors.

Enhancement of strong, long-term partnerships.

Initiation of new partnerships and relationships with diverse donors on an ongoing basis.

Income generated from activities, book sales, and private donors.

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[Redacted]

Indicators

Income covers annual budget.

Number of long-term partnerships.

Number and diversity of new funders.

Number and amount contributed by private donors.

Activities

Maintaining relationships with current long-term partners.

Enhancing current partnerships to ensure their continuation.

Initiating relationships with new potential funders.

Developing income-generating activities.

Developing relationships with private donors.

Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)

> Maintenance of 19 long-term partnerships

> 3 new partners were established in 2018.

Objective 4

Diverse and strong political and managerial leadership is developed and implemented to guide the organization

Outcomes & Target Groups

A strong and active board of directors comprised of men and women.

Ongoing political dialogue between the board of directors, staff, activists and selected organizational supporters.

Outputs

6-10 board meetings annually.

2 meetings between board and the staff annually.

A 2-3 day long seminar for senior staff members and the board.

Indicators

Existence of a diverse and active board.

Number of board meetings a year.

Quality and quantity of meetings between board, staff, and activists.

Activities

Identifying candidates and reaching out to new board members (with an emphasis on the recruitment of women for the board of directors).

Conducting meetings and social gatherings between the board of directors, staff, activists, and supporters.

Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)

> 11 board meetings have taken place.

> 3-day seminar for communications staff.

> 1 meeting between the board and the staff.

GOAL 5

Objective 5

Trainings, evaluation mechanisms, regulations, and materials for tours and lectures, are developed for organizational use

Outcomes & Target Groups

High quality educational activities.

Trained staff.

Ongoing development and evaluation of educational activities as based on the handbook and policies devised.

Outputs

Updated handbooks of educational activities, policies, and procedures.

Robust evaluation techniques.

Thorough and rapid training curriculums and processes.

Indicators

Updated handbook for each educational activity developed by BtS.

Evaluation documents.

Activities

Ongoing and frequent evaluation of tour guiding and lecture activities.

Ongoing development of educational content to be used by BtS staff.

Regular updates of handbook for educational activities (lectures and tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills, as well as the exhibition).

Actual Execution (Jan-Dec)

> 3 guides have completed their training for the South Hebron Hills tour, and one more has started training.

Organizational Structure and Staff

One of the most crucial areas of work for the organization over the past few years has involved bolstering and developing the team and BtS's organizational structures. In order to rise to the challenge of a shifting reality for Israeli democracy, and the ongoing attacks against BtS, the organization needed to adapt. In this vein, in 2018, we developed a new Advocacy Department, which we hope to develop in the coming year, led by long-time BtS testifier and staff member Nadav Weiman. In order to avail Nadav for this leadership position, we recruited a new director of education, Rebecca Strober. Becca served in the army as a shooting instructor and is an experienced educator who is set to professionalize and develop the education department. The education department was further strengthened by a second recruit, Tal Sagi, who commenced training as a lecturer and tour guide in mid-December. During her military service, Tal served in the Education Corps and in Hebron, where she was regularly required to provide tours to soldiers visiting the city.

Earlier in the year, 10 2 e also joined the organization as 10 2 e and Chagit Lyssy assumed her position as resource development officer. As mentioned above, Shay Daniely was recently recruited as an interviewer and will start his training on January 1. We are very excited to welcome aboard this new cohort of staff.

Staff Training

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[Redacted]

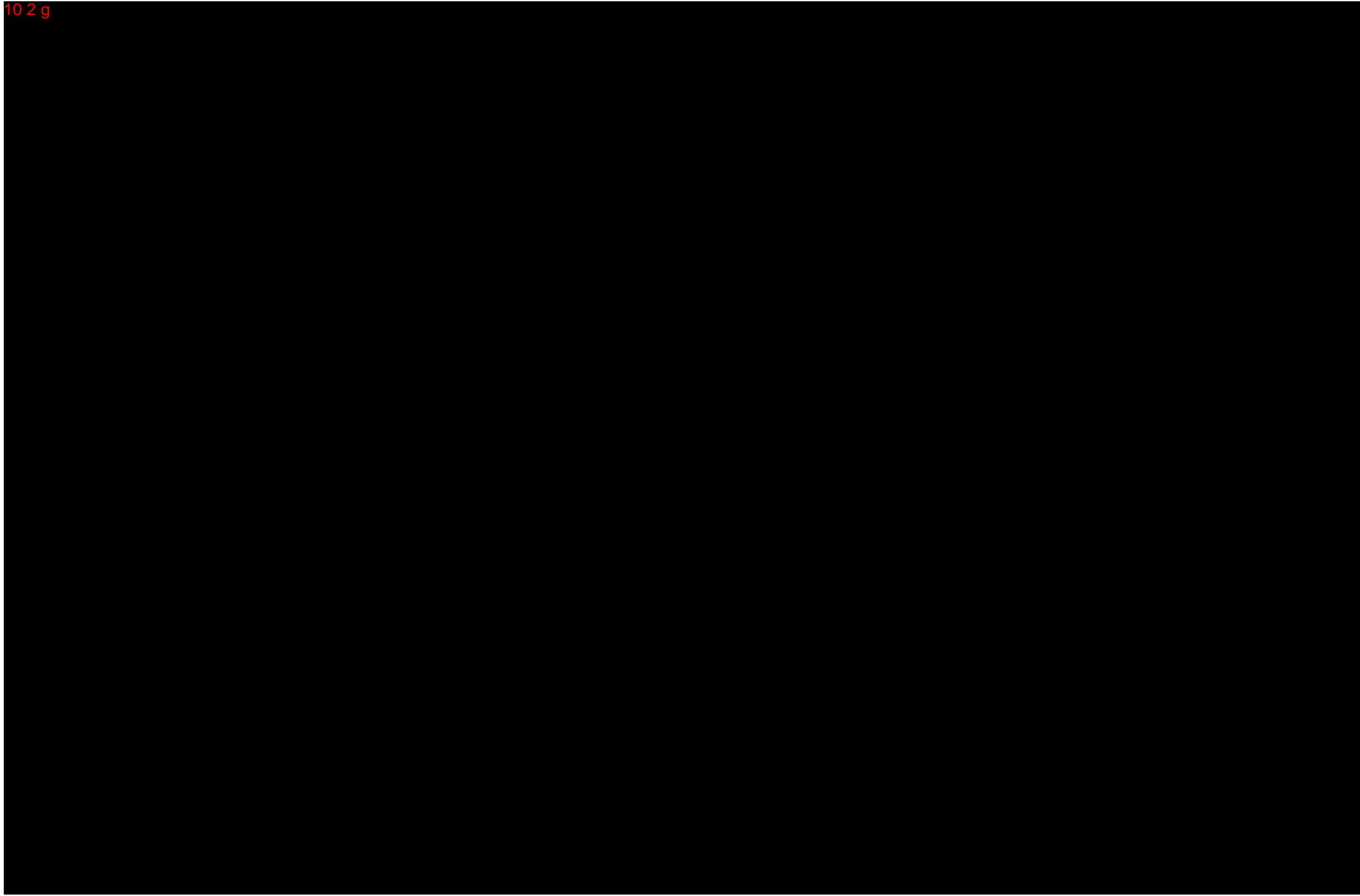
Training Staff to Provide Educational Lectures

Over the course of the past year, Ori Givati was trained to provide his own personal lecture. Such lectures cater toward introductory session for groups and individuals, including the personal story of the person providing the lecture as well as an introductory analysis of the occupation through use of a series of testimonies gathered by BtS. The lecture is often relevant to people who have not yet been on a tour with BtS. Ori will complete this training in early 2019, and join other BtS staff members in providing this lecture to educational groups.

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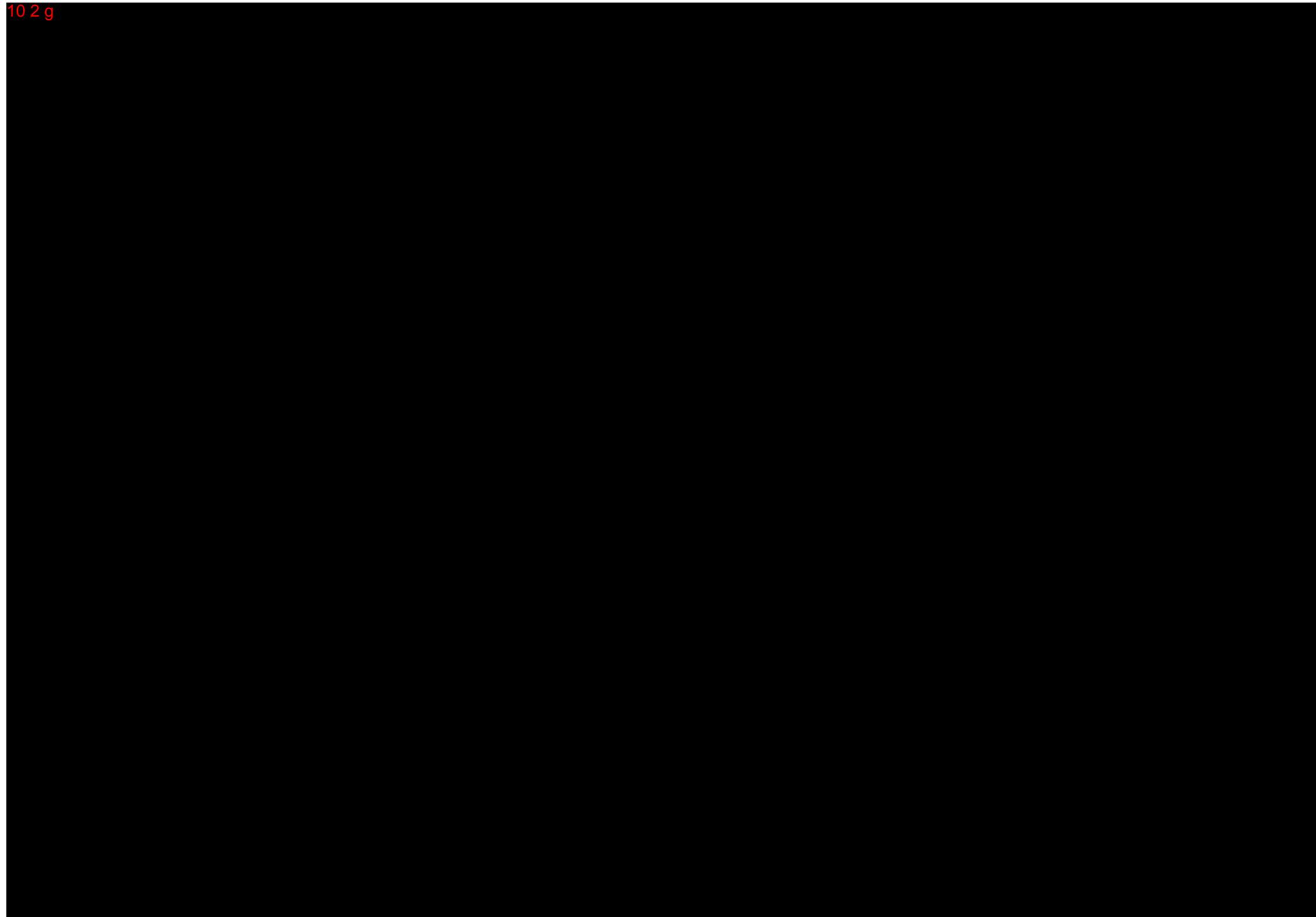
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[Media Review]

International Media Coverage of *Kingdom of Olives and Ash*

- A book review on the [Swiss national radio SRF](#), including an interview with Ayelet Waldman.
- An interview with Assaf Gavron and Fida Jiryis in German in the [Linke Zürcher Zeitung](#).

Other Media Pieces

- Ynet, [a profile on Frima \(Merphie\) Bubis](#) in cooperation with the New Israel Fund (Hebrew).
- Washington Post, [After a killing, an Israeli soldier and an Arab family confronted justice](#).
- Washington Post, [Contentious nation-state law declaring Israel the Jewish homeland approved by lawmakers](#), on the nation-state law and the 'Breaking the Silence bill.'
- Social TV, [Co-Resistance in the South Hebron Hills](#).
- Washington Post, [Israel's use of fatal fire in Gaza: Excessive force or justified mob control?](#).

Coverage of BtS Tours to Hebron

- Coverage of European parliament members touring Hebron, by [Euro EFE](#) the Spanish branch of the European media platform Euroactiv.
- Homeland, a report on Israel-Palestine, including a segment on Hebron on Basque television [EITB](#).
- Swedish coverage of our tour in [Sydsvenskan](#).
- Article on the Australian Jewish news website [J-Wire](#), on the New Israel Fund's Naomi Chazan fellows' tour to Hebron.

Coverage of Attacks on BtS Tour Guides in Hebron

- +972 Magazine, [Birthright walk-offs get a taste of settler violence in Hebron, on the attack against Merphie](#).
- Times of Israel, [Right-wing activist arrested for punching Breaking the Silence guide in Hebron, on the attack against Yehuda](#).

Op-eds published by BtS staff and testifiers locally and internationally

- Ha'aretz, [The Big Lie: How Apologists for Israel's Occupation Justify Killing Unarmed Palestinian Protesters](#), Dean Issacharoff.
- Ha'aretz, [An Honest and Brave Reckoning Must Occur Before the Next Round of Violence Is Upon Us](#), Avner Gvaryahu.
- Ha'aretz, [If You Don't Speak Out Now](#), Avner Gvaryahu.
- Ha'aretz, [The New Capital of Israel](#), Avner Gvaryahu.
- Ha'aretz (Hebrew), [Dean Issacharoff](#) on the personal price of breaking the silence.
- Ha'aretz (Hebrew), [Yehuda Shaul](#) and Dror Etkes on the settler movement's war on the rule of law and the Israeli court system.
- +972 Magazine, [As long as occupation exists, soldiers will continue to speak out](#), Avner Gvaryahu.
- +972 Magazine, [As a woman and ex-soldier, my struggle isn't just against occupation](#), Frima (Merphie) Bubis.
- +972 Magazine, [American Jewish anti-occupation advocacy needs to go global](#), Frima (Merphie) Bubis.
- Jerusalem Post, [Support of the Occupation causes rift with the Diaspora](#), Dean Issacharoff.
- Op-ed on Ahed Tamimi, Yehuda Shaul published in [De Standaard](#) (Flemish), [Politiken](#) (Danish), [Libération](#) (French), [El Diario](#) (Spanish) and [Walla](#) (Hebrew).
- Sikha Mekomit (Hebrew), Ido Even-Paz on the silencing criticism against the occupation in the education system.
- Haoketz (Hebrew), [Ido Even-Paz](#) on the publication of further recordings by the infiltrators.
- Ynet (Hebrew), [Avner Gvaryahu](#) on his detention and the occupation being hidden from the public.
- The Forward, [Liberal Jews and Israelis must stand together against Trump and Netanyahu](#), Jill Jacobs and Avner Gvaryahu.
- Plus 61 J, [How BtS strikes the Diaspora nerve: 'But why do you have to speak abroad?'](#), Kate Rosenberg.

[Staff & Board Members]

BOARD

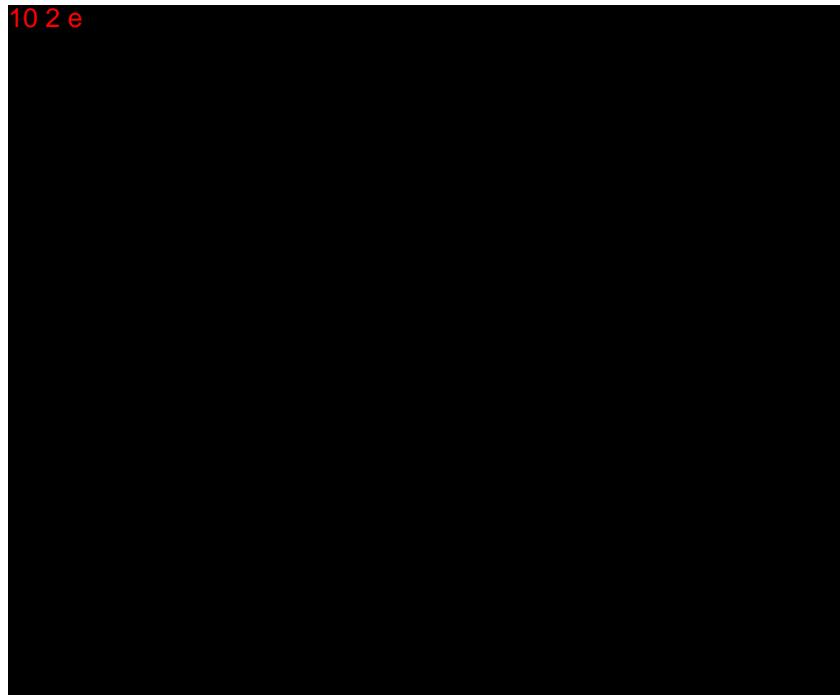
Miki Kratsman – Chairperson – Director of the Photography Department, Basis School of Art and lecturer in photography at the Bezalel Art Academy

Avi Mograbi – Independent Film Director and Journalist.

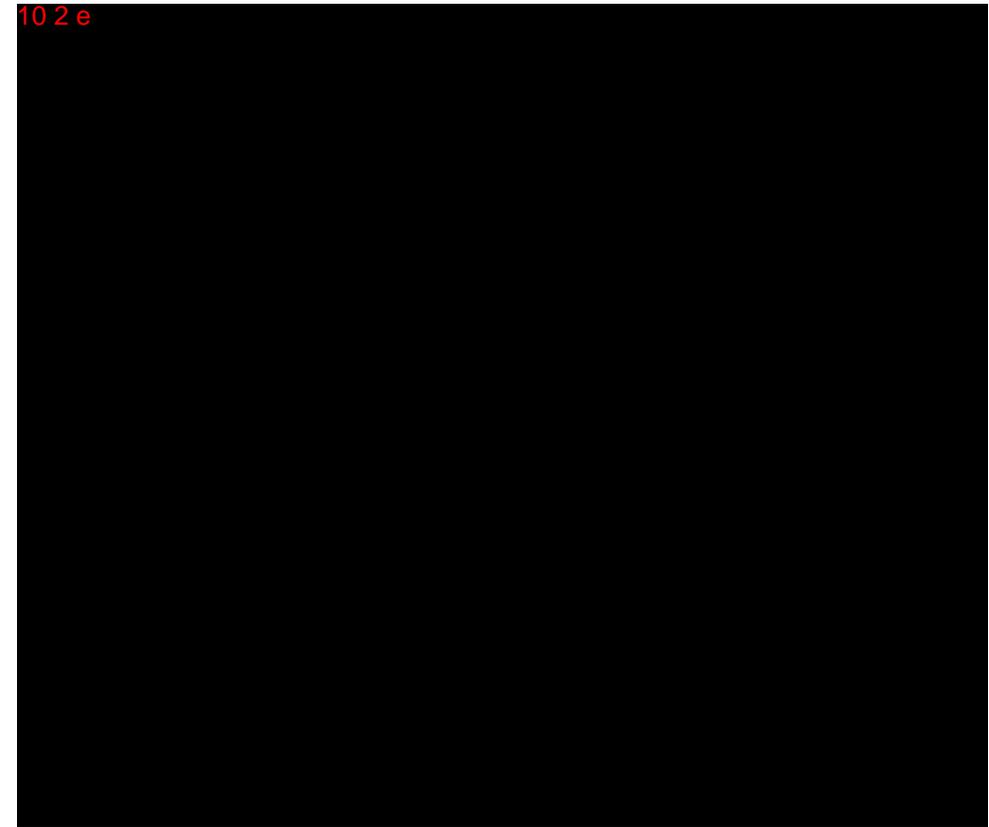
Prof. Ishay Rosen Zvi – an Associate Professor and the Head of the Talmud and Late Antiquity section in the department of Hebrew Culture Studies at Tel-Aviv University, where he teaches Talmudic literature and culture.

Adva Selzer – Educator and teacher at the Herzliya Gymnasium, Tel Aviv.

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THANK YOU

to all of our partners: Bertha Foundation, Broederlijk Delen, CAFOD, CCFD – Terre Solidaire, Dan Church Aid, Die Schwelle, Foundation for Middle East Peace, medico international, Misereor, Moriah Fund, New Israel Fund, Open Society Foundation, Pro Victimis, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Sigrid Rausing Trust, SIVMO, Swiss Foreign Ministry, The Delegation of the European Union to Israel, Trocaire, Dutch Representative Office in Ramallah, Danish Representative Office in Ramallah.



Mid-Year Report
2018

August 2018

"They were Arabs, and as far as I was concerned, they lost all human form. I think that's one of the main problems of the occupation, and I think that's an excellent reason for those who took part in it to break the silence so that people will really know where they're sending their children."

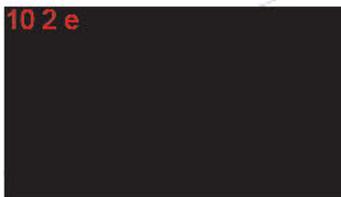
Dear friends and partners,

This is the testimony of a Lieutenant from the Artillery Corps, in answer to the question of why he broke the silence. His response, as well as those of other soldiers who served in the Occupied Territories between the Second Intifada and today, are published in our new collection entitled *Why I Broke the Silence*. It reflects on the core of Breaking the Silence (BtS): we, who saw what we saw, and did what we did in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), must speak out and make sure the Israeli public knows what is done in their name. Right now, at a time when the government is doing all it can to silence and delegitimize us, it has become even more crucial to collect testimonies and educate Israelis and internationals alike about the pain, violence, and suffering caused by occupation.

Fifty years ago, this past April, settlers rented rooms at a hotel in Hebron for Passover, refusing to leave the city once the holidays were over, and proclaiming a new settlement. This marked the starting point of a new reality in the oPt - ever expanding Israeli settlements and the entrenchment of the occupation. For this reason, we planned a large-scale campaign focusing on Hebron for 2018. Everything was set up and ready to launch, this past May, when the use of live ammunition at the fence separating Gaza from Israel, the injuries and deaths of Gazans became impossible for us to ignore. Given the vast numbers of soldiers who have come to us with testimonies about Gaza from over the years, we cannot remain silent on the topic of Gaza and the unique manifestation of occupation over the Gaza Strip. So, mere days before the launch event for our Hebron campaign, we made the choice to shelve the campaign and launch a spontaneous campaign on Gaza. I am very proud that our organization is strong enough to actualize a successful campaign on such short notice - it is a true testament to our organizational capacity and the professionalism of our staff.

The past half year has not been an easy one for us and our partners in the Israeli anti-occupation camp. The legislation that was past trying to ban BtS from schools is part of a larger phenomenon including the Nation State Law, the Boycott Law and the NGO law, which all point to the shrinking democratic space in Israel. But these, like the societal pressures faced by over 1,100 soldiers who have provided testimonies to Breaking the Silence over the years, will not stop us from continuing to break our silence. Only an end to the occupation will achieve that.

We are grateful to have friends and partners like you, who support us and stand with us through these challenging times. I hope you will find the following report of interest. I believe we have achieved no small amount of work over the past half year. Thank you, as always, for your dedicated support.



Avner Gvaryaahu
Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

Goal 1: To produce materials based on soldiers' testimonies about the nature of Israel's occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).

Objective	Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-June)
<p>Objective 1: An up to date internet-based testimony database that provides access to soldiers' testimonies on IDF activities in the oPt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target audiences are exposed to the everyday realities of the occupation and the human rights violations it implies. <p>TG: All target groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trained team of interviewers who undergo regular professional development. Professional and effective work processes for the department. <p>TG: BtS Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 interviews with soldiers are conducted and made accessible to the public via the database. 10 interviews fact-checked and uploaded into database. 10 testimonies are translated into English and made available on the database. 1 interviewers are trained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Interviews conducted, testimonies produced and are available on the database in Hebrew and English. Interviews conducted within the years and covering the diversity previously defined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with soldiers who have served in the oPt within the past 5 years are conducted. Fact checking and processing of interviews undertaken. Uploading testimonies from the interviews to the database. Each of these interviews will be processed within a 4-month period from the date of the interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 interviews with soldiers who served in the oPt within the past 5 years have been conducted. 10 testimonies from the interviews were uploaded to the database and published. 1 interviewer concluded training.
<p>Objective 2: Production of Testimony Collections that shed light on specific military practices and events in the oPt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BtS materials collated in an accessible format together with BtS analysis of IDF operational methods, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of a testimony book about Hebron to mark 50 years of the Israeli settlement in Hebron. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of collections produced 10 2 g [redacted] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting interviews with soldiers on specifically identified topics or events. Managing ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting interviews with soldiers who served in Hebron over the past 5 years. Publication of a booklet of

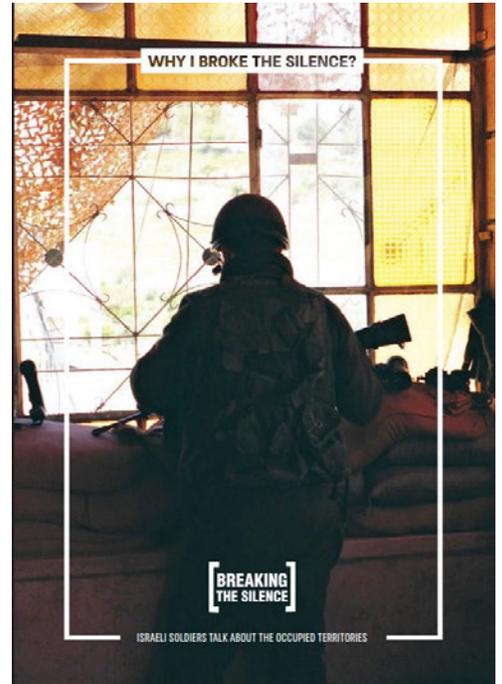
Testimony Collection Published: Why I broke the Silence

In January 2018, we released “Why I broke the Silence,” a brand new booklet of testimonies shared by soldiers who served in the occupied territories from the Second Intifada up until the present-day.

The attacks made on the organization over the past two years were carried out with the intention of deterring us from exposing the reality of what takes place in the occupied Palestinian territories. But it also provided an opportunity to highlight the faces behind our testimonies and, amid these attacks, the reasoning behind people’s choice to break their silence, took on an additional importance.

Traditionally, at the conclusion of every interview we conduct with former soldiers, we pose the question: “What has led you to break your silence?” which often gives way to a reflection by the soldier, of his or her process of coming to terms with what the occupation is, and the role they played in implementing it. Interviewers in the Testimony Collection and Research Department therefore presented the idea of focusing on the answers to this question as a means of showcasing the personal stories behind the testifiers to the public, and the reason they chose to break their silence.

The Testimony Collection and Research Department worked hard to filter through hundreds of past testimonies and conducted serious editing work to create a varied collection of testimonies resulting in the publication of testimonies from fifteen soldiers. In addition to the answer to the question of why they broke their silence, we published one additional testimony from each of the soldiers, to provide an example of the types of activities in which he or she was involved as a soldier. Despite the fact that they served at different times between the years 2001 and 2017, in different units and in different regions, together, these testimonies demonstrate a commonality for reasons in breaking their silence.



IDF collects Palestinians' personal details for 'big data' use

The consistent collection of soldiers’ testimonies, provide us with a unique and real-time ability to identify new behaviours and trends on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territories. This year, we identified a new army practice - As part of its surveillance of public spaces, we heard, through testimonies collected, of soldiers setting up ‘flying checkpoints’ in the occupied Palestinian territories and collecting personal details of Palestinians including their name, age, telephone number, identification number, type of vehicle and license number. We understood that Palestinians were also being required to hand over a photocopy of their ID and provide the origin and destination of the trip, which was all to be filled out on a form used by the soldiers.

When this practice was first described to us in an interview by a soldier who served in 2016, we immediately recognised it as something that had never been done before. In order to understand whether this was an exception or a new, widely used practice, we started to investigate and interviewed additional soldiers who served around the same time, who confirmed the practice. After an intense verification process, we decided to publish our findings, leading to an article in [Ha’aretz](#). Only a day after, Ha’aretz published an [additional article](#), in which the IDF announced that this tactic was a means of “using big data to foil potential terrorist attacks.”The story also led to articles in international media, including in [La Croix](#) (French).

Goal 2: To strengthen a value-based opposition to the occupation in the Israeli public through the use of soldiers' testimonies.

Objective	Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-June)
<p>Objective 1: To contribute a strong, value-based, anti-occupation voice in the Israeli media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BtS activists and materials (testimonies and analyses) appear frequently in traditional and new media in Israel. <p>TG: Israeli Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BtS has ongoing contact with journalists and media personalities. Israeli media personalities are able to represent BtS messages in the media. <p>TG: Israeli Journalists & Israeli Public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 100 quality BtS appearances/ quotes in traditional media. Ongoing work with at least 20 Israeli media figures. <p>TG: Journalists/ figures in Israeli media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 public campaigns - 1 of which aims to draw attention to 50 years of the settlements in Hebron. <p>NB: A quality media reference is a media piece which substantially deals with BtS, our testimonies, our work or our messages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of visitors to BtS Hebrew language website. Number of friends/ followers on Hebrew language Facebook and Twitter. Quantity of quality press appearances and references in Israeli press. Number of journalists with whom we are in contact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work and relationship building with media figures in Israel. Responding in real time to current media events. Development and implementation of campaigns. Distributing BtS materials through user friendly and innovative new & social media formats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 300 quality BtS appearances/ quotes in traditional media. 443 contacts on the Israeli journalists press release distribution list. 2 public campaigns: The launch of 'Why we broke our silence'; campaign Area G on Gaza.
<p>Objective 2: To cultivate a cadre of Israeli opinion shapers that are motivated to promote a value-based opposition to the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israeli public figures are armed with information about the reality of the occupation and able to represent BtS messages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 briefings or tours to Israeli public figures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of briefings and tours carried out. Number of media appearances of public figures connected to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefings and tours with public figures. Ongoing communications with public figures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 briefings or tours to 132 Israeli public figures. 8 collaborative events with Israeli public figures.

<p>occupation.</p>	<p>within their own circles of influence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israeli public figures are motivated to espouse anti-occupation messages in the public. <p>TG: Israeli public figures.</p>		<p>the organization (through previous tours/ briefings/ activities).</p>		
<p>Objective 3: To expose the Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp to the ongoing HR abuses inherent in the occupation through educational activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp is informed of HR abuses and reality of the occupation based on information from testimonies. Tools are made available to this TG to oppose the occupation. Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp is motivated to publically speak and act out against the occupation. <p>TG: Israeli pro-democratic, liberal camp.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a frequent relationship with education groups - educators and participants. 20 information booths/ activities on and off campuses. 130 educational events (lectures and tours to Hebron/ South Hebron Hills) reaching members of the wider Israeli public -youth, students, teachers, etc.) 2 large tours to Hebron and 1 to the South Hebron Hills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of tours. Number of lectures. Number of booths/ activities. Number of participants in tours/ lecture. Number of printed materials distributed. Number of recipients of the Hebrew language newsletter distributed by BtS. Number of visitors to BtS Hebrew language website. Number of friends/ followers to Hebrew language Facebook and Twitter accounts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information booths set up on campuses and in non – campus settings (public spaces and events). Tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills. Lectures to groups. Ongoing communications (newsletters, social media, etc.) with the public. Ongoing briefings, communication with education groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 information booths on and off campuses. 10 tours and lectures to 102 members of the Israeli public. 102 g to Hebron with 1 busses and 10 participants. 102 publications distributed to the public. 102 recipients of the Hebrew language newsletter distributed by BtS. 73.3K Hebrew language Facebook followers, 13.9K Hebrew language followers on Twitter.

Over the last half year, we returned to a full schedule of activities for the first time since 2015, despite the ongoing attempts to deter us from meeting with Israelis. BtS testifiers and tour guides met with 80 Israeli groups for lectures and tours to witness the realities of the occupations in the South Hebron Hills and Hebron. Alongside these educational activities, our main focus over the course of the last half year was around the release of our new booklet *Why I Broke the Silence*. The recent events at the Gaza fence also moved us to place significant attention on Gaza, and the rules of engagement adopted by the IDF in regards to Gaza, resulting in an ad-hoc campaign on the topic.

Launch of 'Why I Broke the Silence'

In our new testimony collection *Why I Broke the Silence*, we published the testimonies of soldiers who served in the oPt from the second intifada until today, answering the question we ask in every interview: "Why did you break the silence?" The launch of the collection gathered significant media attention, including an interview with BtS testifier-activist Hillel Assaf, on London et Kirschenbaum on [Channel 10](#) (Hebrew) and a video of BtS spokesperson Dean Issacharoff on the [news-website Mako](#) on why he broke his silence. We also published a lift-out version of the Testimony-Collection in the weekend edition of Ha'aretz, exposing thousands of Israelis to the realities of what we did in the oPt.

A week later, we held an event, at the TMU-NA Theater, a small, but long-running, privately operated theater in South Tel Aviv. In front of a crowd of 200 Israelis, Israeli author Dorit Rabinyan moderated a panel of three former officers and a sergeant, who took to the stage to talk about the reality beyond the Green Line and what led them to break their silence. These four soldiers, like many others, choose to speak out despite the immense pressure to remain silent, because they feel morally obligated to expose what they've done and seen during their service in the oPt. As with all of our events in the last few years, Culture Minister Miri Regev tried to shut down the event by intimidating the TMU-NA theater and threatening to cut their funding. Our hosts did not give into the pressure and we are grateful to them for hosting us at their venue.

The launch event was well attended and resulted in additional media publications including the well-known columnist Sever Plutzker who published an op-ed in the mainstream Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot and high school principal Ram Cohen who published an op-ed titled ["I too Break the Silence"](#) (Hebrew) in the most widely read Israeli newspaper, Israel Hayom.



Ha'aretz Insert distributed on January 19th



Launch event for the booklet at the TMU-NA theater

Women Soldiers Break the Silence at the Solidarity Film Festival

Due to the fact that the majority of combat soldiers in the oPt are male, women's voices are often less heard when talking about the military and the occupation. In April we highlighted their unique perspective as part of the Solidarity Film Festival at the Cinematheque in Tel Aviv, where we showed the film "To See if I'm Smiling." This movie profiles six women soldiers, four of them BtS testifiers, what they did and saw during their service and how it affected them for years to come.

Following the screening, the film's director, Tamar Yarom, together with 3 female soldiers who broke their silence, including Jewish Diaspora Coordinator, Frima (Merphie) Bubis, who served in the Civil Administration, participated in a panel discussion, moderated by Israeli author and columnist Iris Leal. Over 100 people came to hear from these women about their service, about what they did in the occupied territories, and why they broke their silence. Alongside this, Merphie also wrote an [op-ed](#) published by +972 magazine.

Responding to Gaza

To mark the 50 years of the Israeli settlement in Hebron, we undertook preparations to launch a large public campaign featuring the occupation in Hebron. However, when violence broke out at the border with Gaza and over 130 people were killed and hundreds injured, we not only felt it would be irrelevant to continue focusing on Hebron, but also felt obliged to sound our voices and our perspective on what was happening at the fence and in Gaza. Thus, the Hebron campaign was shelved, and we turned our focus to molding a relevant campaign on Gaza.

Communicating the situation in Gaza to the public via the media

Over the past ten years, BtS has amassed a significant amount of testimonies regarding the policies and procedures of control used by Israel over the civilian population in Gaza. We have been able to track the concerning trends that have developed, and have published testimony collections on these over the years ([Soldiers Talk about Operation Cast Lead, 2009](#) and [This is How We Fought in Gaza 2014](#)). When protests by Gazan residents began along the fence separating Gaza from Israel, and IDF soldiers returned with live fire, we felt we had an important voice on the issue that needed to be heard.

Our first response came from five of our testifiers who were previously members of sniper teams published a letter expressing their distress regarding the orders permitting snipers to fire live ammunition at unarmed demonstrators. The letter was published in Ha'aretz (Hebrew) and in multiple international news sources (further details below). As a result, we garnered much media attention, leading to several local and international interviews. BtS director of education, Nadav Weiman, who was a sniper during his military service in an elite unit of the Nahal Brigade, gave a number of interviews, including to Israeli Channel 10 News and the Orly and Guy Show (both Hebrew). In addition, BtS Spokesperson Dean Issacharoff, who served in Gaza during the 2014 Operation Protective Edge, wrote in [Ha'aretz](#) about the rules of engagement.

On May 15th, the day after 58 Palestinians were killed at the Gaza border, we also published a full page advertisement in the mainstream Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot with the headline: "This is not how you disperse protests," to attract attention to the fact that live ammunition was being fired, as a matter of policy, on unarmed demonstrators. This ad generated a significant amount of public debate on the topic. In addition, we called on soldiers serving at the Gaza border to provide us with testimonies.



*"This is not how you disperse protests,"
full page add in Yediot Aharonot*

Public testimony reading - 'Area G'

The focus of the Gaza campaign became the public testimony reading titled *Area G*. The concept of Area G was born out of our wish to demonstrate that, contrary to widespread Israeli public opinion, the occupation in Gaza did not end with the withdrawal of settlements and army bases from the Strip in 2005, but, rather, continues on today in its own version. Just like the Oslo Accords led to new and different forms of control in Areas A, B and C of the West Bank, the settlement withdrawal in the Gaza Strip changed the mechanism of control over the Palestinian population in Gaza, which we named 'Area G'.

At the testimony reading, 81 testimonies from soldiers who broke the silence about their army service in Gaza were [read out by BtS testifiers and public figures](#), including MKs Tamar Zandberg, Dov Haneen, Mossi Raz and Michal Rozin; Mickey Gitzin, Executive Director of the New Israel Fund; Yael Dayan, former deputy mayor of Tel Aviv and MK from the Labour Party; authors Iris Leal and Assaf Gavron and Ohad Naharin, the director of the Batsheva Dance Company and winner of the Israel Prize 2005. Hundreds of members of the Israeli public came out to listen to the testimonies. Once again, we found that public readings of testimonies are an effective method of engaging the Israeli public in a conversation about the occupation.

At the event, well-known portrait photographer Elad Malka took pictures of the attendees, holding signs with messages such as "There is no military solution to political problems" and "Occupation in Gaza kills". His photographs were analyzed in a weekly photography column in [Ha'aretz's weekend edition](#) (Hebrew).



Head of Meretz Party

MK Tamar Zandberg reads a testimony at the Area G event



Examples of Elad Malka's portraits from the Area G Testimony Reading

Activating Public Figures

Public figures are an especially important target audience for us, since they have the ability to shape public discourse and carry BtS's messages to their wider audiences. Over the course of the last half year we conducted 22 tours and briefings for 132 Israeli public figures. Some prominent examples from the last half year include Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer, Vice President of the Israel Democratic Institute and Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, as well as former director of the Shin Bet and former Labour MK Ami Ayalon. While most meetings with public figures are conducted one-on-one, in May our executive director, Avner Gvaryahu was invited to give a lecture in front of 50 leading scientists at the Weizmann Institute, one of the leading science research institutions worldwide.

Amos Oz breaks his silence

In preparation of executive Avner Gvaryahu's trip to Australia for the book launch of *Kingdom of Olives and Ash* and Limmud Oz, we sought out ways to introduce BtS to Australian audiences, in a way that is easily accessible. This led to communications with the internationally revered author Amos Oz, with whom we have a longstanding relationship, and a request to adapt a speech he gave about Breaking the Silence in 2016 into an article in support of Breaking the Silence. This piece was subsequently published in the [Australian Jewish News](#) and two additional international newspapers, [El Pais](#) (Spain) and La Republica (Italy) also picked up the piece and published it on their front pages.

Freedom Seder Hebron

On Passover, our Palestinian partners, Youth Against Settlements and members of All That's Left, an anti-occupation collective comprised of diaspora Jews, decided to celebrate the Jewish holiday of freedom in a place that is anything but free - occupied Hebron. We joined this Freedom Seder, which was held exactly 49 years after the first Freedom Seder organized by the civil rights movement on April 4th, 1969, a year after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. We are proud that MK Mossi Raz and former head of the Jewish Agency Avrum Burg, whose mother was a survivor of the 1929 Hebron massacre, attended the Seder at our invitation. The event received media coverage, including by [Ha'aretz](#) and [972 Magazine](#).



Participants at the Freedom Seder at the Youth Against Settlements headquarters in Tel Rumeida, Hebron.

Goal 3: To increase opposition in the international arena to Israel’s prolonged occupation of the oPt based on global shared values.

Objective	Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-June)
<p>Objective 1: Key international public figures are challenged to respond to the prolonged nature of the Israeli occupation of the oPt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed members of this target group who are able to influence Israeli policies based on shared values and support for Israel. <p>TG: Diplomats, foreign government representatives, and parliament members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 briefings/ tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills with key international stakeholders. Maintain a frequent relationship with foreign policy makers. Advocacy trips abroad to pre-identified target countries. Advocacy campaign bringing attention to 50 years of settlements in Hebron. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of briefings and tours. Number of meetings and participants in meetings that are in advocacy trips abroad. Number of recipients of international political newsletter distributed by BtS. Advocacy campaign for 50 years of settlements in Hebron. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaching out to foreign public figures to introduce the organization and its work. Leveraging opportunities to further develop existing relationships with diplomats. Conducting regular tours and follow-up with the target group. Networking to develop advocacy trips abroad. Carrying out advocacy trips abroad Preparations for exhibitions of soldiers who served in the oPTt in parliaments worldwide to highlight 50 years of settlements in Hebron. (Possibly in Belgium, Denmark or the parliament of the European Union). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills were conducted for 10 key international stakeholders. 1 meetings and briefings with 10 2 key international stakeholders 10 2 advocacy contacts on the international political newsletter distributed by BtS. Advocacy tour was held in Brussels, Germany, United States, and Australia.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing communications with contacts through mailing lists and personal communication. 	
<p>Objective 2: The international public is made more aware of the reality of the ongoing occupation and human rights abuses in the oPt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International public is informed of HR abuses and reality of the occupation. • Tools are made available to this TG to oppose the occupation. • International public is motivated to oppose the policy of occupation. <p>TG: General public in target countries; Foreign journalists stationed in the region, visiting journalists, foreign editors; visiting activists/ tourists to the region; international community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 quality media items in foreign press. • Field tours and briefings to foreign journalists and editors. • Development of an ongoing frequent relationship with figures in the foreign media. • 70 English language tours and lectures conducted to the target group. • Maintaining and expanding BtS online/ social presence in English. • Public campaign bringing attention to the 50th year of settlements in Hebron. • Additional public campaign based on one of the investigations completed by the Testimony Collection and Research Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of briefings and meetings. • Number of people who joined/ followed English language social media (Facebook and Twitter). • Quantity and quality of international media coverage based on BtS activity. • Number of recipients of the English language newsletter distributed by BtS. • Number of recipients of press releases distributed by BtS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to foreign journalists stationed in Israel and abroad to introduce the organization and our work. • Conducting regular tours and briefings with the target group. • Carrying out English language lectures and tours to Hebron and the South Hebron Hills. • Producing English language materials on BtS website, Facebook, Twitter. • Coordination of tours to pre-identified countries. • Development and carrying out of public campaigns. • International advocacy tours, promoting the book Kingdom of Olives and Ash marking 50 years of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 110 quality media items published about BtS activity. • 11 tours and briefings for 11 international journalists. • 10 contacts on the international journalists press release distribution list. • 11 English language tours and lectures to 102g general members of the public. • 248K English Facebook followers; 24.7K English language Twitter followers. • 102g recipients of the English newsletter distributed by BtS. • Book events for Kingdom

				the occupation.	of Olives and Ash in Germany, Switzerland, Ireland and Australia
<p>Objective 3: To encourage diaspora Jewish communities to voice their opposition to the occupation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diaspora Jewish communities are informed of HR abuses and reality of the occupation. • Opposing the policy of occupation is legitimised in these communities through former soldiers who are also speaking out against the policy. • The spectrum of debate around the occupation is expanded in these communities. • Open discourse about the moral price of the occupation is created in target communities. • Tools are made available to this TG to oppose the occupation. <p>TG: Jewish Diaspora communities and community leaders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 quality media items in Jewish press. • Participation in 2 Jewish community conferences globally. • 70 lectures or tours to pre-identified organizations and target groups of the Jewish Diaspora. • A group of young Jewish Diaspora leaders are brought to a weeklong seminar in Israel and the oPt, learning about the occupation and the role played by the IDF. • Ongoing work and relationship building with Jewish new media outlets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity of quality news items in the Jewish press. • Number of participants in tours and lectures. • Number of tours and lectures. • Conference participation. • Internal debate raised in the communities in which we worked intensively. • Feedback from participants in conferences, tours, lectures and briefings. • Quality and quantity of participants in a weeklong seminar for young Jewish Diaspora leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting regular tours and follow up with the target group. • Organizing and carrying out lectures. • Participation in conferences abroad. • Identifying young leadership in Diaspora communities and facilitating their participation in seminars lead by the organization. • Ongoing relationship with journalists and editors from Jewish online news outlets. • Speaking tour in the US with JstreetU at select universities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 12 quality news items in Jewish press. • Participation in the Annual J Street Conference in D.C. and Limmud Australia. • 35 tours and lectures were provided to 1,180 members of the Jewish Diaspora. • Ten-day seminar for 15 young Jewish diaspora leaders from If Not Now.

We continued our international advocacy in 2018, reaching out to both new and familiar audiences. As part of this, we continued to meet and brief dignitaries visiting the region. We also continued working with journalists, such as the acclaimed Roger Cohen, who wrote about his visit to Hebron with us in the [New York Times](#).

Addressing the situation in Gaza

After witnessing the shooting of live fire at the Gaza fence, it became clear that our amassed testimonies and analysis about the rules of engagement in Gaza over the past years uniquely placed us in a position of knowledge in the discourse about Gaza today. Alongside the public campaign in Israel, we were approached by and reached out to international partners and media to sound our voice on this topic. The letter written by BtS testifiers and former members of sniper teams was widely published in many languages including in [the Guardian](#) (UK), [De Standaard](#) (Belgium), [Politiken](#) (Denmark) and [El Pais](#) (Spain). Additionally, BtS director of education and former sniper, Nadav Weiman, was interviewed and published in various international media outlets including [Sky News](#) (Britain), [Le Monde](#) (France), [Le Temps](#) (Switzerland), and [Politiken](#) (Denmark). Executive director Avner Gvaryahu was featured in the [Intercept](#) (United States), [BBC 4 Radio](#) (United Kingdom) and the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (Australia).

“Kingdom of Olives and Ash” around the World

Last year, in order to mark 50 years of occupation, we launched the book *Kingdom of Olives and Ash*, together with acclaimed authors from around the world. This year, we continued to promote the book around the world:

- As part of the **Cologne Literary Festival** in March, authors **Michael Chabon**, **Assaf Gavron** and **Eva Menasse** spoke about their experience learning about the occupation and writing the book in a panel with former Breaking the Silence executive director **Dana Golan** to an audience of over 250 people.
- Contributors **Assaf Gavron**, **Fida Jiryis** and **Dana Golan** also held events in **Geneva**, **Zurich** and **Bremen** in April, meeting a total of over 400 people.
- BtS co-director **Yehuda Shaul** and Irish author **Ruth Gilligan** spoke about the book to an audience of 85 people at the **Dublin International Literature Festival**, in an event organized by our partners Trocaire.
- Executive director **Avner Gvaryahu** and author **Assaf Gavron** launched the book in Australia, visiting **Perth**, **Melbourne** and **Sydney**. They were joined by Australian author **Geraldine Brooks** at the **Margaret River Readers & Writers Festival** and the Sydney event, with over 700 people attending one of these events.



Irish author Ruth Gilligan reads a passage of ‘Kingdom of Olives and Ash’ with Yehuda Shaul.



Geraldine Brooks, Assaf Gavron and Avner Gvaryahu at the Margaret Rivers Readers & Writers Festival

BtS and the Jewish Diaspora

Over the course of the last six months we have deepened our relationships with the Jewish diaspora community and strengthened existing connections. Many members of the Jewish diaspora joined us for tours and lectures, including, for the first time ever, four synagogues from the United States, who reached out and met with us during their trips to Israel. Temple Emanu-el Closter, Valley Beth Shalom and IKAR joined us for tours in Hebron, while Shir Tikva Synagogue invited us to conduct a lecture. This development follows many years of work with members of these communities, and points to a political shift in liberal Jewish communities in the United States.

Our work with various organizations from within Jewish diaspora communities continued to produce outcomes, as demonstrated through the following activities:

J Street Conference

BtS has been conducting tours in the South Hebron Hills for many years and worked to advocate for the local communities there, leading to deep relationships and partnerships with local activists in the region. As part of our tours, participants meet with Palestinian activists and residents to hear about their struggles and hopes for the future as Palestinians living in Area C. The growing pressure on these villages - particularly in Susiya and Khan al Ahmar - and their long standing relationship with us, led J Street U to select 'home demolitions in Area C' as the central theme of their national campaign this past academic year.

As part of this, Nasser Nawaja, an activist from Susiya and long-term partner of BtS, was the keynote speaker at the J Street Conference, which took place in Washington DC in April this year. In his speech, he depicted his community's three-decade long struggle against the threat of demolition of their entire village. The topic of the displacement of Palestinian communities in Area C was the main topic at the conference, with two additional panels designated to the subject. On one of these panels our executive director, Avner Gvanyahu, spoke together with Palestinian activist and BtS partner Eid Suleiman from the village of Um El Kheir; foreign policy advisor for Senator Bernie Sanders, Matt Duss; and MK Michal Rozin, in front of over 200 attendees.

Before her participation in this panel and conference, and with the aim of receiving an update on the recent developments in the region, MK Michal Rozin also joined us for a tour to the South Hebron Hills, refreshing her knowledge on the issue of Palestinians in Area C and the threat and of Palestinian displacement. While out in the field with us, Rozin visited Susiya and spoke to Nasser about the threats facing the village.

Senator Bernie Sanders also attended the J Street conference and made a groundbreaking speech concerning the occupation in Gaza. Shortly after the conference, Sanders [tweeted](#) parts of this speech together with statements and explanations by members of Israel's human rights community, including Avner Gvanyahu and BtS's diaspora coordinator Frima (Merphie) Bubis. In May, Bernie Sanders and 10 other Democratic Senators signed a letter urging the Israeli Prime Minister not to demolish the village of Susiya.



Nasser Nawaja speaks of the demolition threats facing his village, Susya



Eid Sulliman, Avner Gvanyahu, MK Michal Rozin and Matt Duss on a panel on home demolitions in Area C

If Not Now

In March, we strengthened our connection with the American Jewish activist group If Not Now, by hosting a group of 15 of their leading activists for a 10 day seminar. The seminar, lead by BtS testifiers and guides, contained tours to Hebron, the South Hebron Hills and the Ramallah area, tours to East Jerusalem with Ir Amim and Peace Now, a visitation to the Ofer Prison with Military Court Watch, a tour to Qalandiya Checkpoint with Machsom Watch and meetings with Palestinian and Israeli activists, journalists and human rights lawyers.

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Dissatisfied with the one-sided programming when asking about Palestinians and the occupation, the five young women decided to leave BIRTHRIGHT and join us for a tour of Hebron, to see the occupation first hand. Our tour gathered much media attention and was met with outrage from the right in Israel and the Jewish diaspora, including from MK and Chairman of the Yesh Atid Party, Yair Lapid. Understanding the importance of seeing the occupation first hand, many public figures spoke up in support of us and the young American Jews, including American actor and comedian Sarah Silverman, who tweeted [this](#) article from the Intercept. The coverage of the walkout by the online video platform [Now This](#) received over 2.2 million views on Twitter and Facebook. Former speaker of the Knesset and chairman for the Jewish Agency, Avrum Burg, also wrote [an article](#) in support of the walkout for the Forward.



If Not Now delegation visits the South Hebron Hills as part of their seminar



The five young women who left BIRTHRIGHT in Hebron

Tru'ah

As part of our ongoing partnership with Tru'ah, we were involved in leading a tour of female Jewish and Christian religious leaders organized by Tru'ah, who visited Israel and the oPt to improve dialogue between Christians and Jews on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The delegation of six rabbis and five ministers visited Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ramallah, Bethlehem and the Gush Etzion settlement bloc.

In March, BtS co-director Yehuda Shaul and Tru'ah Rabbi Jill Jacobs also participated in a panel in New York titled "In the Crosshairs: Israeli Civil Society Under Threat" about the shrinking democratic spaces in Israel and the U.S. We would like to thank the NIF, Americans for Peace Now and the Foundation for Middle East Peace for hosting the event.

In addition, to coincide with the J Street conference, Tru'ah organized two breakfasts in the U.S., where we were able to meet and speak to rabbis and Jewish community leaders in a intimate atmosphere. Avner spoke to 20 Jewish leaders at the breakfast in Washington D.C. and 16 guests at the event in New York. We are very grateful to Tru'ah for arranging these gatherings.

New Israel Fund Australia

During June, Executive Director of BtS, Avner Gvaryahu, joined contributing authors to “Kingdom of Olives and Ash,” Geraldine Brooks and Assaf Gavron, for a book launch in Australia. The New Israel Fund Australia played a critical role in arranging lectures with local leaders from the Jewish communities of Perth, Sydney and Melbourne with Avner, Assaf and Geraldine. The three also participated in a variety of media interviews to promote the book and engage people in a discussion about Israeli and the occupation.

Despite significant pressure placed on various community organisations not to meet with Avner during his visit, the leaders of Australian Zionist youth movements attended sessions and meetings with Avner and Limmud Oz programmed sessions with Breaking the Silence. A strong relationship was forged with the New Israel Fund Australia, and important conversations about the occupation were opened up in Australia. We wish to thank the New Israel Fund Australia for their dedicated work in arranging this tour and for the great outcomes of this visit.

Goal 4: To ensure the ability of a value-based opposition to the occupation to operate within the reality of a shrinking democratic space in Israel.

Objective	Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-June)
<p>Objective 1: To provide a safe environment for BtS to carry out its mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical security of BtS offices and staff ensured. 10 2 g [redacted] Resources made available for all legal requirements of the organization's work. 10 2 g [redacted] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 2 g [redacted] Physical security services when required. 10 2 g [redacted] 	<p>1029</p>	<p>1029</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawyers and legal support procured and undertakes work together with BtS representatives. 10 2 g [redacted] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 2 g [redacted]

The attacks on anti-occupation organizations, and BtS specifically, continued over the first half of 2018. Pro-settler organizations and government ministers continued their attempts to restrict our ability to conduct activities by utilizing the media, leveraging the work of pro-occupation NGOs established to defame our organization and through the legal system with the aim of spreading misinformation about our activities and intentions and silencing us.

In response, we continue to work tirelessly with public figures, journalists and diplomats to dispel the falsehoods, inform them of our activities and brief them about the rapidly shrinking democratic space in Israel.

One example of the shrinking democratic space is the so-called 'NGO Law,' which was passed by the Knesset in July 2016 and came into effect in June of 2018. The legislation, requires non-profits that receive 50% or more of their funding from foreign governments to disclose that fact on all documentation. It is important to note that it is already standard policy that all NGOs are required to disclose their sources of income to the NGO Registrar and that the language of the bill was phrased to exclusively target human rights organizations, and Breaking the Silence specifically. Interestingly, since Breaking the Silence receives less than 50% of its funding from foreign state entities, this law does not apply to us. We continue to be very proud of all our partners and are very transparent about our funding, which can be viewed on our website [here](#).

Attempts to Restrict BtS through Legislation

Amendment to the State Education Law

Minister of Education Naftali Bennett and members of his Jewish Home Party, together with Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid, proposed a bill to the Knesset, widely known as the 'Breaking the Silence Bill.' The bill states that any organization which "undermines the goals of the state education system or one that works to harm IDF soldiers" will not be able to enter schools.

The bill passed the first reading in the Knesset in February, with 35 in favor and 23 opposed. Encouragingly, at this point, the Labour Party block of the Zionist Union all voted against the law and many Zionist Union MKs, most prominently Tzipi Livni, spoke out in our defence. **On 17 July, 2018, at the time of writing this report, this bill was passed in the Knesset.**

In the spirit of this law, the Education Ministry has worked to keep us out of schools via a variety of bullying and intimidation tactics. Examples of this include 12th graders from the Harduf High School who were scheduled to meet us in Hebron, following a meeting they coordinated with the settlers. While they were allowed to go to Hebron to meet with the settlers, the Ministry of Education forbid them from meeting Breaking the Silence in Hebron. Despite this, we were able to meet with these students during a visit they had at the Knesset, in a meeting together with students from another high school, the Gymnasia Herzliya. In this meeting, we talked to the students about the realities of the occupation, and used it to highlight our new testimony collection 'Why I Broke my Silence.' Members of Knesset Michal Rozin, Mossi Raz, Ilan Gilon and Ayman Odeh also came to support us and speak to the students.



Nadav Weiman, MK Michal Rozin and Avner Gvoryahu speak to high school students

In addition, we met with multiple groups of high school students for lectures in their private homes. Our interactions with high school students in the first half of 2018 continues to prove that Israeli youth will demand to know the truth about the occupation and no legislation will prevent us from speaking to Israeli high-schoolers.

Cultural Loyalty Bill

In response to the event we held at the TMU-NA Theater in January, Culture Minister Miri Regev asked Mendelblit, the Attorney General, to fast track her 'Cultural Loyalty Bill'. The bill would allow the Cultural Minister to condition funding to institutions on their allegiance to the state. Regev's goal is to revoke funding from cultural institutions willing to host BtS and other human rights organizations. This bill is currently progressing through the Knesset, and we are keeping a close watch on its development.

Attempts to Restrict BtS Reaching Israeli Audiences

Lecture in Shilat

In April we were invited by members of the community to provide a lecture at a local old age home in Moshav Shilat. Some members of the community protested the event, and the head of the regional council, Shimon Sussan, threatened to remove funding from the old age home. At the time of the lecture, Shilat's head of municipality, Amos Velinsky, in an attempt to turn off the lights at the venue of our event, shut off electricity to the whole Moshav for an hour. The BtS lecturer and the 30 people in attendance decided to continue the lecture in the dark. The events were covered by [Channel 10 News](#) (Hebrew).

Tel Hai University

In May we were invited by students at Tel Hai College to provide a lecture on campus. Over 150 students attended the lecture, in addition to a group of right wing activists who attended in order to disrupt the speakers. When they were asked to leave the lecture hall, the right wing activists installed themselves at the exit of the carpark, and, at the conclusion of the lecture, inspected passing cars for 'leftists' who attended the lecture and attacked, egged and blocked a car with three students who were recognized as having attended the lecture. [Channel 2 News](#) (Hebrew) aired video footage of the attack, that was filmed by the students in the car. This event further demonstrates the influence of shrinking democratic space on all public spaces, including academic institutions. Despite this incident, we have continued to hold lectures and set-up information booths at universities across the country.

Slander in the Press

The press continues to be used as a tool to incite the Israeli public against human rights organizations, and Breaking the Silence specifically. This tactic was employed, once again, in a petty, yet effective, joint attempt by NGO Monitor, Israel Hayom (the most well-read Israeli tabloid) and pro-occupation, populist politicians.

Earlier this year, Israel Hayom printed a front page article, based on a report by NGO Monitor, accusing Breaking the Silence and our partners Yesh Din and Physicians for Human Rights of prosecuting individual soldiers in the International Criminal Court in The Hague, through a joint project funded by the European Union. This blatant lie is based on a mistranslation of the sentence "Yesh Din has worked to identify and address systemic failures in the military administrative and judicial procedures that stand in the way of access to justice for Palestinians" used in the project proposal. The NGO Monitor report and the journalist reinterpreted that sentence "to identify and find the address of" the individual soldiers, in order to promote their prosecution overseas. Despite the blatant lie behind this statement, the Minister of Culture, Miri Regev jumped on the bandwagon and used this report to attack us in Israel Hayom the following day, fanning the flames of incitement against the organization.

Attempts to silence BtS through the legal system

SLAPP (strategic lawsuit against public participation) cases are a tool commonly used by the Israeli pro-occupation organizations to swamp their opponents in legal fees and work, in order to divert and distract them from their aims. Breaking the Silence has already been threatened with two such cases in the past two years and, in the first half of 2018, were forced to deal with such a case that did reach the courts. This case was submitted by a pro-occupation online activist, Shamai Glick who, over the past several years, has incessantly taunted, attacked and verbally abused Breaking the Silence staff and volunteers. Earlier this year he filed a defamation suit against the organization for calling him a troll, and then for calling him a liar. There is no doubt that this case was used as an attempt by Glick to distract BtS staff from its work, and to divert funds into fighting a court case he had no chance of winning. Glick

was forced to withdraw this suit in July 2018, and the court demanded that he pay Breaking the Silence a symbolic fee to contribute toward the legal fees incurred by this case.

“Know Your Rights” Legal Workshop on the Rights of Detainees

In May, Alma Biblash, Director of the Human Rights Defenders Fund provided BtS staff with a “know your legal rights” workshop in the case of detention or arrest. In this seminar, we learned about how the army and police are authorized to act and received recommendations on how to respond in the case of detention or arrest. In light of the shrinking democratic space and frequent interactions with the army and police, especially in Hebron, we felt it was important to empower our employees with the knowledge of how to navigate these situations to the best of their abilities.

Goal 5: To strengthen BtS organizational capacity.

Objective	Outcomes & Target Groups	Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Actual Execution (Jan-June)
<p>Objective 1: BtS staff members and activists acquire the skills and knowledge needed to effectively implement the work of the organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A skilled staff body in topics relating to the work of the organization. • Professionalized and skilled staff each trained in their specialized field of work (Collection & Research, Education, Advocacy and Communication s). • A well-educated staff body on global historical human rights and civil rights struggles. • A well-educated staff body on local issues relating to the occupation and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. <p>TG: BtS Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each department will take part in 3 professional training sessions. • Staff recruitment & new training as necessary (at least one new researcher, Director of Education). • Staff training (for old staff) as required. • Annual week-long seminar on a human rights struggle. • Enrichment sessions for all staff. • Two new guides trained to provide the Our Harsh Logic book lecture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of training sessions carried out successfully • Staff participation and involvement in learning sessions about global civil rights movement. • Feedback from staff and activists taken after educational meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrichment activities for the staff on an ongoing basis. • 10 2 g [REDACTED] • Professional development sessions developed specifically for each department. • Seminar on Hebron and South Hebron Hills for all staff • Training guides on advanced lecture about the book Our Harsh Logic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New staff, including Director of Education, recruited. • 7 enrichment sessions for all staff carried out.
<p>Objective 2: Organizational memory and data are preserved and leveraged. Ability to track activities is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated policies and protocols for each department are in place and implemented within the organization. • Evaluation mechanisms for internal organizational activity are in place and are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and protocols. • Upgraded CRM system. • Upgraded testimony database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal contact management system up to date with organizational contacts and utilized on a regular basis. • A cutting edge testimony database in use. • Contact management database and testimony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating policies and protocols. • Improvement and utilization of organizational evaluation mechanisms. • Development and maintenance of internal contacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal contact management system up to date with organizational contacts and utilized on a regular basis. • A cutting edge testimony

	<p>utilized on a regular basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity of the testimony database is constantly upgraded and updated to ensure its technical relevance. • Increase in organizational capacity to process and publish testimonies. • Increase in organizational capacity to forge and maintain relationships with contacts/colleagues. 		<p>database are used to enhance organization's work.</p>	<p>management system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop mechanisms for ongoing summaries and evaluations of all organizational activities. 	<p>database in use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact management database and testimony database are used to enhance organization's work.
<p>Objective 3: The financial sustainability of the organization is strengthened through a strong and diverse funding base.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable annual income which covers planned budget. <p>102g</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income generated by strong and committed private donor base. • Income generated by committed institutional donors. • Enhancement of strong, long-term partnerships. • Initiation of new partnerships and relationships with diverse donors on an ongoing basis. • Income generated from activities, book sales, and private donors • 102g 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income covers annual budget. • Number of long-term partnerships. • Number and diversity of new funders. • Number and amount contributed by private donors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining relationships with current long-term partners. • Enhancing current partnerships to ensure their continuation. • Initiating relationships with new potential funders. • Developing income-generating activities. • Developing relationships with private donors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of 20 long-term partnerships • Two new partners were established in the first half of 2018.

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<p>Objective 4: A diverse and strong political and managerial leadership is developed and implemented, which will guide the organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong and active Board of Directors comprised of men and women. • Ongoing political dialogue between the Board of Directors, staff, activists and selected organizational supporters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-10 board meetings annually. • 2 meetings between board and the staff. • A 2-3 day long seminar for senior staff members and the board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of diverse and active board. • Number of board meetings a year. • Quality and quantity of meetings of board-staff-activists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying candidates and reaching out to new board members (with an emphasis on the recruitment of women for the Board of Directors). • Conducting meetings and social gatherings between the Board of Directors, staff, activists and supporters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six board meetings have taken place.
<p>Objective 5: Training and evaluation mechanisms, regulations and materials for tours and lectures are developed for organizational use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality educational activities. • Trained staff. • Ongoing development and evaluation of educational activities as based on the handbook and policies devised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated handbooks of educational activities, policies and procedures. • Robust evaluation techniques. • Thorough and fast training curriculums and processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated handbook for each education activity undertaken by the organization. • Evaluation documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing and frequent evaluation of tour guiding and lecture activities. • Ongoing development of educational content to be used by BtS staff. • Constant updating of handbook for educational activities (lectures and tours to Hebron & South Hebron Hills and the exhibition). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One guide has completed training on the South Hebron Hills tour, three more have started training.

Organizational Structure and Staff

Over the past half year, we have taken further steps to actualize our strategic plan, which lead to some developments and changes in the staff at Breaking the Silence.

Nadav Weiman, until now director of education, will start building the advocacy department, which we will grow over the coming months and years. In order to enable Nadav to serve as director of advocacy, a reshuffle of staff was required and Rebecca Strober was hired in June to manage the education department. Becca served in the army as a shooting instructor and is an experienced educator and administrator. She has started her training for the position, learning in depth about the work of BtS in general, and about our educational activities in particular. We believe that by Becca joining the team will enrich the education department and are excited that Nadav's move into advocacy will bring us a step closer to fulfilling the organizational goals of the current strategic plan.

Additionally, **10 2 e** joined the organization as **10 2 e** and Chagit Lyssy started her position as resource development officer. We are very excited to welcome them aboard.

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