

Israeli Bedouin

“The opposition to the plan comes from belligerent politicians, making noise for their own purposes. It doesn’t come from real Bedouin leaders who are concerned with their people. There is plenty of room in the Negev for everybody, and it is good that the government is working to improve things and is investing money in us”.

Abed Tarabin, leader of the Tarabin clan (Jerusalem Post 9/12/2013)

“The Begin plan is a fair proposal that seeks to end the saga of Bedouin land claims. 85% of Bedouin have no land claims; only 15% do, and these claims are holding up the development of the Negev for the Bedouin. We simply have to reach a compromise on the land claims, since the government’s NIS 10 billion economic development plan for the Negev will improve our currently- very-bad situation in education, employment, welfare, transportation and other infrastructures”.

Kamel Jum’a Abu-Nadi of Lakia, a Beduin town founded in 1982 as part of a previous government project to settle Beduin in permanent town (israelhayom.com 6/12/2013)

“The government plan isn’t 100% perfect, but it is a great improvement over the current situation of Bedouin in the Negev. We can build proper homes on recognized land, demand employment and health and education services, and make other demands of the government, like any other citizen. In our new town, we have asked for and received agricultural and industrial help”.

Abed Tarabin, leader of the Tarabin clan (Jerusalem Post 9/12/2013)

“Those who oppose the Begin-Praver plan do so for political reasons, not substantive reasons. If you check just who has been demonstrating against the plan, you discover that half of the protesters are Arab-Israelis [i.e., not Bedouin] from Israel’s north that are being bussed in from the north in organized fashion. The flags of Palestine that are flown at these demonstrations led by the Arab-Israeli Islamic Movement and its Balad political party in fact damage the reputation of the Bedouin in the Negev. The Negev Bedouin have no anti-Israel nationalist motivations, nor have they ever in past”.

Id Abu Rashed, a prominent leader of the Rashed tribe from the town of Abu Qrenat, a Bedouin town of 2,700 people, (Jerusalem Post 9/12/2013)

“Descendants of nomadic tribes who migrated to the region in the 19th and 20th centuries, we, the Bedouin community in Israel, are part of the Israeli success story”.

Ishmael Khaldi (Bedouin), Counsellor for Civil Society Affairs, Embassy of Israel, London (Independent 18/10/2013)