

Courses of Action + Talking Points English Speakers' Focus Group

Topic: Sustainable Jerusalem Lobby: Building & Development - **Reches Lavan**

Talking Points:

1. In 2007, the national planning council instructed Jerusalem to build in, not create more urban sprawl in the Jerusalem Hills
2. Reches Lavan breaks that rule, using the excuse of supplementing land for developers, so as to make urban renewal less unbearably tall and dense
3. This is misleading: There are now many development opportunities inside the city, specifically 10's of thousands of housing units, tall and dense, along the light rail. Why attack nature when we could use them?
4. We need to view our nature and forests as precious ecosystems that give us life, not as spare land for building.....
5. Although the latest appeal was rejected, of the panel of 3 judges 1 agreed with the objectors, and a 2nd approved the plan, but saying in her summation that the cost to nature is unbearably high. Only 1 was really happy to reject the appeal. This lays the ground for an additional High Court Appeal.
6. JGF leads a Regional Partnership to develop a biosphere reserve in the Jerusalem Hills. In this framework Reches Lavan would be left untouched....

Courses of Action:

- A. Writing letters to officials:
 - a. Mayor, [Moshe Leon](#)
 - b. [Eliezer Rouchberger](#), Planning & Building Portfolio
 - c. [Even Yoel](#), City Engineer
 - d. Internal Affairs & Environment [Committee](#) of Knesset
- B. Demonstrate support on social media outlets: via posts/ likes/ shares/ follow
 - a. JGF: [Facebook](#): [Instagram](#)
 - b. 'Save the Hills of Jerusalem': [Facebook](#): , [Instagram](#)
 - c. Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel Kehilat Yerushalaim: [Facebook](#)
- C. Blogging on the topic (if you or a friend has a blog), like this one: <https://reachingoutfromjerusalem.com/>
 - a. First [post](#) on Reches Lavan
 - b. Hanuka [post](#) on Reches Lavan
- D. Writing letters to the editor of local English media:
 - a. Jpost, Editor in Chief: [Yaakov Katz](#), Billboard & Op-ed Editor, [Neria Barr](#)
 - b. HAaretz, Letter to the [Editor](#)
 - c. Times of Israel, [submissions](#)
 - d. Arutz7, [Editor in Chief](#)
 - e. Hamodia: Letters to the [Editor](#)
- E. Writing short posts for email/whatsapp groups of Anglo communities to be involved and learn more. For example:

- a. I'm involved in the [Jerusalem Green Fund](#)'s efforts to save Reches Lavan, a pristine nature site with springs, trails & wildlife SW of the city from being built upon. Please join me and spread awareness amongst your friends. PM me to learn more! Thanks
- F. Visiting the nature museum's exhibit on Reches Lavan (which's opening has been delayed due to Corona, therefore we will keep you posted), and generally visiting all the threatened locations on foot and taking photos/videos to share/post! (perhaps post Covid, we will organize a tour too)
 - a. How to get to Reches Lavan via:
 - b. [Google Maps](#)
 - c. [Waze](#)
 - d. Public city buses, routes: 19, 27 & 27A
 - e. [Moovit](#) (public transportation routes including details)
- G. Educate yourself! Here are recent news articles on the topic of Reches Lavan in English:
 - a. Jpost: [7 Jan 2021](#)
 - b. Times of Israel: [7 Jan 2021](#)
 - c. Haaretz: [8 Jan 2021](#)
 - d. This is a YouTube [video](#) of the SPNI Kehilat Yerushalim staff giving a lecture this past November on Reches Lavan in English.