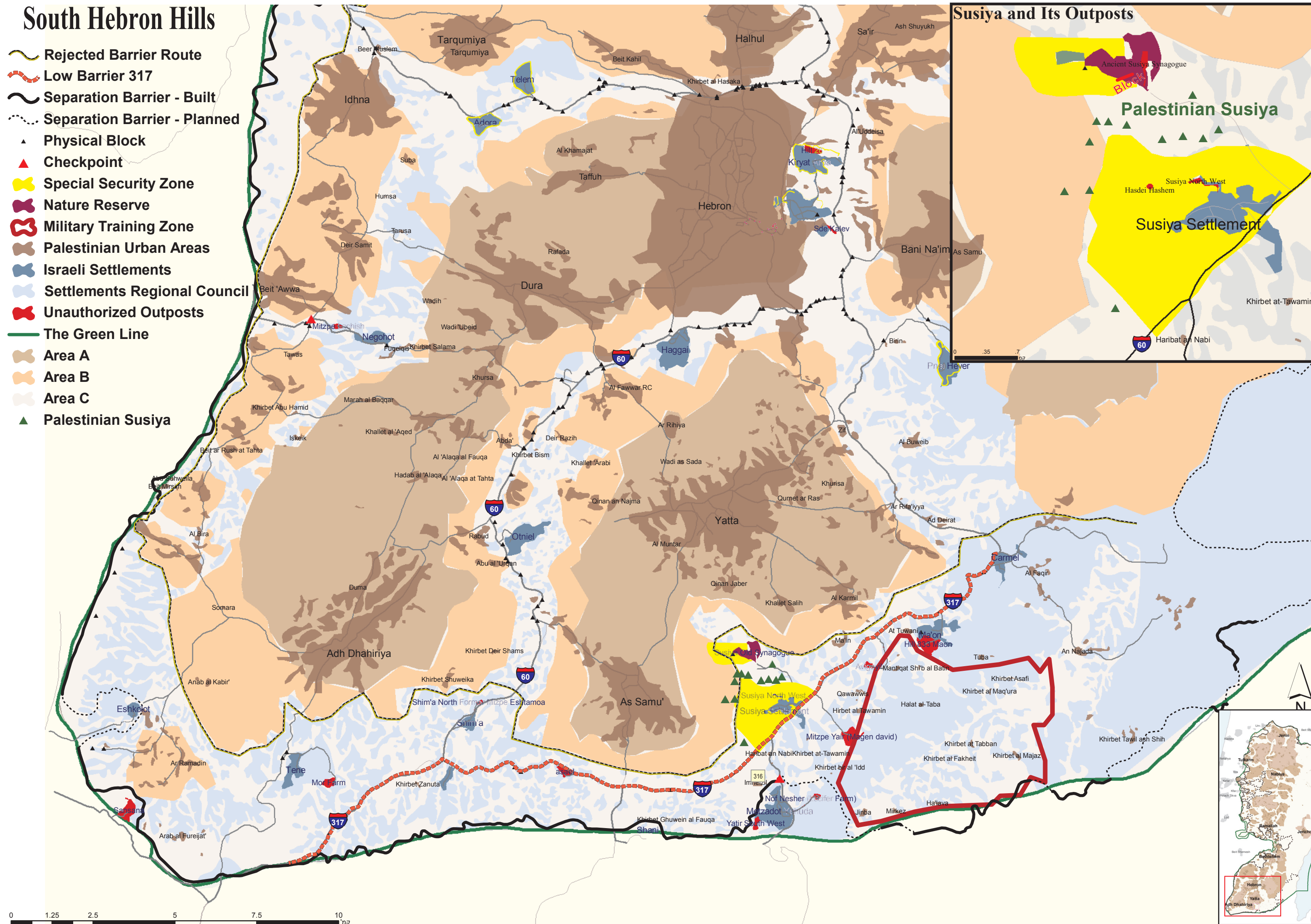
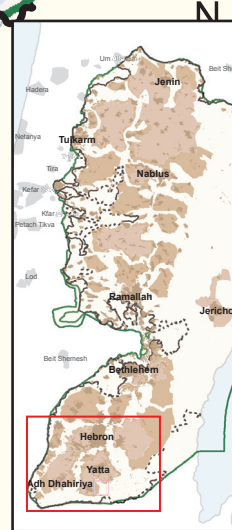
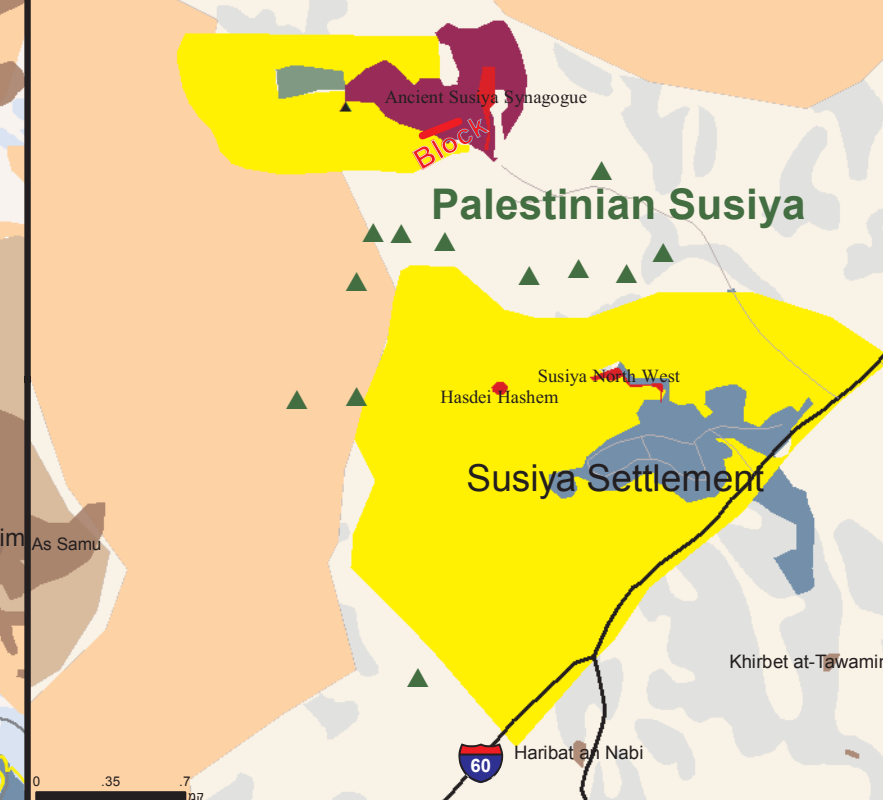


South Hebron Hills

- Rejected Barrier Route
- Low Barrier 317
- Separation Barrier - Built
- Separation Barrier - Planned
- Physical Block
- Checkpoint
- Special Security Zone
- Nature Reserve
- Military Training Zone
- Palestinian Urban Areas
- Israeli Settlements
- Settlements Regional Council
- Unauthorized Outposts
- The Green Line
- Area A
- Area B
- Area C
- Palestinian Susiya



Susiya and Its Outposts





[photo: B'Tselem, Ehud Krinis]

Hebron Hills are part of this effort.

The South Hebron Hills are situated far away from the inquiring eyes of Israeli society. They are almost completely ignored by the media and in public discourse. This large region and the many Palestinians who live there are forgotten in the conversations conducted about the future of the conflict. We, soldiers who served in the South Hebron Hills, have been witness to the consequences of this callous disregard. Members of Breaking the Silence uphold their civic duty to inform Israeli society about what happens in the Territories in its name, and hold up a mirror that reflects the price of our presence in the Territories. Tours in the South

The South Hebron Hills

Soldiers who served in the Territories during the second intifada (in regular service or reserves) who are interested in giving testimony can reach us by voicemail: 050-8454725. Anonymity assured.

To coordinate tours or lectures: ilan@shovrimshatika.org

To be in touch about giving testimony or to coordinate lectures and house meetings:
www.shovrimshatika.org or 050-8454725

To donate by bank transfer:
Bank HaPoalim, Account Number 455949,
Branch number 748

Checks can be made out to "Shovrim Shtika" and sent to:
PO Box 68150, Jerusalem 91681, Israel

This map was printed thanks to the generous support of the British Embassy in Israel.



[photo: Keren Manor, Activestills]

Soldiers' Testimonies



Settlers attacking Palestinians in the South Hebron Hills [photo: B'Tselem]

Name: *** / Rank: First Sergeant / Unit: Nachal Infantry Brigade, 50th Battalion
The settlement's security coordinator came, told me the exact borders. There was some place on the edge of the settlement, he told me, "Here, you see this place, this is the line, this is the area of the settlement, and from that area over there" – there were also some agricultural areas, open, there is no fence around the settlement – "it is forbidden for them to enter there." It's an open area, a field below, spread out, and they said, "Forbidden to enter there. Forbidden for them to come. Sometimes they come with a tractor to work the land, but it is forbidden for them, it is not their place." Okay, everything's fine. One day he comes, calls me over, "Come, come, they are coming into the field to work it." Now, I'm just a young officer, I arrive, and he goes, "Here, come shoot a few shots in the air to scare them." The security coordinator has a weapon, but he, like, doesn't use it, because I'm a soldier, he's not allowed. Okay, I shot a few shots in the air. They looked, it was pretty surprising, but actually they didn't really stop, they were just at the entrance to the settlement area. And just then a group of reserve soldiers passed by. The reserve soldiers arrived, these guys are already more experienced, fearless: "They'll be trouble for you." Okay, he came, took the weapon and shot right near them.

Who?

The reservist, he aimed at them, took it a few meters aside and shot there, really as if to show them: we are serious. He shot there, said to them: "Come, come here." They already started to go down towards them, the reservists went down towards them, the Palestinians also came. They came, caught the Palestinians, brought them to where I was standing with the settlement security coordinator, brought them there. He goes: it is forbidden for you to be here, it is forbidden for you here. The reservist cuffed him, kicked him like that. I was in shock, I didn't know what to do, what to say. I had a feeling that something, you know, that it wasn't okay. And the reservist goes: "That's the only way they'll learn, the only way that next time they won't come in here." And you say to yourself, maybe that really is the only way he'll learn. And that's it, he freed him, said to him, "Don't come back here." So they went back, got up on their tractor and drove off. That's what happened at Beit Hagai.

Name: *** / Rank: First Sergeant / Unit: Kfir Brigade, Lavi Battalion

Listen, the whole thing about Palestinian traffic on the Hebron bypass road is a game of cat and mouse, really. It's really like you're in a Tom and Jerry cartoon. Someone comes out here, so you go, he does like this. And it got to the stage that we were trying to stop the truck. To the best of my knowledge it didn't get to destruction of property.

Why?

Because you stop a truck, you take the person's keys, you take his identity card, you let all the air out of the tire, you don't puncture the tire, just let out all the air, yeah? You even take the person.

To where?

Sometimes you take him to the base, cuffed and blindfolded, hang him out to dry in the guard box, yeah.



Demolition in Um al-Her in the South Hebron Hills; Carmel Settlement in the Background [photo: B'Tselem, Ehud Krinis]

Name: *** / Rank: First Sergeant / Unit: Artillery Brigade, 450th Battalion

They did a whole lot of actions there. Sealing up wells, essentially making life difficult for the ... The practical objective of our brigade was to guard the Jewish settlement in the Hebron Hills. To guard means also to make a ring around them, where other people won't live. They embittered the lives of the people who live there in the caves.

What does that mean?

Sometimes they would come to them just to bother them, to interrogate them, to verbally attack them, and the height of it was that their lives became insufferable because they didn't have water anymore. They sealed up their wells and demolished the caves, so they left. After that I think they returned, it seems to me with an order from the High Court or something like that.