

Between Dispossession and Displacement: The Operation of the Green Patrol and its Tense Relations with the Law and the Judiciary, 1976-1980

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To explain the Green Patrol's operation and its tense relations with the law and the judiciary, I distinguish between dispossession and displacement as two different practices of land acquisition in settler states. Notwithstanding the Green Patrol's decades-long efforts to demolish Bedouin villages and evacuate their residents, the literature on the Negev land conflict has been more concerned with the legal geography of dispossession than with physical law enforcement. In contrast, I acknowledge the centrality of physical policing operations, conceptualized as a distinct source of power, in the displacement of indigenous populations. By historically analyzing the Green Patrol's formation and operation in the years 1976-1980, I demonstrate that physical displacement is distinct from legal dispossession and may therefore be situated in the gray area of the law, even when it serves to enforce it. This contributes not only to understanding the specific case of the Green Patrol but also, more generally, to studying the relations between law and policing in settler states.