HOUSED by CHOICE, HOUSED by FORCE - Homes, Conflicts and Conflicting Interests

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. **Paper / Proposal Title:** Displacement for posh dwelling, the case of Giv'at A'mal in Tel Aviv

2. **Format:** verbal presentation

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5. **University or Company Affiliation:** Tel Aviv University

6. **Abstract (300 words):** In recent years the city of Tel Aviv- Jaffa is experiencing major development boost, aligned with draconian escalation in real estate prices. While several areas are transformed with many new posh dwelling towers, the last remains of pre and early state "slum" clusters are planned for full clearance and evacuation. Our

presentation will issue the cluster named Giv'at Ammal Beit (B), where the realization of a large towers' venture is now propelling a bitter conflict between local residents, municipality and developers. The site, previously of the Arab village Jammasin el Gharbi, saw first displacement during the war in late 1947. Soon after, the government housed Jewish refugees in the local small homes, but displacement continued on a piece meal custom. Each time , an ad- hoc planning- deal was designed and old homes were replaced with massive expensive apartments buildings. While the existing houses were thus marked as temporary, the state avoided granting the dwellers with full possession rights, the municipality avoided infrastructure improvements, and judges marked the local residents as "illegal invaders" in the houses. This practice was only rejected recently, against the last evacuation scheme. The local mobilizers claimed against low compensation rates, and the developers acted out with robust police power to force clearance. Rage escalated, and the events focused much political and media attention. As of now, clearance was not stopped, but some serious criticism was debated regarding the right for urban dwelling in current urban Israel. We will discuss this problematics vis-à-vis the neoliberal exacerbating of uneven identity and class based path- dependencies in Tel Aviv- Jaffa, and relate to the agencies, the coalitions and the contradictions in the test- case in the context of the local hegemonic planning culture.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors):

Talia Margalit, PhD., is a senior lecturer at the School of Architecture in Tel Aviv University. Her research addresses the politics of urban design and planning in Israel. She co-organized two international seminars on urban citizenship and the right for housing with colleagues from Israel and Berlin, and co- edited a Journal symposium on Urban Citizenship (forthcoming, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research). Her papers and book chapters also issues the history of segregating urban planning in Tel Aviv- Jaffa, and she is currently co- conducting a large research on planning justifications, funded by the Israeli Science Foundation.

Tovi Fenster is a full professor in Geography and Human Environment. She teaches social and cultural geography, urban planning, gender and geography. She has published articles and book chapters on ethnicity, citizenship and gender in planning and development. She is the founder and head of PECLAB (http://peclab.tau.ac.il/) (2007-today); She is the former Head of the Institute of Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation(2011-2012). Former NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program Head (2007-2009). Former Chair of IGU Gender and Geography Commission (2004-2008). In 1999, she initiated the establishment and has been the first Chair (2000-2003) of Bimkom-Planners for Planning Rights in Israel(NGO).

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