

Israel lifts ban on settlers returning to evacuated West Bank settlements

Four settlements in the northern West Bank had been evacuated as part of the 2005 disengagement law

Israel has lifted a ban on settlers returning to areas of the West Bank evacuated by law 18 years ago.

Four settlements in the northern West Bank had been evacuated as part of the 2005 disengagement law, under which Israel also withdrew from Gaza, razing all 21 Jewish settlements in the coastal strip.

Right-wing lawmakers have been pushing to repeal the move for years. Settlers established an illegal presence in Homesh, one of the four communities, by setting up a yeshiva religious seminary in caravans and tents. A game of cat and mouse has taken place between the army and settlers, and troops have dismantled the yeshiva several times over the years only for the settlers to return.

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