

Sub-national flags of Israel

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Abstract

Israel is divided into 266 local authorities, though current plans aim at reducing their number to 150. Almost all local authorities have emblems (most of them official) but none of them have an official flag, even though the law made it possible in 1974. All flags that were located in the research for this paper bear the local emblem. The vast majority of local authorities use plain flags with logo on monochrome backgrounds (with or without inscription), but in some cases you can find flags that are not following this pattern. It seems that many local authorities choose random colors for the flags, but here and there you can find a reason for a specific color.

Introduction

Israel is divided into six districts (in Hebrew *Ma'hoz*, pl. *M'hozot*). The districts are: North, Haifa, Center, Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem and South. All districts are divided into sub-districts (in Hebrew *Nafa*, pl. *Nafot*). In the case of Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, there is only one sub-district. However, this partition has no vexillological outcome as there is no “District (or Sub-District) Government” and consequently there are no flags or other symbols which represent them. This division is mainly used for administrative purposes. Therefore, when dealing with Israeli sub-divisional flags, we can discuss only the flags of local authorities. Local authorities in Israel consist of three types:

- *Irya* (can be translated as “Township” but usually translated into “Municipality”) – for large urban areas,
- *Mo'atza Mekomit* (Local Council) – for small urban areas,
- *Mo'atza Ezerit* (Regional Council) – for rural areas. The Regional Council is usually a body governing small settlements situated in its area of jurisdiction.

These three types of local authorities live side by side. Their area of jurisdiction are usually in one sub-district, but a few of them spread over more than one sub-district and even over more than one district.

Besides the local authorities, one can find “undesigned areas” which are not included in any local authority. Mainly, those are areas under the central government jurisdiction and are regarded as “ex-territorial” with the government (or one of its authorities) holding the municipal powers in such an area. For instance, “undesigned areas” are army camps, ports, airports, oil refineries, nature reserves, etc.



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The number of local authorities is changing rapidly. Also the status of Local Councils may change, as happens frequently when a Local Council is promoted into the rank of Municipality when its population rise to about 20,000 inhabitants. When I made the survey of Israeli sub-national flags (July-October 2001) there were 266 local authorities. From the total number of local authorities, I located, in various degree of accuracy, 235 flags. For 30 more I located only their emblems, and one local authorities (Local Council Zoran) was found to have no emblem and no flag.

At the beginning of 2003, the Ministry of the Interior together with the Ministry of Finances initiated a plan to reduce the number of local authorities to about 150. This is to be achieved by either enlarging the jurisdiction of some cities in order to supplement minor settlements to their area, or by uniting two or more small settlements into a new united entity. The plan received quite strong opposition and therefore it is not yet known when and where it will be fulfilled.

From a vexillological point of view, there is no importance attached to the type of the local authority, as all three types used the same basic designs.

The survey

The survey of Israel sub-national flags began in July 2001 by sending letters to all 266 local authorities asking for information. The result of this stage was 62 responses. The second stage was sending reminders by fax and this brought 33 more responses. The third stage of calling by phone brought 26 more responses. Personal friends also reported a few flags. Not all responses could be trusted. I later visited some of the local authorities, just to find out that the official who sent the response had not bothered to take a look out of his window to discover the flag hoisted at the city hall. While waiting for answers, I visited the law library and covered all publication in the official gazette that was done according to the legislation (see below). The last stage was to take my camera and to visit the local authorities. I made 10 “field trips” covering 167 local authorities (some to confirm existing information). Altogether, I located information about flags of 235 local authorities in the survey. The accuracy of information may be assessed as follows:

- high (based on personal observation or photos)	134
- medium (based on information received but requiring final confirmation).....	67
- low (based on unconfirmed information)	34

Legal status of subdivision symbols

The use of emblems by local authorities is known, at least, from the 1930's. Nahum Shereshevsky reported in FOTW that “Haifa is the only town in Israel that has a real coat-of-arms, registered at the College of Arms in London in the early 1930's”. Tel Aviv adopted its emblem on its 25th birthday in 1934. However, until 1958 emblems of local authorities held no legal status. There was some protection against their misuse according to general legislation (copyright rules, criminal and civil laws preventing misleading etc.) but the emblems were not protected *per se* against misuse.

The Local Authorities (Emblems) Act, 5718-1958

In 1958, the *Knesset* (parliament) enacted The Local Authorities (Emblems) Act, 5718-1958 (adopted 5 August 1958), which included the following provisions (as translated by me):

“2 (a) - Local authority is permitted, by majority vote of its members, to determine an emblem for itself.

(b) A local authority, which decided to determine an emblem for itself, shall get the approval of the Minister of interior, and the approved emblem shall be published in the *Rashumot* [official gazette], and in doing so the emblem shall become the emblem of this local authority.”

The Act also included provision about “already used emblems” which needed no further approval, a provision used to publish dozens of emblems right after the enactment.

Until 1974 altogether 173 proclamations were made according to this act. Ten of them were corrections or replacements of previously published emblems (usually right after the authority was upgraded from Local Council to Municipality). Some of them are of long forgotten and now dissolved local authorities. The municipal emblems were (and still are) published in the official gazette (*Rashumot*), in a part called *Yalkut Ha'Pirsumim* (usually abbreviated as YP).

As we can see from the act, it was narrowed to include emblems but not flags and only those of local authorities but no of other governmental bodies. This was to be corrected in 1974 with the enactment of the Symbols Protection Act 5735-1974 which replaced the 1958 Act.

Symbols Protection Act, 5735- 1974

The Symbols (or Emblems, same word in Hebrew: *Semel*, pl. *Smalim*) Protection Act, 5735-1974, was adopted on 9 December 1974, replacing the previous 1958 act. The difference between the new and old act was adding flags as an item that can be protected and adding also governmental bodies and not just local authorities. Here is my translation of some provisions of the Act:

“Sec. 1 (a)

The Minister of the Interior is permitted to determine in warrant that a protection shall be given to an emblem or flag of:

1. An Israeli state body or service.
2. An Israeli municipality, local council [which includes regional councils] or cities' union.
3. An international public body.

Sec 1 (c)

The Minister of the Interior shall not issue a warrant to a local authority symbol unless its council has previously approved it as its symbol by a majority vote.

Sec. 12

A symbol that was determined to a local authority by the Local Authorities (Emblems) Act 5718-1958, is regarded as un-appealed symbol protected by a warrant issued according to this Act.”

One may expect that by adding flags as a protected item, the local authorities would

follow the 1958 practice and would register their flags as protected. Not so. Until September 2001, when my research was done, in a period of almost 27 years, there were only 66 proclamations. 62 of them by local authorities, 3 by central government and 1 by a governmental organization. How many of them were about flags? The answer is quite simple: None. Not a single flag was proclaimed as protected according to this act. My guess is that no local authority council found it necessary to register an “emblem on monochrome” as its official flag either by its lack of uniqueness or since the background color could be change anytime. Such an attitude could be understood when we are dealing with local authorities using the basic pattern of flags of local authorities as discussed below. However, few local authorities are using unique flags and could register them. Lack of knowledge perhaps?

Nevertheless, the conclusion is that not a single flag of Israeli local authorities could be considered as official and we are dealing with unofficial flags which for the most part are charged with an official emblem. Even though there were only 250 emblems that were proclaimed according to both acts (some of them of already dissolved local authorities or updated emblems), 265 of the 266 local authorities got emblems. Some local authorities had unofficial emblems just because they did not “bother” to register them.

Others are Israeli municipalities in areas occupied since 1967, which cannot register their emblems. The reason is that those areas are not legally part of Israel and according to international law they are governed by decrees of the military commander of the areas. Many Israeli laws are in force in those municipalities when adopted there by the military commander, but this act is not one of them.

The patterns of local authorities flags

All Israeli local authorities, without a single exception, use their emblems as part of their flags. However, those flags can be classified under few basic patterns, some of them used by only one or very few local authorities. Those patterns are:

Pattern 1: Emblem on monochrome background

The first pattern, and the most simple, is placing the emblem in the center of a monochrome background. This pattern is very commonly used, mostly by local authorities whose emblem contain their names. The emblem itself is used in natural colors or only outlined in single color, and even sometimes in both ways by the same local authority. 158 local authorities use this pattern (67.2 %). Examples include the flag of Haifa (Fig. 1)¹ displaying the emblem in natural colors on a monochrome background. Another example is the flag of Rishon Le’Zion with an outlined emblem on monochrome background (Fig. 2).² In a letter from the mayor the emblem of Rishon Le’Zion is explained: “The emblem which was chosen describes the first well and emphasize the cry “we found water” coming out from the diggers mouths when water was discovered [it is written on the inner scroll]. Around the well there is a vine’s tendril, which was the main product of the farmers, a citrus tree with its golden fruits and, in the background, industrial buildings whose smoke is rising from their chimneys.”

This first pattern also encompasses a sub-pattern used only by Acco (Acre) whose flag has a vertical orientation (Fig. 3).³ This is *not* a hanging flag. The emblem

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Figure 1 Flag of Haifa: Emblem in natural colors on monochrome background.



Figure 2 Flag of Rishon Le'Zion: Outlined emblem on monochrome background.



Figure 3 Flag of Acco: Emblem in natural colors in vertical orientation.



Figure 4 Flag of Qiryat Motzkin: Emblem in natural colors on monochrome background with inscription in Hebrew.

probably represents Acco as follows: Top left: Palms — a lot of them around and in the city. Walls — Acco old town is surrounded by them. Top right: Old ship — to symbolize Acco's position as the main port in the area. Bottom left: Today's industry and progress. Bottom right: Walls and sea — Acco's geographical position and its past.

Pattern 2: Emblem on monochrome background (with inscription added)

Usually, when the emblem of local authorities does not contain the name, an inscription is added. Thus the flag of Qiryat Motzkin has the emblem in natural colors on a monochrome background with an inscription in Hebrew (Fig. 4).⁴ Qiryat Motzkin is not situated on the coast so the ship probably represents the biblical tribe of Zvulun. The water tower also shown in the emblem still exists, as does the lamp with nine lights on its top symbolizing *Hannuka*. The inscription is *Iriyat Qiryat Motzkin* (Municipality of Qiryat Motzkin).

The flag of Zikhron Ya'akov follows the same pattern with the outlined emblem on monochrome fields with inscription in Hebrew. However, in this case the emblem appears against backgrounds in several colours. The inscription is *Mo'atza Mekomit Zikhron Ya'aqov* (Local Council Zikhron Ya'aqov). Zikhron Ya'aqov uses at least four different backgrounds, as shown in Figure 5.⁵

Usually in these flags, the inscription is placed along the bottom part below the emblem, unless the name is too long in which case it is added in two rows above and below the flag either in straight lines or in semi circles. 61 local authorities use this pattern (25.9 %).

Inscriptions in other languages

In flags of local authorities whose population is Arab or belonging to other minorities, the inscriptions appear in several languages. Usually, there are inscriptions in Hebrew and Arabic, as in the flag of Tamra (green variant) (Fig. 6).⁶ In Tamra's flag the inscriptions are *Baladiyat Tamra* in Arabic above and *Iriyat Tamra* in Hebrew below.

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Figure 5 Flags of Zikhron Ya'akov in four variations: Outlined emblem on monochrome with inscription in Hebrew.



Figure 6 Flag of Tamra (green variant): Inscriptions in Arabic and Hebrew.

However, there is also one local authority, Kfar Kama, whose inhabitants are Cherkess, and in this case the inscriptions are in Hebrew and Russian. Shown here is the blue variant of the flag (Fig. 7).⁷ Both inscriptions mean “Local Council.”

Pattern 3: Other patterns

The two patterns discussed above are used by more than 95 % of the local authorities in Israel. It is very rare to find a local authority flag that is not designed according to one of those two patterns. Since Hebrew is written from right to the left, the hoist usually is in the right (sinister) side and to cut expenses many flags are printed on one side only making the reverse mirrored.

However, occasionally you can find a flag that shows more than an “emblem on background,” as in the following patterns:

Flags inspired by the national flag

Nine local authorities, including the two biggest cities in Israel, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, use this pattern. The pattern is clearly inspired by the national flag and usually use its ratio (8:11) too. Replacing the Magen David with the local authority emblem creates this pattern, such as in the case of Tel Aviv (Fig. 8). Tel Aviv’s emblem is explained as follows: “On the emblem there are some motives symbolizing Tel Aviv and B.Z. Herzl who was a kind of spiritual forefather of the city. Beside the name Tel-Aviv, there are seven stars symbolizing Herzl’s vision of seven daily hours of work, as it was customary at the past in the town hall. In the center, Guttman [a painter who designed the emblem] painted a lighthouse to symbolize Tel-Aviv port [closed many years ago], then a safe refuge to tens of thousands of new immigrants.”⁸

All the flags using this pattern, but one, has no inscription on them. However, the Druze village of Pqi’in is using this pattern with inscription in Hebrew and Arabic (Fig. 9).⁹ The inscription in both languages is: “Local Council Pqi’in”. Two other local authorities are using this pattern but with different color schemes. Hulon is using a flag with mirrored colours (Fig. 10). The emblem was designed in 1946 by Mrs. Berlin. It shows sand dunes (*hol* means sand), stone houses in the process of being built and a sycamore tree.¹⁰ Qiryat Gat changed the colors of the stripes to follow the colors of its emblem: green and red (Fig. 11).¹¹ In a document sent to me by the municipality the emblem is explained as follows: “Green: characteristic to the green fields in whose heart the town is situated. Red: symbolic memorial to those who were killed in the Independence War and liberated the area from Egyptian occupation. Wall: symbol of the security which is given to the population by the town, and also as reminder of the walls built by Rehavam, King of Judea. Cogwheel: represents the renewing local industry. Cotton branch: the plant that characterized the area and was used for the local textile industry.” (my translation).

Category 4: Unique flags

There are three local authorities whose flags do not follow any of the previously mentioned patterns. I approached those local authorities in order to find out the meaning of their flags, but no one had an answer. The flag of Kfar Saba could have been considered as “regular” had not two stripes been add to the fly side of the flag (Fig. 12). In its

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Figure 7 Flag of Kfar Kama (blue variant): Inscriptions in Hebrew and Russian.



Figure 8 Flag of Tel Aviv: Emblem replacing the Magen David on national flag.



Figure 9 Flag of Pqei'in: Emblem replacing the Magen David on national flag with inscriptions in Arabic and Hebrew.



Figure 10 Flag of Hulon: Emblem replacing the Magen David on national flag with mirrored colors.

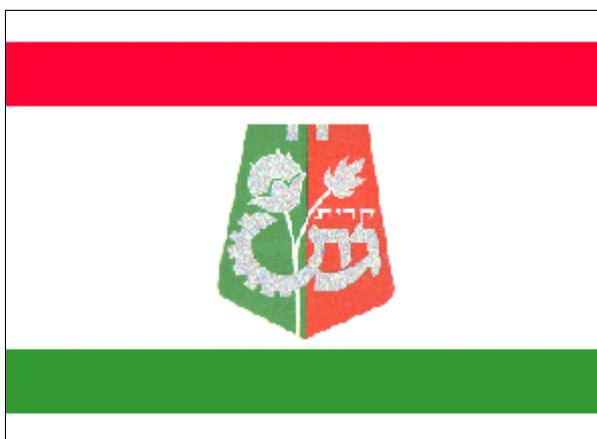


Figure 11 Flag of Qiryat Gat: Emblem replacing the Magen David on national flag with different colors.



Figure 12 Flag of Kfar Saba.

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explanation of the emblem the municipality writes: “The emblem reflects the character of the city and it features the *Khan* [an Ottoman era ‘motel’] which was the first house in renewing Kfar Saba and which later became the city hall. Beside it there are two eucalyptus trees which were planted in 1906. Industrial buildings, houses and citrus trees that characterized Kfar Saba for many years, are combined together in the emblem. The emblem was designed by Ya'akov Avukayi in 1953.”¹²

Giv'atayim is using a 1:2:1 triband of green-white-green (Fig. 13).¹³ My guess is that the two green stripes represent this municipality name which means “two hills”. The last flag to be mentioned in this category is the flag of Or-Yehuda (Fig. 14).¹⁴ This wavy light blue-white-orange triband with an emblem in orange-green and inscription in white over green talk for itself. The inscription is *Iriyat Or-Yehuda* (Municipality of Or-Yehuda).

Choice of Colors

One of the objectives of my research was to find out if there is some logic in the choice of colors used to represent the local authority. Most of the local authorities are using a specific background for their flags for many years. However, it is not uncommon to find a local authority, which use more than one background to its flag. Some of them even use up to six different colors. While doing my research, I asked the officials about the origin of the color in use. Only two local authorities could give me an explanation for the color of its flag. It seems that in many cases there were nothing else than artistic or cost reasons for the color of flags. The municipality of Hadera', whose name derives from the Arabic word *khadra* (green), uses at least four different backgrounds to its flag. My lack of understanding as to why not green color was used solely was answered that, by using more than one color, the municipality looks more colorful during Independence Day when city streets are decorated with its flags. However a few exceptions exist:

Blue

The use of different shades of blue as background could be explained as based on the national colors of Israel. Moreover, I found out that most of the local authorities, which are situated on the seashore (i.e Nahariya, Save Zion, Acco, Qiryat Yam, Haifa, Bat-Yam and Ashdod. Also Herzeliyya and Tel-Aviv uses the national flag's blue stripes), uses shades of blue as background in higher percentage than its use in inter-land local authorities. The flag of Ashdod (Fig. 15),¹⁵ defaced by an emblem combining a lion and an anchor, may serve as an example. Do the blue and white stand for the national colors or for Ashdod being a port city?

Orange

The massive use of orange color in local authorities in the area between Netanya in the north and Nes-Ziona in the south (i.e Netanya, Even Yehuda, Ha'Saron Ha'Dromi, Ra'anana, Kfar Saba, Rishon Le-Zion, Nes Ziona, etc.), is explained by a booklet published by the Municipality of Netanya as follows: “The background color to the city



Figure 13 Flag of Giv'atayim.



Figure 14 Flag of Or-Yehuda.



Figure 15 Flag of Ashdod: Do the blue and white stand for the national colors or for Ashdod being a port city?

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Figure 16 Flag of Even Yehuda: Orange color for the citrus plants.



Figure 17 Flag of Nazareth-Ilit: The only purple flag found in the survey.



Figure 18 Flag of Hevel Eilat: Yellow for the desert.

emblem and flag is orange, the color of the oranges growing in the Sharon region citrus plants.” Thus the flag of Even Yehuda (Fig. 16) also uses the orange color for the citrus plants.¹⁶ The emblem in Even Yehuda’s flag shows an orange tree, a water tower, a rooster and furrows, all serving evidence to the agricultural past of this local council.

Purple

The only local authority to use a purple flag, is Nazareth-Ilit (Fig. 17).¹⁷ The purple color represents the flower “Nazareth Iris” which appears in the center of the emblem.

Yellow

There is also a massive use of the yellow color in the Negev area (i.e. Regional Council of Arava, Dimona, Yeruham). The desert area is probably the reason for this as the use of all green emblems by some of them probably represents the oasis in the desert. The flag of Hevel Eilot (Fig. 18)¹⁸ may serve as an example of a flag using yellow to represent the desert. The emblem represents a typical desert scene.

Conclusion

In general, Israel's sub-national flags reveal a lack of imagination and inspiration. The vast majority of local authorities use a very simple design of charging a piece of colored fabric with the local emblem. Many local authorities choose background colors that have nothing to do with its character, history or geographic position. Some even uses more than one background. It seems that the local authorities themselves do not attach too much importance to their flags. No local authorities used the option of making its flag “official” by publishing it in the official gazette. Here and there, one can find a “real” flag, but those are very few compared with the vast majority of “standard” flags. Unfortunate as it could be, there is no sign that the present situation will be changed anytime in the near future.

Notes

¹ Image from FOTW by Ivan Sarajcic with his kind permission. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author who lives in Haifa. More information about the emblem at <<http://fotw.vexillum.com/flags/il-haifa.html>>.

² Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on personal observation of the author and a letter from the mayor.

³ Image from FOTW by Ivan Sarajcic with his kind permission. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

⁴ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

⁵ Images from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The images are based on a photo and personal observation of the author. More information at: <<http://fotw.vexillum.com/flags/il-lczyq.html>>.

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⁶ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author. More information at <<http://fotw.vexillum.com/flags/il-tamra.html>>.

⁷ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

⁸ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author. Information about the emblem from <<http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il>>. More information at <<http://fotw.vexillum.com/flags/il-tlviv.html>>.

⁹ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

¹⁰ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author. The emblem's origin is explained at <<http://www.holon.muni.il>>.

¹¹ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo in Zvi Ruder: *The National Colours of the People of Israel* (Shamir Publications, 1999).

¹² Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author. The explanation of the emblem is translated from <<http://www.kfar-saba.muni.il/assets/images/tol3.GIF>>.

¹³ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author. More information at <<http://fotw.vexillum.com/flags/il-gvtym.html>>.

¹⁴ Photo by the author.

¹⁵ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

¹⁶ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

¹⁷ Image from FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

¹⁸ Image From FOTW by Dov Gutterman. The image is based on a photo and personal observation of the author.

Appendix

List of flags of Israeli Local Authorities

- A) Name:** Name of local authority. Since it is a transcript from a Hebrew name, the names could appear in different transcription in other sources.
- B) Type:** M = Municipality. L = Local Council. R = Regional Council.
- C) Confirmation:** Y = yes — personal observation or photo confirms the flag. N = no — flag is yet to be confirmed.
- D) Pattern of flag:** A = Emblem on monochrome background. B = emblem on monochrome background with inscription added. N = emblem on national background. X = other pattern. U = Unknown.
- E) Color of flag:** W = White. B = Blue. T = Light Blue/Turquoise. V = Green. Y = Yellow. O = Orange. P = Purple. R = Red. M = More than one color used. U = Unknown.
- F) Color of emblem:** X = Natural colors. N = Black. Other colors as above.
- G) Emblem publication:** If published the number of the *Yalkut Ha'Pirsumim* is added. N = not published. U = can not be published.
- H) Visited:** Y = visited by the author. N = not yet visited.
- I) Source:** O = observation by the author. P = photo. L = letter from the local authority. C = phone call with the local authority. T = third party report. Can be more than one.
- J) Remarks.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	A'blin	L	Y	B	V _{or} O	N	4289	Y	O	Two variants in use.
2	Abu Gosh	L	N	A	W	X	4289	N	C	
3	Abu Snan	L	N	A	W	B	1453	N	T	No flag at visit.
4										Info by locals.
4	Acco	M	Y	A	T	X	631	Y	O	Only 3:1 flag.
5	Afula	M	Y	A	M	M	631	Y	O	At least six variants are used.
6	Aghar	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
7	Alfe Menashe	L	N	B	B	X	U	N	L	
8	Alona	R	Y	A	Y	N	989	Y	O	
9	Ar'ara	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info
10	Ar'ara ba'Negev	L	N	A	W	U	N	Y	O	In visit only remains of W flag.
11	Arabe	L	N	A	W	X	1487	Y	L	No flag in visit.
12										Inscr. is part of emblem.
12	Arad	M	Y	B	T	X	1277	Y	O	Inscription: Heb. above. Eng. below.
13	Ariel	M	N	B	M	X	U	N	L	
14	Ashdod	M	Y	A	B	W	1499	Y	O	
15	Ashqelon	M	N	A	O	U	663	N	L	
16	Atlit	L	Y	B	M	M	2006	Y	O	At least five variants in use.
17	Azata	R	Y	A	T _{or} B	B _{or} W	N	N	P	Photos from Regional Council. Two variants and a vertical B on T.
18	Azur	L	N	B	M	X	1650	N	L	Maybe pattern A is used.
19	Baqa-el- gharbiyya	L	N	A	W	U	3822	N	T	Info by locals.
20	Basmah	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists.
21										No more info.
21	Basmat Taboun	L	N	A	W	U	3084	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
22	Bat Yam	M	Y	A	B	B	633	Y	O	Emblem on white circle.
23	Beer Sheba	M	Y	A	T	B	1970	N	P	Photo from TV.
24	Beer Tuvia	R	Y	A	V	Y	934	Y	O	

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
25	Beer Ya'aqov	L	N	B	M	M	633	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
26	Benyamina	L	Y	A	M	M	N	Y	O	At least two and probably more variants are in use.
27	Bet Arie	L	N	B	B or W	W or B	U	N	L	Maybe pattern A is used.
28	Bet Dagan	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y		No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.
29	Bet Djan	L	Y	A	M	M	1396	Y	O	At least four variants are used. One variant is pattern B.
30	Bet She'an	M	Y	A	Y or O	B	3822	Y	O	
31	Bet Shemesh	M	N	A	M	X	1878	N	L	
32	Betar Ilit	M	N	U	W	U	U	N	T	According to website.
33	Bina	L	Y	B	W	V	3741	Y	O	Inscr. Heb above and Ara. below emblem.
34	Biqat Bet Shean	R	Y	A	T	B	631	Y	O	
35	Biqat Ha'Yarden	R	Y	A	W	X	U	N	P	Photo in newspaper.
36	Bir-el- Maksud	L	Y	B	W	V	4389	Y	O	Inscription in Eng. T variant also seen.
37	Bne Ayish	L	N	A	W	X	3291	N	L	
38	Bne Baraq	M	N	B	W	X	1821	N	C	Based on desk flag.
39	Bne Shim'on	R	Y	A	O	N	N	Y	O	
40	Brener	R	N	A	W	X	N	N	L	Based on desk flag. Previous emblem published.
41	Bueina - Nujidat	L	N	A	W	U	N	Y	O	At visit: remains of W flag.
42	Bukata	L	N	A	W	X	4348	Y	L	No flag at visit.
43	Daburiya	L	N	A	W	X	3822	N	L	
44	Daliat el Carmel	L	Y	A	W	B	1286	Y	O	
45	Dimona	M	Y	A	Y	V	825	Y	O	
46	Dir el Asad	L	N	A	W	U	3822	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
47	Dir Hana	L	Y	B	W	B	3748	Y	O	Inscr. in Heb. and Ara. below emblem.
48	Drom Ha'Sharon	R	Y	A	V or O	O or V	N	Y	O	Two variants.
49	Ef'al	R	N	B	W	V	989	N	L	
50	Eilaboun	L	N	A	W	V or Y	3839	Y	O	At visit flags in poor condition.
51	Eilat	M	Y	A	B	W	1827	Y	O	Replacing previous blue on yellow.
52	Eilut	L	N	A	W	U	N	Y	C	No flag at visit.
53	Ein Kinya	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
54	Ein Mahel	L	N	A	W	B	3748	N	T	Info by locals.
55	Elad	L	N	A	W	X	4843	N	T	Info from locals.
56	Elqana	L	N	U	U	U	U	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
57	ElyahinL	Y	A	W	VY	3752	Y	O		
58	Emanu'el	L	N	U	U	U	U	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
59	Emeq Ha'Yarden	R	Y	A	T	B	N	Y	O	
60	Emeq Hefer	R	Y	A	V	B	633	Y	O	
61	Emeq Jizrael	R	Y	B	M	X or M	N	Y	O	Previous emblem published. At least six variants is used.
62	Emeq Lod	R	N	B	V	X	633	N	T	Based on desk flag
63	Ephrat	L	N	U	U	U	U	N		Emblem exists. No more info.

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
64	Eshkol	R	Y	A	B	N	633	N	L	A flag was sent also.
65	Even Yehuda	L	Y	A	O	X	633	Y	O	Inscription above is part of the emblem.
66	Fasuta	L	N	A	W	U	1499	N	C	
67	Fureidis	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y	O	No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.
68	Gadera	L	Y	B	W	N	633	Y	O	Heb. inscr. above and emblem on B patch. Eng. B inscr. below emblem.
69	Gan Rave	R	N	B	W	B	942	N	T	Based on desk flag.
70	Gan Yavne	L	Y	A	O	X	1470	Y	O	
71	Gane Tiqwa	L	Y	B	W	X	4424	N	P	Photo by Rahel Burshtein.
72	Gderot	R	N	A	M	X	633	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info from locals.
73	Gezer	R	N	A	O	W	633	N	C	Desk flag is O on W.
74	Givat Ada	L	N	B	W	X	1843	N	L	
75	Givat Shmuel	L	Y	A	V	W	690	N	P	Photo on TV.
76	Givat Zeev	L	N	U	U	U	U	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
77	Givatayim	M	Y	X	WV	N	1861	Y	O	1:2:1 horizontal VWV triband.
78	Golan	R	Y	B	T	X	4843	Y	O	Inscr. above emblem
79	Gush Etzion	R	N	B	Y	VN	U	N	T	Based on desk flag.
80	Gush Halav	L	N	A	W	U	1286	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
81	Ha'Arava	R	Y	A	W	X	N	Y	O	
82	Ha'Galil	R	Y	B	M	X	631	Y	O	At least four variants are used.
83	Ha'Galil	R	Y	A	Y	N	1286	Y	O	
	Ha'Tahton									
84	Ha'Gilboa	R	Y	A	T	B	631	Y	O	
85	Hadera	M	Y	A	M	M	690	Y	O	At least four variants in use.
86	Haifa	M	Y	A	T	X	663	Y	O	
87	Har Adar	L	N	A	W	X	U	N	L	
88	Har Hevron	R	N	U	U	U	U	N	-	There is an emblem. No more info.
89	Hatzrot Yasaf	L	Y	B	W	X	4386	Y	O	
90	Hazor	L	Y	A	V	N	1770	Y	O	
	Ha'Glilit									
91	Herzliyya	M	Y	N	WB	B	1846	Y	O	
92	Hevel Eilot	R	Y	A	Y	V	1171	Y	O	
93	Hevel Modi'in	R	Y	A	W	B	633	Y	O	
94	Hevel Yavne	R	N	N	BW	B	N	N	L	Based on desk flag.
95	Hod	M	Y	A	V	OV	1277	Y	O	
	Ha'Sharon									
96	Hof Ashqelon	R	N	A	W	B	934	N	C	
97	Hof Aza	R	N	A	W	X	U	N	T	Based on desk flag.
98	Hof	R	Y	A	B	W	1031	Y	O	
	Ha'Carmel									
99	Hof	R	Y	A	W	X	N	Y	O	Previous emblem published.
	Ha'Sharon									
100	Hulon	M	Y	N	BW	B	633	Y	O	Mirrored national colors. Emblem on white patch.
101	Hura	L	Y	A	W	X	N	Y	O	
102	Hurfesh	L	Y	B	W	X	1533	Y	O	
103	Iksal	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
104	Jaljulia	L	N	A	W	X	N	N	C	
105	Jasr-el- Zarka	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y	O	No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.
106	Jatt	L	N	A	W	U	4973	N	C	

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
107	Jdeida - Maker	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y	O	No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.
108	Jerusalem	M	Y	N	BW	X	631	Y	O	Two variants.
109	Julis	L	Y	A	W or V	B or N	1499	Y	O	
110	Ka'abia Tabash Hajajra	L	Y	A	W	X	N	Y	O	
111	Kabul	L	N	B	W	R	N	Y	L	Maybe pattern A is used. No flag at visit.
112	Kafr Bara	L	N	A	U	U	1922	N	T	No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.
113	Kafr Kana	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y	O	
114	Kafr Kara	L	N	A	W	U	N	N	C	No flag at visit. Info from locals. Emblem exists. No more info.
115	Kafr Manda	L	N	A	W	X	3132	Y	T	
116	Kalanswa	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		
117	Karmiel	M	Y	N	BW	X	1734	Y	O	Emblem exists. No more info.
118	Karne Shomron	L	N	U	U	U	U	N		
119	Katzrin	L	Y	B	W	Y	N	Y	O	Also seen W on B.
120	Kaukab Abu el Hija	L	N	A	W	U	3990	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
121	Kazir Harish	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
122	Kdumim	L	N	A	M	M	U	N	T	Info from locals.
123	Kfar Kama	L	Y	B	M	M	2063	Y	O	At least four variants are used. Inscr. in Heb. above (semicircle) and Russian below emblem.
124	Kfar Kasem	L	N	A	W	X	3833	N	C	YV vertical stripes at the fly.
125	Kfar Saba	M	Y	X	O	X	633	Y	O	
126	Kfar Shmaryahu	L	Y	A	W	V	N	Y	O	
127	Kfar Tavor	L	Y	A	M	M	1816	Y	O	At least six variants are used.
128	Kfar Vradim	L	Y	A	W	X	N	Y	O	
129	Kfar Yasif	L	N	A	W	X	N	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
130	Kfar Yona	L	Y	A	R or T	NO	633	Y	O	Two variants.
131	Kineret	L	N	A	M	M	890	Y	T	No flag at visit.
132	Kisra - Samia	L	Y	A	W	B	4558	Y	O	Blue border from all sides.
133	Kohav Ya'ir	L	N	B	W	X	N	N	L	
134	Kuseifa	L	Y	A	W	X	N	Y	O	
135	Lahish	R	N	A	M	U	633	N	T	
136	Lakiya	L	N	U	W	U	N	Y	T	No flag at visit.
137	Lehavim	L	Y	A	W	B	N	Y	O	
138	Lev Ha'Sharon	R	N	A	W	X	N	N	L	Based on desk flag.
139	Lod	M	N	A	R	N	633	N	L	Maybe pattern B is used.
140	Ma'ale Edumim	M	N	A	W	X	U	N	L	
141	Ma'ale Eiron	L	N	A	W	U	N	N	C	
142	Ma'ale Ephrayim	L	N	A	W	M	U	N	L	
143	Ma'ale Yosef	R	Y	A	V	W	N	Y	O	Uses 50 th anniv. logo.
144	Ma'alot Tarshiha	M	Y	A	M	M	N	Y	O	At least four variant in use.
145	Maccabim Reut	L	N	A	U	U	4040	N	C	
146	Maghar	L	N	B	W	V	1560	Y	L	No flag at visit. Inscr. in Heb., Ara. and Eng.
147	Majdal Shams	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y		No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
148	Majed -el Kurum	L	Y	A	W	Y	2863	Y	O	
149	Marj el Bustan	R	N	U	U	U	U	N		New RC. No info yet.
150	Masa'ade	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y	O	No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.
151	Mash'ed	L	N	A	W	U	N	Y	O	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
152	Mate Asher	R	Y	A	M	M	3832	Y	O	At least five variants in use.
153	Mate Benyamin	R	N	A	W	X	U	N	C	Based on desk flag.
154	Mate Yehuda	R	N	A	U	U	1443	N	T	
155	Mazkeret Batya	L	Y	A	O	N	706	Y	O	
156	Mazra'a	L	N	A	W	B	N	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info from mayor. Inscr. part of emblem.
157	Megido	R	Y	A	V	N	631	Y	O	
158	Megilot	R	N	U	U	U	U	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
159	Meilya	L	N	B	W	U	N	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals. Inscr. in Heb. and Ara.
160	Meitar	L	N	U	U	U	3982	Y	T	No flag at visit.
161	Menahmiya	L	Y	A	Y	X	1560	Y	O	
162	Menashe	R	Y	A	V	B	1039	Y	O	Desk flag is Y on B.
163	Merhavim	R	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
164	Merom Ha'Galil	R	Y	A	W	B	631	Y	O	
165	Metula	L	Y	A	W	X	734	Y	O	
166	Mevaseret Zion	L	N	A	U	U	1715	N	T	
167	Mevu'ot Ha'Hermon	R	Y	A	O	X	N	Y	O	
168	Migdal	L	Y	A	V or Y	W or N	1664	Y	O	Two variants is used.
169	Migdal Ha'Emeq	M	Y	A	B or W	W or B	1001	Y	O	Two variants in use.
170	Migdal Tefen	L	Y	N	BW	X	N	Y	O	
171	Misgav	R	N	A	W	X	4834	N	L	Inscr. is part of the emblem.
172	Mizpe Ramon	L	N	A	W	B	1816	N	L	
173	Modi'in	L	N	A	U	X	4555	N	C	
174	Modi'in Ilit	L	N	U	U	U	U	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
175	Nahal Soreq	R	N	A	W	B	633	N	L	
176	Nahariyya	M	Y	B	B	W	1795	Y	O	Previously used other variants.
177	Nahif	L	Y	A	W	V	1795	Y	O	
178	Nazereth	M	N	B	W	N	934	N	L	Inscr. in Heb., Ara. and Eng.
179	Nazereth Ilit	M	Y	B	P	X	2057	Y	O	
180	Nes Ziona	M	Y	A	O	X	633	Y	O	
181	Nesher	M	Y	B	O	X	997	Y	O	Emblem and inscr. on white square patch.
182	Netanya	M	Y	A	O	BW	706	Y	O	
183	Netivot	L	Y	A	T	B	963	Y	O	Modified emblem in use.
184	Neve Monoson	L	Y	B	T	B	1795	Y	O	Inscr. in Eng.
185	Nof Ha'Galil	R	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
186	Ofaqim	M	N	B	M	X	4537	N	L	Could be pattern A.
187	Omer	L	N	B	V	WV	4558	N	L	Maybe pattern A is used.
188	Or Aqiva	L	Y	A	W	X	997	Y	O	
189	Or Yehuda	M	Y	X	TWO	X	1382	Y	O	Horizontal (wavy) triband.

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
190	Oranit	L	N	A	M	X	U	N	L	Inscription is part of the emblem.
191	Pardes Hana - Karkur	L	Y	B	Y	V	1784	Y	O	Inscr. above and below emblem.
192	Pardesiya	L	Y	A	B or O	W or N	1900	Y	O	Two variants.
193	Petah Tiqwa	M	N	A	B	X	633	N	L	
194	Pqi'in	L	Y	N	BW	X	1520	Y	O	B inscr. in Heb. and Ara. Flanking the emblem.
195	Qadima	L	Y	A	V	N	1808	Y	O	
196	Qiryat Mal'a'hi	M	Y	B	W or M	X or M	792	Y	O	At least three variants are used.
197	Qiryat Arba - Hebron	L	N	B	M	U	U	N	L	
198	Qiryat Ata	M	Y	A	W	BT	1666	Y	O	Two variants with different emblem size.
199	Qiryat Bialik	M	Y	B	W	X	4668	Y	O	Rare orange variant exists (previous?).
200	Qiryat Eqron	L	N	A	W	X	1813	Y	L	No flag at visit.
201	Qiryat Gat	M	N	N	WVR	X	1922	N	P	RV stripes. Photo in Ruder book.
202	Qiryat Motzkin	M	Y	B	Y	X	631	Y	O	Previously used many colors. Rare white variant exists.
203	Qiryat Ono	M	Y	A	T	X	1139	N	P	Photo by Rahel Burshtein.
204	Qiryat Shmona	M	Y	B	V	B	2233	Y	O	Black on yellow variant seen on TV.
205	Qiryat Tiv'on	L	Y	A	Y	X	770	Y	O	
206	Qiryat Ya'arim	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y	O	No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info
207	Qiryat Yam	M	Y	A	M	M	997	Y	O	At list six variants in use.
208	Ra'anana	M	Y	B	O	V or W	1090	Y	O	Emblem spotted in green or white.
209	Rahat	M	Y	A	W	X or N	4424	Y	O	Two variants.
210	Ramat Gan	M	Y	A	B	X	633	Y	O	Pattern B is rarely used too.
211	Ramat Ha'Negev	R	N	A	U	U	633	N	T	
212	Ramat Ha'Sharon	M	Y	B	Y	V	633	Y	O	
213	Ramat Hovav	L	N	B	Y	X	4225	N	L	
214	Ramat Yishai	L	Y	A	Y or T	B	1520	Y	O	
215	Rami	L	Y	B	W	V	N	Y	O	Heb. above and Ara. below emblem.
216	Ramla	M	N	B	O	X	633	N	L	Maybe pattern A is used.
217	Ramot Ha'Shavim	L	Y	B	T	X	4186	Y	O	
218	Rehasim	L	Y	B	W	B	1816	Y	O	Inscr. above the emblem in semi-circle.
219	Rehovot	M	Y	B	W	X	663	Y	O	R inscr. in Heb. and Eng. below emblem.
220	Reina	L	N	A	W	U	4293	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
221	Rishon Le'zion	M	Y	A	O	V	3882	Y	O	
222	Rosh Ha'ayin	M	Y	A	W	X	1585	Y	O	
223	Rosh Pina	L	N	A	T or W	X	631	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info based on local report and website.
224	Sa'ab	L	N	A	W	U	2478	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
225	Sah'nin	M	Y	A	W	N	4887	Y	O	
226	Sajur	L	Y	A	W	X	4348	Y	O	
227	Save Zion	L	Y	B	B	W	631	Y	O	Inscr. partly above and partly below emblem in semi-circle.

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
228	Savion	L	Y	B	V	Y	3012	Y	O	Inscr. above and below emblem.
229	Sderot	M	Y	A	W	B	825	Y	O	
230	Segev Shalom	L	N	A	W	U	N	N	C	
231	Sha'ar Ha'negev	R	N	X	BW	X	968	N	T	Based on desk flag. B over W.
232	Shafir	R	N	A	M	U	968	N	T	
233	Shfar'am	M	Y	B	W	B	N	Y	O	Inscr. in Heb., Ara. and Eng.
234	Shibli	L	N	A	W	U	3910	N	C	
235	Shlomi	L	Y	A	T	B	875	Y	O	Unconfirmed reports on W and R flags.
236	Sho'am	L	N	U	U	U	N	Y	O	No flag at visit. Emblem exists. No more info.
237	Shomron	R	N	A	B	X	U	N	L	Based on desk flag.
238	Taibe	L	N	A	W	U	3650	N	T	
239	Tamar	R	N	A	W	X	N	N	T	Based on desk flag.
240	Tamra	M	Y	B	M	M	1303	Y	O	At least four variants is used.
241	Tel Aviv	M	Y	N	BW	X	631	Y	O	
242	Tel Mond	L	Y	A	W	V	792	Y	O	
243	Tel Sheva	L	N	A	W	X	4452	N	T	
244	Tiberias	M	Y	B	W or V	B	631	Y	O	At least two variants are used.
245	Tira	M	N	A	W	X	2089	N	L	
246	Tirat Carmel	M	Y	A	W	X	690	Y	O	
247	Tuba - Zangariya	L	Y	A	W	X	4040	Y	O	
248	Tur'an	L	N	A	W	U	3128	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
249	Umm-el-Fahem	M	N	A	W	U	3822	N	C	
250	Usfiya (Isfiya)	L	N	A	W	B	1303	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
251	Yafia	L	N	A	B	X	1633	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
252	Yahud	M	Y	B	V	N	N	Y	O	N emblem on W patch.
253	Yanuah - Jatt	L	Y	A	W	B	4348	Y	O	
254	Yarqa	L	N	A	U	U	1554	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals
255	Yasud Ha'Ma'ala	L	Y	A	V	Y	792	Y	O	Inscr. part of emblem.
256	Yavne	M	N	B	W	X	3831	Y	T	No flag at visit. Info by locals.
257	Yavne'el	L	Y	A	M	M or X	3412	Y	O	At least four variants are used. X emblem on W.
258	Yeruham	L	Y	A	Y	X	1470	Y	O	
259	Yoav	R	N	B	W	B	898	N	L	Maybe pattern A is used.
260	Yoqne'am Ilit	L	N	B	U	U	898	Y	T	No flag at visit.
261	Zarzir	L	N	A	W	U	N	Y	T	Info from locals.
262	Zefat	M	Y	B	M	B	631	Y	O	No flag at visit. At least five variants are used.
263	Zemer	L	N	U	U	U	N	N		Emblem exists. No more info.
264	Zihron Ya'aqov	L	Y	B	M	M	631	Y	O	At least four variants are used. Inc. above and below emblem.
265	Zoran	L	Y	-	-	-	-	-	L	Got no flag and no emblem yet.
266	Zvulun	R	N	B	W	V	1090	N	L	Maybe pattern A is used.

About the author



Dov Gutterman, 47, is living in Qiryat-Haim, a small community just north of Haifa in Israel. Dov is a lawyer by profession and is married with three beautiful daughters. Dov has been interested in flags since childhood, but started to deal more seriously with vexillology when he joined Flags Of The World in 1998. He was named FOTW Vexillologist of the Year 1999 for his research of flags in internet sites. In 1999, Dov also became a member of FOTW Editorial Staff and is now responsible for editing about 3,000 pages in the site. Dov is also a member of JAVA and VENZIMBOL. Besides being a vexillologist, Dov is in charge of the Haifa Bar Association's Ethics Committee, he is a Member of Qiryat Haim Local Committee, and he is the Campaign Director of the "Qiryat Haim Neto" list in Haifa municipal elections. He was named Volunteer of the Year 2002 by Zvulun Police Station for his activity in the local Civil Guard. Dov was also Chairman of the Haifa branch of the Israel Nature Preservation Society for six years, as well as being member of the Building and Settling Sites Preservation Council. He is still active in many other volunteer activities.

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