**Exploiting Wikimedia** Foundation platforms even though they are inconsistent with the Foundation's goals, and is the Wikimedia Foundation doing anything about it?

**Hana Yariv** 

The topic of the session talks about a specific case, from which it is possible to draw conclusions regarding other cases of the conduct of the Wikimedia Foundation

The policy of the Wikimedia Foundation is non-interference in what is done in the various Wikipedias and other projects of the foundation, even when the platform is used in a way that does not comply with the foundation's policy

The case I am presenting is about a former editor who files many lawsuits against people who very innocently use images from Commons that he uploaded without giving him credit. Legally he is right. But it does damage to the project.

The examples are from pictures that were all taken by me



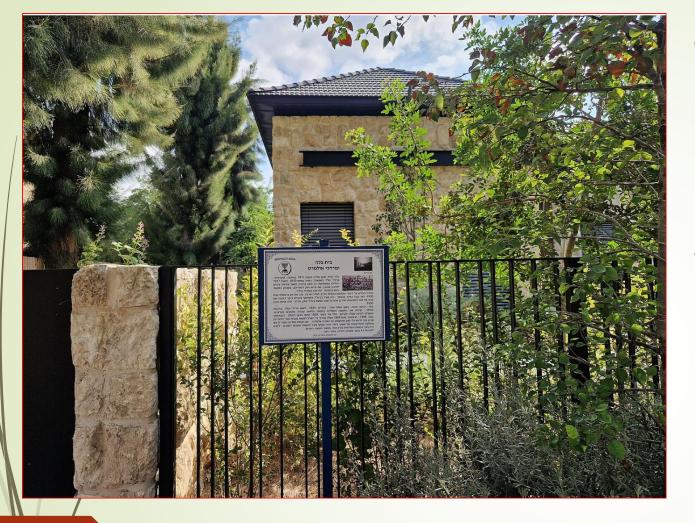
A sign on the Nesher Mandatory Post Office fence, that includes historical pictures



If someone took this picture of the sign, which is from 1938, do he have copyright?



In Israel there is "The Council for Conservation of Heritage Sites in Israel". The signs of the council are found in many cities. Some of the signs include historical pictures like this one in Nesher.



This is the house where Ehud Olmert, who was Prime Minister of Israel, grew up. The house in Binyamina, where they hung signs telling the story of the families with historical pictures whose copyrights have expired. taking a photo of the picture on the sign, does not create copyright to the photographer

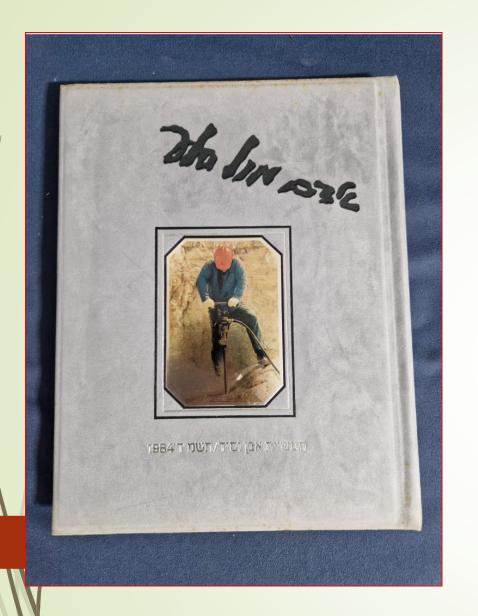


I also took the pictures from the sign, they are from 1946.

If someone take also this picture of the sign, he dose not have copyright.



I took this picture of the city of Nesher in 2010, and added it to the article (Featured article) on the Hebrew Wikipedia. I found that it was copied without credit on many websites, I contacted them, and asked that they either give me credit, or remove the image. **Everyone responded to my** request. I didn't sue anyone



In the Hebrew Wikipedia, fair use images are used for articles about books, movies and people who have died and there is no free image of them. A person who photographs a book cover with his camera and uploads it in fair use to the Hebrew Wikipedia does not create copyright for himself.

I think it's a problem that the Wikimedia Foundation doesn't intervene in such cases. I offer the following solution and I would also appreciate additional ideas I found that a similar issue was discussed on the German Wikipedia on 2017.

I propose that the Wikimedia Foundation establish a permanent committee, whose members will be editors from several projects, who will volunteer for this. The committee will be given the authority to decide to delete an editor's pictures from Commons, when it is proven that Commons is being used by him for the purpose of lawsuits.



## Thank you very much