# PROTECTING LIVES WITH 'SMART' LENSES

*"For the first time, our security personnel can identify unusual events and react most effectively."*

**O**ne early morning in Sansana, a community nestled in the western tips of southern Judea, Omer, a contractor, was ready to start another day earning an honest living for himself and his family. Omer approached his equipment consisting of a tractor and two trucks, but to his surprise, he saw a suspicious person leaning on his tractor. Omer immediately stiffened, preparing for a confrontation. He already knew where this was going. The atmosphere grew tense as the man confronted Omer with an offer that, in this region, was hard for many to refuse - pay a monthly protection fee to an Arab Bedouin gang or face dire consequences. If he chose not to pay, the gang would destroy his expensive equipment and livelihood. It was an all too familiar scenario in the Hebron Hills where Bedouin gangs have all too often extorted farmers and business owners into paying them protection fees.

Directly southwest of Sansana, in the Negev region, Bedouin gangs operate with alarming impunity, relentlessly spreading their criminal activities into the surrounding areas. These gangs have been responsible for burglary, vandalism and theft, creating an atmosphere of insecurity throughout the Hebron Hills region. Compounding the challenge, the specialized police units in the Negev, trained to handle these Bedouin gangs, lack jurisdiction to operate in Judea. As a result, the people of Sansana have lived under a constant looming threat of extortion and crime.

Faced with these daunting challenges, Sansana's security team conceived of a solution - an advanced "smart" camera system that could swiftly alert the


▲ *Given its proximity, the people of Sansana regularly observe illegal Arab infiltrators scaling the Security Barrier.*