

Ynet-News, Apr 07, 2022 – Thursday

04.07.22 – Th- - - News Placed in Apr 08 spot – Friday
Bennett to oust MK Chikli to deny him to resign & form a separate faction

04.07.22 – Th- - - News
MK Orbach to quit Bennett coalition unless West Bank construction agreed

Arcturus Culminates at Midnight April 6 - 1st Month (Job 9:9, 38:31, Amos 5:8)

04.06.22 – We- - - News
Bennett says Silman was subjected to 'verbal violence' from opponents

04.06.22 – We- - - News Placed in Apr 07 spot – Thursday
MK Silman left Meretz party shunning Passover; Joined Likud at 60 seat tie

04.05.22 – Tu- - - News
EU & UN sanctions propose; bar Russian imports, exports & shipping in EU ports

04.05.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 05 spot – Tuesday
Gantz & Abbas ease restrictions on PA & West Bank residents during Ramadan



Abbas & Gantz April 2022

04.07.22
Bennett to oust MK Chikli to deny him to resign & form a separate faction

04.07.22

Bennett's party moves to oust rebel MK to avoid coalition resignation

Move seen as an effort to dissuade more members of the prime minister's Yamina party from following former coalition whip Idit Silman, who has crossed the line to join the opposition after securing a ministerial position in an alternative government

Moran Azulay | Published: 04.07.22, 19:04

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and his Yamina party on Thursday said they would designate member of Knesset Amichai Chikli a deserter from the party, after he repeatedly voted against the coalition, including in the vote to approve it, last June.

After such designation, Chikli will be barred from being elected to any existing party in the next election cycle and will be denied funding from the Knesset.

The disciplinary move is seen as an attempt to prevent the removal of the coalition from power and as a warning to others in the party who were being urged to resign from it and shift their alliances to the opposition, after the dramatic resignation of former coalition whip Idit Silman on Wednesday.

Silman's resignation has left the coalition one vote short of a parliamentary majority. Prior to her announcement, she had secured a ministerial position in a Likud-led government, should one be established and a secure spot at the top of the next Likud Knesset list.

Chikli opposed formation of a coalition in partnership with the Islamist Ra'am party and has since the Bennett government's ascent to power refused to back it.

"Member of Knesset Amichai Chikli has voted no less than 670 times against the coalition during its last session," Yamina said.

"He has attempted to cause it to fail," the statement went on to say.

Bennett delayed any disciplinary action against Chikli until now and the move will have to be approved by the Knesset committee in a vote expected later this month.

By so doing, Bennett will prevent formation of a separate faction by Silman who will now need two additional members of Yamina, to follow her out of the coalition, rather than one with Chikli as the third.

04.07.22

MK Orbach to quit Bennett coalition unless West Bank construction agreed

04.07.22

Another Yamina MK threatens to quit coalition unless demands met

With coalition yet to get back on firm footing following Silman's abrupt exit, Nir Orbach issues three-pronged ultimatum to Bennett, further deepening political crisis

i24NEWS, Elisha Ben Kimon | Published: 04.07.22, 15:29

The ground got shakier for Israel's fragile ruling coalition on Thursday as MK Nir Orbach of the ruling Yamina party threatens to follow MK Idit Silman to the exit.

After Silman abruptly resigned from Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's coalition on Wednesday, a similar move by Nir Orbach could potentially topple the government that already lost its majority in Israel's parliament.

Aware of his trending position of power, Yamina MK Orbach on Thursday gave an ultimatum to Bennett based on three demands.

Orbach is demanding the restoration of daycare subsidies for children of yeshiva students; the convening of the planning commission to authorize the building of new homes in the West Bank; and connecting West Bank outposts to the electricity grid.

"Without a solution to these issues, I can't stay in the coalition," Orbach said, reflecting months of festering frustration and tension due to public pressure on the party.

The West Bank's construction plan, which has been glossed over time and time again, is a major wedge issue for right-wing parties. Bennett claims that he and Defense Minister Benny Gantz had agreed on advancing the construction plan, said to erect close to 4,000 new homes, and that Bennett intends on voicing his intentions clearly in order to strengthen the right-wing stance.

Yamina also criticized Bennett's use of the term "West Bank" as opposed to "Judea and Samaria" in a public speech in which U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was present. The demands concern Bennett and Israel's rainbow coalition that removed Benjamin Netanyahu from power this past summer after 12 years as Israel's longest-serving prime minister.

Restoring yeshiva subsidies goes against Yisrael Beytenu chief Avigdor Liberman's decision as finance minister. The other two demands conflict with left-wing members of the coalition and the international community that opposes the settlement enterprise. If Orbach were to resign, he would leave Bennett with a minority government of 59 seats in the 120-seat Knesset.

04.06.22

Bennett says Silman was subjected to 'verbal violence' from opponents

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Bennett says Silman was subjected to 'verbal violence' from opponents

PM says former coalition whip resigned after supporters of Benjamin Netanyahu and nationalist MK Bezael Smotrich subjected her and her family to months of abuse; adds main goal is to stabilize the coalition

Moran Azuly | Published: 04.06.22, 20:52

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Wednesday that former Yamina MK and coalition whip Idit Silman, who announced her resignation from the government earlier, **defected to the Opposition despite** being subjected to **"months of verbal violence"** from his government's opponents.

"Idit was hounded for months," said Bennett, who accused Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu and Religious Zionist Party head Bezalel Smotrich of subjecting Silman and her family "to verbal violence at the most horrific level".

"She also described the threats sent to [her husband's workplace] and her children in Bnei Akiva, in the end she simply broke down," said Bennett, referring to the numerous **violent right-wing protests outside Silman's private residence**, as well as reports she and her family received threatening messages.

"The main thing we need to deal with right now is stabilizing the [Yamina] faction and the coalition," added Bennett, whose ramshackle government is now facing the very real threat of elections.

"I have talked to all the party leaders - everyone wants to continue with this government - which is working for the citizens of the country."

Bennett added: "The entire government was founded on maintaining the status quo - and not on making sudden movements. The alternative is more elections and perhaps even more elections after that, and a **return to the days of dangerous instability for the State of Israel.**"

Shortly after Silman's announcement, Bennett met with several members of his faction: including MK Nir Orbach - who **is now under great pressure from the Right to join Silman and resign from the coalition** - as well as with interior minister and close political ally Ayelet Shaked, and Deputy Minister Abir Kara.

In their discussions with Bennett, **his faction members** reportedly **lambasted the prime minister for his conduct**, namely for his efforts to mediate between **Moscow and Kyiv** which **made him forget about the coalition's "war in the Knesset"**.

Bennett's faction members also **demand a stronger response to any and all harassment**, like the one Silman and her family were subjected to in recent months.

A Yamina political figure present at the discussion, said: "The feeling is that the bleeding has stopped, and **despite Orbach and Kara poignant remarks to Bennett**, it seems they will **not be** doing anything of the Silman type, or any other **dramatic move any time soon.**"

04.06.22

MK Silman left Meretz party shunning Passover; Joined Likud at 60 seat tie

04.06.22

Israel's coalition government dealt near fatal blow with whip's defection

With coalition and opposition tied in Knesset, legislation virtually impossible without cooperation across political divide; Silman claims motivated by concerns for Jewish identity of Israel but some speculate she has already secured a place in Netanyahu's Likud

Moran Azulay | Published: 04.06.22, 08:31

The coalition of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, on Wednesday lost its narrow majority with the announced resignation of its whip - Idit Silman who will join the opposition.

The coalition was now tied with the opposition with 60 Knesset seats each, making legislation impossible without cooperation across the political divide.

Silman announced she was leaving because she was concerned Israel was losing its Jewish character, but some speculate, she was secured a position in the Likud party. According to sources, Silman was promised the position of Health Minister in a Likud led government and a guaranteed place in its Knesset list for the next elections. Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Silman and welcomed her 'back home' to the right.

"I was excited to hear the announcement of Member of Knesset Idit Silman and congratulate her on behalf of millions of Israelis who have been longing for this moment," Netanyahu said in a video post.

"You have proved that you are guided by concern for Israel's Jewish identity... you will be welcomed back with open arms," he said referring to the right wing, nationalist political side.

The leader of the Religious Zionism party Bezalel Smotrich also said he will welcome Silman back into the fold and called her announcement a new dawn for Israel. Silman came out forcefully against Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz from the left-wing Meretz party earlier this week, after he instructed hospitals to refrain from enforcing Jewish dietary restrictions during the Passover holiday. Bennett and Foreign Minister and alternative prime minister Yair Lapid were not aware of her decision and heard of her move from the media.

Silman's dramatic defection increases Netanyahu's chances of return to power but on its own, is not a definitive end to the Bennett coalition.

For Silman to topple the government she must join with two other coalition members to form a new faction. Thus far she is joined only by one – another member of Bennett's own Yamina Party - Amichai Shikli who had refused to back the coalition since it was established.

Bennett can label both rebels as renegades and thereby prevent them from joining any other party in the Knesset in the next elections.

The prime minister had not commented on Silman's resignation in the first hours after her announcement.

04.05.22

EU & UN sanctions propose; bar Russian imports, exports & shipping in EU ports

04.05.22

Ukraine leader tells top U.N. body to make Russia accountable for 'war crimes'
European Union, U.S. set to impose new sanctions to include ban on all new investment in Russia, coal imports as part of West's response to Russia's massacre of civilians in Bucha. Reuters| Published: 04.05.22, 22:29

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that "accountability must be inevitable" for Russia as he accused invading Russian troops of committing "the most terrible war crimes" since World War II.

Stepping up international efforts to isolate Moscow over its devastating invasion and emerging evidence of atrocities against civilians, the United States and its allies will announce a sweeping new round of sanctions on Wednesday including a ban on all new investment in Russia, a source familiar with the move said.

The European Union's executive proposed extending sanctions to include a ban on coal imports from Russia as part of the West's response to the discovery of bodies of civilians shot at close range in the northern town of Bucha retaken from Russian forces. Between 150 and 300 bodies might be in a mass grave by a church in Bucha, Ukrainian human rights ombudswoman Lyudmyla Denisova said on Tuesday.

Zelensky questioned the value of the 15-member Security Council, which has been unable to take any action over Russia's Feb. 24 invasion because permanent member Moscow is a veto power, along with the United States, France, Britain and China.

"We are dealing with a state that turns its veto at the U.N. Security Council into the right to (cause) death," Zelenskiy said in a live video address from the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, calling for action to reform the world body. "Russia wants to turn Ukraine into silent slaves," he said.

Responding to Zelensky, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the Council that Russian troops were not targeting civilians, dismissing accusations of abuse as lies. Moscow has said the deaths in Bucha were a "monstrous forgery" staged by the West to discredit it.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said responsible world powers and global leaders need to "show backbone" - and stand up to Russia's dangerous and unprovoked threat against Ukraine and the world".

Russia says it launched a "special military operation" in Ukraine on Feb. 24 to demilitarize and "denazify" a country that President Vladimir Putin regards as an illegitimate state. The Kremlin's position is rejected by Ukraine, a parliamentary democracy, and the West as a pretext for an unprovoked invasion.

China's U.N. ambassador told Tuesday's session that the reports and images showing civilian deaths in Bucha were "very disturbing" but added that the circumstances should be verified and any accusations should be based on facts.

Ambassador Zhang Jun also urged the United States, NATO and the European Union to engage in a dialogue with Russia rather than pursue further sanctions he said were not effective in solving the crisis.

Casting sanctions net wider

The source familiar with sanctions plans by Washington and its allies said they would include restrictions on financial institutions and state-owned enterprises in Russia, and target Russian government officials and their families.

The proposed EU sanctions, which the bloc's 27 member states must approve, would bar Russian imports worth 9 billion euros (\$9.84 billion) and exports to Russia worth 10 billion euros, including semiconductors and computers, and stop Russian ships entering EU ports.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it was working on banning oil imports too.

"We all saw the gruesome pictures from Bucha and other areas from which Russian troops have recently left. These atrocities cannot and will not be left unanswered," she said on Twitter.

Earlier in the day Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko called for all business ties with Russia to be cut so as to halt the flow of "bloody money".

Since Russia shifted its offensive to the south and east of Ukraine from the north, where it failed to capture any major cities, grim images have emerged from Bucha near Kyiv, including a mass grave and bodies with their hands bound in the street.

The apparent atrocities have prompted calls for tougher action against Moscow and an international investigation.

Sanctions more severe than any ever imposed on a major power have isolated and crippled Russia's economy, but Ukraine says the West needs to do much more to starve Moscow's war machine.

"Every euro, every cent that you receive from Russia or that you send to Russia has blood, it is bloody money and the blood of this money is Ukrainian blood, the blood of Ukrainian people," Klitschko told a conference in Geneva via video link.

Europe, which obtains about a third of its natural gas from Russia, has been wary of the economic impact a total ban on Russian energy - which Ukraine maintains is vital to securing a peace deal - would bring.

An EU ban on Russian coal would be worth around 4 billion euros a year, von der Leyen said - tiny in comparison with last year's 100 billion euros in oil and gas imports from Russia.

But signaling strengthening EU resolve, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the coal ban was the first step towards an embargo on all fossil fuel imports from Russia.

The Ukraine conflict, now in its sixth week, has killed thousands, sent millions fleeing and trapped hundreds of thousands in besieged and destroyed towns and cities.

This handout satellite image released by Maxar Technologies on April 4, 2022 shows

At the weekend, Reuters reporters in Bucha saw several bodies apparently shot at close range, along with makeshift burials and a mass grave, but could not independently verify the number of dead or who was responsible.

Satellite images taken in March and provided to Reuters by U.S. company Maxar Technologies showed bodies of civilians on a street in Bucha, which was occupied by Russian forces until about March 30, undercutting Kremlin claims that the scenes were staged.

U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths, who is seeking a humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine, told the Security Council that "we have a long road ahead of us".

04.05.22

Gantz & Abbas ease restrictions on PA & West Bank residents during Ramadan

04.05.22

Gantz, Abbas speak in first call since start of deadly terror attacks

Defense Minister thanks Palestinian president for his condemnation of terror strike; approves lifting some restrictions on entry to Israel for Palestinians during holy month of Ramadan. Yoav Zitun, Eior Levy | Published: 04.05.22, 22:56

Defense Minister Benny Gantz spoke with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday his office said.

The call was the first conversation the two men held since the recent wave of terror attacks that claimed the lives of 11 people.

Gantz expressed his appreciation for the condemnation expressed by Abbas after the deadly terror attack in Bnei Brak last week, which resulted in the death of five Israelis. "The minister sent his good wishes for the holy month of Ramadan and said that it was a time for peace and serenity and not for terror," the Defense Ministry said in a statement. "He added that Israel will continue to combat attempts to harm civilians and security forces," the statement went on to say.

Earlier the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Maj. Gen. Rissan Alian announced initiatives aimed at easing holiday celebrations on the West Bank population after discussions with Gantz, Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi and others in the security establishment.

Gantz approved some easing of regulations on Palestinians wishing to worship at the Al Aqsa mosque on Friday.

He also approved visitations for West Bank residents in Israel on weekdays during the holiday and will increase the working hours of border crossings to accommodate demand.

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Ynet-News, Apr 04, 2022 – Monday

04.05.22 – Tu- - - News

Zelensky says Ukraine will become 'big Israel,' with security top priority

04.04.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in Apr 04 spot – Monday

Police raid find massive arms cache buried under a home after boasting videos

04.03.22 – Su- - - News Placed in Apr 03 spot – Sunday

Police arrest ten PA in violent clashes near Damascus Gate Sunday night.

04.03.22 – Su- - - News

Bracing for worst-case scenario on Temple Mt., Police recruit more officers

04.03.22 – Su- - - News

IDF prepared for terror wave, including military in Gaza, if terror factions escalate

04.02.22 – Sa- - - News – Saturday Ramadan starts

04.01.22 – Fr- - - News Placed in Apr 01 spot – Friday New Moon

Troops eliminated PA terrorist throwing firebomb at them in West Bank

03.31.22 – Th- - - News Placed in Mar 31 spot – Thursday

Russia demands ruble gas payments, Europe may cut a third of its supplies

03.31.22 – Th- - - News

Turkey would discuss gas pipeline with Israel mid-May after Ramadan

03.31.22 – Th- - - News Placed in Mar 31 spot – Thursday

Daylight IDF raid & shootout in Jenin, 30 PA of 31 detained with weapon stash

03.31.22 – Th- - - News

Ben Gvir visits Temple Mt. snubs terrorists, citing; 'We are the owners here'

03.31.22 – Th- - - News

Israeli troops kill three terrorists in West Bank counter terror op

03.30.22 – We- - - News

Police permit Ben Gvir to ascend Temple Mount on Thursday Rosh Chodesh eve