

Ynet-News, November 11, 2022 – Friday

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UN Court voted in favor of Israel right to self-defense in PA perpetual conflict

11.08.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in November 09 spot – Wednesday
Council of sages insist their laws must not be struck down by the courts

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Netanyahu will form a government first before coalition agreements or policies

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Far-right Smotrich under fire after accusing Shin Bet of Rabin's death in 1995

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 Hamas arrests two for rockets at Israel last week, not coordinated with factions

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Netanyahu calls for MK unity to serve the people of Israel

11.11.22
UN Court voted in favor of Israel right to self-defense in PA perpetual conflict

11.11.22
UN votes to seek ICJ opinion on Israeli 'occupation'
The motion, brought up at the request of the Palestinian Authority passed with 98 votes in favor; Israel, the U.S., Canada and Australia were among those who opposed the move
i24NEWS|Yesterday | 12:35

The United Nations on Friday voted in favor of seeking an International Court of Justice opinion on Israel's activity in Palestinian territories in the West Bank.

The motion, brought up at the request of the Palestinian Authority but officially submitted by Nicaragua, passed with 98 votes in favor, 17 against and 52 abstentions.

Israel, the U.S., Canada and Australia were among those who opposed the move. Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan denounced the move and the United States representative noted that the Biden administration opposes unilateral decisions.

The text asks the ICJ to consider that, due to its continuing nature, the "Israeli occupation" constitutes annexation. A court ruling affirming that Israel illegally annexed the West Bank and east Jerusalem would not be legally binding on the Jewish state, but it would be a blow to Jerusalem.

"The Palestinian proposal is part of an anti-Israeli campaign infected with antisemitism that aims to undermine Israel's legitimacy and its right to self-defense," said Erdan when the motion was proposed.

"[Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas is once again acting in a destructive way, in a way that will only harm the Palestinians themselves. We will make it clear to every country that supporting this move is a price for terrorist organizations and will only perpetuate the conflict," he added.

Iran warns Saudi Arabia over 'reliance' on Israel

Saudi Arabia has signaled its backing for the Abraham Accords, but has stopped short of formally recognizing the Jewish state; 'You are relying on an Israel which is collapsing,' says top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards
Ynet News

11.08.22

Council of sages insist their laws must not be struck down by the courts

11.08.22

Religious MKs insist on laws to override Supreme Court

Netanyahu under pressure to pass override clause to void Supreme Court rulings to promote legislation benefiting Israel's religious sector, yet he prefers to put it off until the government is established

Kobi Nachshoni|Yesterday | 07:19

Assumed prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed doubts about legislating an override clause, allowing the Knesset to void Supreme Court rulings, while the Haredi sector signaled that this is a prerequisite for their support of the coalition.

The leader of the Hassidic Vizhnitz sect Rabbi Yisroel Hager, one of the senior spiritual leaders of United Torah Judaism, summoned party members Monday night and ordered them not to enter the future government if the Likud fails to commit to passing the law.

On Monday, the ultra-Orthodox council of sages, who provide politicians with their positions and power, met to agree on the matter.

The Haredi parties, who previously stayed out of the right-wing bloc's attempts to circumvent the Supreme Court, are now pushing for the law in order to ensure that a list of political steps they intend to lead in the next coalition will not be struck down by the courts. At the top of the list is a new IDF draft law that defines the special status of yeshiva students, contrary to a previous court demand to promote equality in collective military service.

In meetings with the incoming prime minister, Bezael Smotrich of the Religious Zionist Party and United Torah Judaism leaders, Netanyahu said he intended to wait with coalition deals until the government is formed.

Smotrich was seeking to advance talks to include new policies on West Bank settlements as well as reforms to the judicial system. The override clause would significantly ease such measures.

Critics of the clause argue that it would turn the Supreme Court into a lame duck, and give the government too much autonomy. This could eventually lead to anti-democratic legislation, and harm minorities trying to push for legislative reforms.

'I've grown up,' far-right Ben-Gvir tells Israelis worried about his rise

Religious Zionism party co-chair says he has come to understand that life is

'complicated,' adding he would not seek to impose religious laws or curb freedom of dissent, and would tackle crime-racking Israel's Arabs

11.08.22

Netanyahu will form a government first before coalition agreements or policies

11.08.22

Herzog said to work behind the scenes towards a national unity government

President reportedly meeting with leaders of center-left parties to urge them to join Netanyahu and prevent participation of extreme political elements in coalition;

President's Residence denies report

Moran Azuly|Yesterday | 04:33

President Issac Herzog has been working behind the scenes in an attempt to broaden the incoming coalition headed by Benjamin Netanyahu and form a unity government, sources said Tuesday.

Sources told Ynet that Herzog met with Prime Minister Yair Lapid who heads the Yesh Atid party, and with Defense Minister Benny Gantz the leader of the National Unity party, to urge them to join Netanyahu's next government and prevent the participation of far-right lawmakers.

In an official statement, the President's Residence denied the report. "The president did not ask any party leader to join any government. The consultations with political parties will begin on Wednesday and only after they are completed, will the president assign anyone to head a new government," the statement read.

Both leaders of the center-left parties repeated their election campaign promise not to serve under Netanyahu, because of the criminal charges of corruption levied against him, during their campaigns ahead of the November elections.

During a Sunday memorial event for the slain prime minister Yitzhad Rabin – assassinated by a right-wing activist 27 years ago - Lapid said there was no scenario in which his party would join a Netanyahu coalition.

"The government I am leading has lost the elections. Who ever believes in Israeli democracy when he wins, must also believe in it when he loses," Lapid said. "There is no way we will enter the incoming government, he said.

The National Unity also responded to rumors that Netanyahu was planning to approach Gantz to ask his party to join his next government. "We will proudly go to the opposition," the party said in a statement.

"Israel is facing many challenges, and the new government, which is reliant on extreme political elements, will have to deal with them," the statement read. "We have decided to continue to solidify the National Unity camp as a meaningful movement in the center of Israel's politics. We respect the decision of voters and once a new government is sworn in, we will serve in the opposition in a responsible manner, while building an alternative leadership for the country."

During their campaign, both Lapid and Gantz promised they would not serve under Netanyahu because of the criminal charges of corruption, levied against him. Netanyahu is on trial in the Jerusalem District Court for bribery, fraud and breach of trust, which he denies.

The prime minister elect said in his victory speech last Tuesday, that he would attempt to form a unity government. He was reported as voicing an opposition to any major legislation to curb the power of the judicial system or cancel his trial.

Netanyahu told leaders of his right-wing and religious parliamentary bloc that he would first seek to form a government before committing to coalition agreements or formulating future policies, in order to prevent unnecessary panic among Israelis.

Bezael Smotrich, leader of the Religious Zionist party and Moshe Gafni, of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party both said they oppose Netanyahu's decision. Netanyahu's potential coalition partners in the Religious Zionist Party as well as members in his own Likud party have vowed to pass legislation that would end his trial.

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The leader of the Hassidic Vizhnitz sect, a member of the United Torah Judaism ultra-Orthodox party also instructed his political representatives to insist on legislation that would override supreme court rulings, as part of the perceived assault on the judicial system, promoted by Netanyahu allies during their campaigns.

Herzog will begin official meetings with party leaders on Wednesday, before tasking Netanyahu – who is expected to receive majority support - to form a government.

11.07.22

Far-right Smotrich under fire after accusing Shin Bet of Rabin's death in 1995

11.07.22

Far-right lawmaker under fire after accusing Shin Bet of Rabin's death

Politicians across political spectrum slam Bezael Smotrich over spreading conspiracy theories and damaging agency's reputation; Religious Zionism party co-chair, however, remains defiant, saying Shin Bet must take responsibility

Ynet, i24NEWS|04:09

Israeli politicians slammed the leader of the far-right Religious Zionism party, Bezael Smotrich, who on Sunday blamed the Shin Bet security service of being responsible for the assassination of late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Criticism has come both from members of the outgoing government and lawmakers expected to join Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing coalition, who accused Smotrich of spreading conspiracy theories and damaging the agency's reputation.

Avi Dichter, a Likud lawmaker who led the Shin Bet from 2000 to 2005, said he strongly condemned Smotrich's remarks, stressing that they were "out of touch with reality."

"Such comments harm the good reputation of the organization and its staff who work night and day to protect the citizens of Israel," he tweeted.

Speaking at a special Knesset session dedicated to the memory of Rabin, who was assassinated by a young far-right extremist Yigal Amir on November 4, 1995, Smotrich claimed that right-wing rhetoric against Rabin at the time was justified and played a minimal role in inciting his murder.

On the contrary, he argued that the Shin Bet, which is tasked with protecting politicians, was responsible for the tragedy.

"Those who failed to protect Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were not right-wingers and religious Zionists who rightly decried his government's policies, it was the security services that not only failed to protect him, but also used irresponsible manipulations, which have not been fully disclosed to date, to encourage the murderer to carry out his plan," Smotrich said to the assembly.

The lawmaker remained defiant on Monday morning in the wake of criticism, doubling down that the Shin Bet must take responsibility for spurring on the assassination. "It is not a conspiracy theory," he said.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz responded on Twitter saying that "some leaders" at the time were involved in spreading an "atmosphere of incitement," apparently referring to Netanyahu, who was leading the opposition at the time and supporting right-wing anger against Rabin over his efforts to achieve peace with the Palestinians in exchange for territorial concessions.

"The Shin Bet tried to protect Rabin, learned its lessons, and carried out its role as guardian of public officials in a dedicated and professional manner," Gantz wrote. "The

accusations against the Shin Bet are conspiracy theories that should be erased from public discourse and not brought up by leaders and future top ministers." i24NEWS contributed to this report

11.06.22

Hamas arrests two for rockets at Israel last week, not coordinated with factions

11.06.22

Hamas makes arrests over Gaza rockets, security source says
Palestinian enclave's internal security services detain two people 'directly related to the firing of four rockets'; source says rocket fire had nothing to do with Gaza's terrorist factions

AFP|11.06.22 | 13:40

Gaza rulers Hamas arrested two people over firing rockets into Israel last week, a security source in the Palestinian enclave told AFP.

Israel's army said rockets were launched Thursday from Gaza, the first such military action since three days of cross-border fighting in August.

The incident prompted Hamas's internal security services to detain two people "directly related to the firing of four rockets," said a security source who requested anonymity. "The Palestinian factions have nothing to do with these rockets, which are aimed at giving the occupation (Israel) an excuse for continuing the aggression," the source told AFP.

The rocket fire was not claimed by any of the armed factions operating in Gaza, which has been ruled by the militant group Hamas since 2007.

It came hours after veteran Israeli hawk Benjamin Netanyahu was declared the winner of a November 1 election, and after an Islamic Jihad fighter was killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank.

The security source did not detail the affiliation of those arrested, adding that the rockets fired were not loaded with explosives.

Palestinian factions have an agreement to coordinate "any response to Israeli aggression", he told AFP.

Israel launched retaliatory strikes Friday on Gaza, which the army said hit a rocket production site belonging to Hamas.

11.06.22

Netanyahu calls for MK unity to serve the people of Israel

11.06.22

Netanyahu calls for unity after election triumph

Assumed PM tells political rivals it is high time to bury the hatchet, dispose of long-held animosity and embrace disagreements; outgoing premier Lapid says Israel will become weak if abandons rule of law

Moran Azulay | 11.06.22 | 12:49

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who is poised to become Israel's next prime minister after his conservative bloc managed to secure a solid Knesset majority in last week's general election, called on his fellow lawmakers Sunday to do away with the factionalism of recent years and unite to serve the people of Israel.

"The elections are over, and as the dust of discord between both political camps settles, we must come out of the trenches and work together, he said, speaking at the Knesset's official memorial event marking 27 years since the assassination of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Differences won't disappear, and that's fine. We have profound disagreements on several issues, which need to be addressed with responsibility and consideration. It's okay to argue, we don't need to agree on everything, but at the same time, we do need to know what to agree on."

"I do not hide my differences with prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. I warned of the dangers inherent in handing over land to the Palestinians, I was loyal to my truth and belief, as Rabin was loyal to his," Netanyahu added, referring to the Oslo Accords — a series of interim peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed by Rabin.

Netanyahu also addressed burning policy issues as he is expected to assume the Prime Minister's Office for a record sixth time: "We will continue to do all we can to prevent Iran from arming itself with nuclear weapons."

"Israel must remain strong. Although there is still no permanent agreement with the Palestinians and there is no one in sight, mainly because of Palestinian intransigence, the Jewish State needs to control security over all of Israel."

Outgoing Prime Minister Yair Lapid, who spoke before Netanyahu, said in his speech that "Rabin understood the use of force."

"He fought his whole life and was the IDF chief of staff during the Six-Day War. He knew the strength of the State of Israel should be built on real and strong foundations."

"The old adage goes 'you can kill a man but you can't kill an idea'. But that's not true, you can also kill an idea. The fate of Rabin's perception of force depends on us and on what we will do in the coming years. If Israel abandons the rule of law, and our ties with the international community and completely abandons faith in peace — Israel will become weak and Rabin's ideas will be buried along with him."

Taking the podium after Lapid and Netanyahu, Defense Minister Benny Gantz invoked the tense public atmosphere leading up to Rabin's assassination as he recalled how he was called a "murderer" by civilians during a visit to the Western Wall last week.

"Those were the exact same epithets hurled at Rabin 27 years ago. This is a little reminder. A reminder of the distinct and inextricable connection between words and deeds. I'm not afraid of it either, but I'm afraid for this country. Because in the end, words lead to actions. They have led to actions in the past and will lead to them in the future," Gantz said.

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Ynet-News, November 08, 2022 – Sunday

11.08.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in November 06 spot – Sunday
In call with Palestinian leader, U.S. again backs two-state solution

11.03.22 – Th- - - News Placed in November 03 spot – Thursday
PA at Gaza border fire 4 rockets after final election results were released

11.03.22 – Th- - - News Placed in November 04 spot – Friday
Lapid leftists don't appeal to young, religious generation; Netanyahu wins 64 seats

11.02.22 – We- - - News Placed in November 02 spot – Wednesday
WB & PA voters struggle to be heard as far-right tickets pose threat to Arabs

10.31.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday
A guide for Israeli voters ahead of the November 1 election

10.31.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday
Political candidates in last push to win Israel elections