

Ynet-News, December 19, 2022 – Monday

12.19.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in December 19 spot – Monday
Anti-defection bill; Ministers require a third of faction support to split their factions

12.18.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in December 18 spot – Sunday
Final version of bill grants minister a senior authority over police investigations

12.18.22 – Su- - - News Placed in December 17 spot – Saturday
Rescue flight to extract stranded Israelis amid Peru political turmoil

12.14.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 15 spot – Thursday
IDF exposes Hamas rocket sites & tunnels at 3 UN schools in Gaza

12.14.22 – We- - - News – Wednesday
Ben-Gvir bill to expand police powers, interacts with civilians like an army

12.14.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 14 spot – Wednesday
Co-existence school meeting derails as Arabs hurl stones at Jewish student

12.19.22
Anti-defection bill; Ministers require a third of faction support to split their factions

12.19.22
Netanyahu marks first legislative win in new Knesset with anti-defection bill
Legislation will require rebel lawmakers to muster support of at least a third of faction members to part ways with mother faction, drowning out murmurs of mutiny within PM-designate's Likud
Sivan Hilaie|10:12

The Knesset plenum on Monday approved a new anti-defection bill that will make it harder for rebel lawmakers to splinter off from their factions, handing Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu and his government to be their first legislative win in the first session of the newly inaugurated 25th Knesset.

The new bill repeals a provision passed only last year by the outgoing government that allowed four members of a faction to break off into a separate faction without facing any political sanctions.

Now lawmakers who wish to part ways with their mother faction will have to muster the support of at least a third of its members.

This grants increased stability to Netanyahu, whose Likud party is the largest faction in the Knesset with 32 seats in the 120-seat Israeli legislature and has been marred by growing internal squabbling as the incoming leader's fellow party members believe he is making too far-reaching concessions to appease his prospective coalition partners.

The controversial proposal that would shift authorities from the police commissioner to prospective National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir will make its way to a vote tomorrow for the first time. While Ben-Gvir inserted some stipulations since the bill was first announced, critics still feel this would lead to hasty, uncalculated proceedings.

Additionally, tomorrow the Knesset is primed to further vote on the Deri-Smotrich law, which would allow anyone to be appointed minister as long as any criminal conviction against him does not include actual prison time, thus paving the way for both MK Bezalel Smotrich and MK Aryeh Deri to serve simultaneously on the same portfolio.

Before the noon session, outgoing PM Yair Lapid attacked the incoming government by repeating the expression "bite me" which has gone viral on Israeli social media. "That's what the new government is telling Israeli citizens," he said. "Don't like the new government? Bite me. Are you employed? Bite me. Do you send your kids to public schools? Bite me. Don't like what the government is doing with your money? Bite me. Don't know why half the ministers in the new government don't send their kids to fight for their country but yours have to? Bite me."

All throughout Lapid's impassioned attack, Likud members could be heard heckling him and saying that's why the elections were held in the first place and that Lapid should be ashamed of himself.

Lapid further stated that "that's what they've always wanted. A government with no accountability. They have no interest in co-existence, the rule of law, maintaining adequate financial handling of the state's coffers, and keeping a balance between freedom and security. All the values have always been the hallmark of a functional state of Israel. "Politics functions like a wheel. One second you're up in the coalition, and before you know it you're down with the opposition. You tell the citizens of Israel 'bite me', and then the elections come along and then they'll be saying the same thing to you," Lapid concluded.

12.18.22

Final version of bill grants minister a senior authority over police investigations

12.19.22

Knesset debates final version of bill granting Ben-Gvir authority over police

AG persists in objection to Likud's wording cautioning it undermines independence of police and subjects commissioner to political decision makers. adds could impact rights; special committee chair says wording of law balanced
Moran Azulay, Tova Tzimuki, Sivan Hilai|01:51

A final version of a controversial bill framing the authority of the incoming public security minister, far-right Itamar Ben-Gvir, was to be decided on Monday in the Knesset.

The previous wording was rejected by the office of the attorney general last week, as it was seen to allow the minister overriding authority over police investigations and the position of the commissioner.

In a document obtained by Ynet, the new wording states that the commissioner has final authority over the force but adds that that does not diminish the "minister's authority under the law."

Likud chair of the special Knesset committee convened to revamp the law, Ofir Katz who hopes to complete the law and bring it to a vote in the plenum by the end of the day, said the new version is balanced and clearly states that the commissioner is the final decision maker but must answer to the minister.

"It is not possible that the commissioner will not answer to anyone," he said.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Merari criticized the incoming coalition's bill in its final version.

"This is not an adequately balanced law and poses a threat to the independence of the police," Merari said.

"The current wording contradicts the principle of police discretion and opens the field to political considerations interfering in law enforcement. There is no question that the minister can and must decide policy but when it comes to investigations, there must be extreme vigilance," she said.

"The law requires proper preparation when dealing with these sensitive and complex matters in the relations between the police and the political echelons. Rights may be effected," Merari said adding that there is no equivalency between that particular bill and the authority of a defense minister over the military.

"Where were you when politicians used and abused the police?" Ben Gvir asked. "The law clearly states the commissioner is the senior authority, but in a democracy the minister decides policy. You were silent on the matter for 60 years but when I become minister you speak out?"

The bill specifies that investigative decision will be made in consultation with the AG, the commissioner and the senior investigative commanders. "Ben-Gvir will be permitted to decide general principles of policy and the duration of investigations."

The debate is part of an effort by the incoming coalition to pass particular laws that were demanded by potential coalition partners ahead of their agreement to sign an agreement with Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party.

12.18.22

Rescue flight to extract stranded Israelis amid Peru political turmoil

12.18.22

Israel to dispatch rescue mission to Peru to extract stranded nationals
Insurance companies announce will launch flights to Peru in order to search and rescue
Israeli nationals still stranded in the country amid ongoing political turmoil
i24NEWS|00:41

Two Israeli companies announced that they will send a flight to Peru on Saturday, as deadly protests left thousands of tourists, including Israelis, stranded in the gateway city to Machu Picchu.

Insurance company PassportCard and search and rescue company Magnus will organize the rescue operation.

Protesters, who burned police stations, obstructed Peru's main highway and stranded foreign tourists by blocking access to airports, are demanding the release of ousted president Pedro Castillo, the resignation of his successor Dina Boluarte and for fresh elections to be held. But Congress voted against a bill to bring forward elections by more than two years from 2026 to December 2023.

Peru was plunged into political crisis last week after Castillo was impeached and arrested following his attempt to dissolve parliament and rule by decree. A state of emergency has been declared for the whole country, due to the acts of vandalism and violence. The demonstrations are escalating and the death toll is rising after protesters on Thursday night tried to storm the airport in the southern city of Ayacucho that was being guarded by soldiers.

The country's third-largest airport, Cusco International, has been closed since Monday when protesters tried to storm the terminal. Trains were halted Tuesday to and from Machu Picchu, which is experiencing food shortages.

Health Minister Rosa Gutierrez said on Friday that 18 people were killed in clashes since Castillo was arrested on December 7, with two cabinet ministers resigning over the deaths.

Reprinted with permission from i24NEWS.

12.14.22

IDF exposes Hamas rocket sites & tunnels at 3 UN schools in Gaza

12.14.22

Israeli army reveals Hamas rocket launching sites near 3 schools in Gaza

IDF exposes Palestinian militant group was in contact with educators to promote terrorist infrastructure close to the educational sites
i24NEWS|13:15

The Israeli military on Wednesday provided aerial evidence of three Hamas rocket launching sites located close to schools in the Gaza Strip.

It was also made public that the militant group that governs the Palestinian coastal enclave was in contact with educators to promote terrorist infrastructure close to the educational sites in Gaza City — the Mo'ath Bin Jabal School, the Khalil AlNobani Secondary Female School and the Al-Furqan Public School.

According to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the principal of the Mo'ath Bin Jabal was in contact with a Hamas operative before the launch of the IDF's "Guardian of the Walls" operation in May 2021 and allowed rocket launches toward Israeli territory from the vicinity of the school.

Rockets were fired close to the Al-Furqan Public School during "Guardian of the Walls" and also during the IDF's Operation "Breaking Dawn" in August 2022 when Palestinian terrorists fired 1,100 rockets toward Israel and the IDF conducted some 147 airstrikes in Gaza.

The Maaz bin Jabal School is also used as an emergency shelter by UNRWA — the United Nations agency tasked with supporting Palestinians. Last month, UNRWA announced that a terror tunnel was found underneath one of its schools in Gaza, condemning it as a "neutrality breach."

"The conduct of Hamas, which has been exposed once again, proves that the organization uses the residents of the Gaza Strip, and in these cases innocent children, as human protectors," the IDF said. "Over 1,000 students routinely study in these schools — the Hamas organization consciously chooses to endanger them."

The revelation that Hamas places rocket launchers near schools comes on the day that the terrorist group sworn to Israel's destruction marked its 35th anniversary with a rally in Gaza City attended by hundreds of thousands. At the rally, Hamas again threatened Israel. The movement's leader in Gaza, Yahya Al-Sinwar, warned Israel of another armed confrontation.

"We will come to you with an endless number of rockets, we will come to you with an endless number of soldiers," he said.

Reprinted with permission from i24NEWS.

12.14.22

Ben-Gvir bill to expand police powers, interacts with civilians like an army

12.14.22

Israeli jurists warn against Ben-Gvir's bid for more powers over police
Deputy attorney-general says 'draft does not strike an appropriate balance ... between the powers of a minister and professional independence of law enforcement'
Reuters|10:14

Legal advisers to Israel's parliament and outgoing government on Wednesday criticized a bid by a far-right politician to give himself expanded powers as the next police minister, warning that his proposed changes clashed with democratic principles.

Itamar Ben-Gvir of the Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) party was promised the National Security Ministry, with authority over the police, under a coalition deal with Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu.

Though Netanyahu's hard-right new government has yet to be finalized, Ben-Gvir has already submitted a bill that would amend police regulations. It would give him, as a minister, greater control over the police chief and police investigations. Ben-Gvir, who placed third in a Nov 1 election thanks partly to his law-and-order platform, has defended the bill as consolidating a chain of command between government and police.

But center-left lawmakers have warned that the amendments could politicize criminal probes and prosecutions - and noted Ben-Gvir's record that includes 2007 convictions for incitement against Arabs and support for an outlawed Jewish militant group.

"The draft does not strike an appropriate balance ... between the powers of the minister and the professional independence of law enforcement bodies," Amit Merari, deputy attorney-general, told a parliamentary panel convened to discuss the bill after it passed its first reading on Tuesday.

"Taken together, the proposed directives have the potential to deal real and grave damage to the core principles of democratic rule in the State of Israel," she said, adding that any amendment should be sought after the government is sworn in.

A parliamentary legal adviser, Miri Frenkel-Shor, said the draft was inconsistent with principles set out by a state commission of inquiry that "police must be totally free in its investigations, with only the authority of the law above it".

Ben-Gvir has disavowed some of his past conduct. He says that, in the cabinet, he will serve all of society. But he has also played down violence by Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank and wants Israeli security forces to be freer to open fire when faced with Arab unrest.

Seeking to allay domestic and foreign concerns at the far-right rise, Netanyahu - who has already served a record 15 years in top office - says he will ultimately set Israeli policy. Yet police independence has also touched a nerve among Netanyahu's critics given his ongoing corruption trial, in which he denies all wrongdoing and accuses law-enforcement authorities of a politicized witch-hunt against him.

Addressing the parliamentary panel, Ben-Gvir called his bill "a historical correction that would be requisite for any democratic country". Sitting beside him, the Israeli police chief, Inspector-General Yaacov Shabtai, was more cautious.

"We are not opposed to changes, but it is important that such dramatic changes be implemented through deep discussion," Shabtai said. "The police is not an army. The police interact with civilians and not, like an army, with a designated enemy."

12.14.22

Co-existence school meeting derails as Arabs hurl stones at Jewish student

12.14.22

Co-existence school meeting derails as Arabs hurl stones at Jewish student

Three Arab students presumed Jewish peer said something inappropriate and assaulted him after school; 'these meetings are essential and I hope they continue,' says mother of the attacked pupil

Yair Kraus|10:04

Three Arab students threw stones at Jewish students who arrived at a northern Israel Arab school for a joint English lesson as part of a program promoting co-existence.

The incident took place last week in Acre when an Arab student presumed one of the Jewish students said something inappropriate and decided to wait for him after school hours with two of his friends and throw stones at him.

During the incident, one of the teachers was hit but didn't require medical attention. The mother of a student who was attacked said that "these meetings are essential and I hope they continue. Just because there are such incidents doesn't mean you have to give up. Everyone has to learn to get along and the educators are there to pave the right way for both sides."

Other parents turned to the school and demanded to terminate the project. "We thought our children would be safe, I won't send my daughter there anymore," said one of the parents.

The middle school's principal sent a letter to the parents of the class and shared with them the details of the incident and the probe into it.

According to the teacher, the parents of the three students who threw the stones condemned their acts and apologized. School staff held a joint meeting with the head of education in the Acre Municipality to discuss further cooperation between the schools.

====
====

Ynet-News, December 13, 2022 – Tuesday

12.13.22 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Seventh Knesset bill to repeal 2005 Law & resettle West Bank and Gaza

12.13.22 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Iran oil for Venezuela gold, to Lebanon Shiite Hezbollah; bypass U.S. sanctions

12.13.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in December 13 spot – Tuesday

Qatar bribed 4 EU anti-Israel HR officials, VP Eva Kaili arrested, offices sealed

12.13.22 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Netanyahu will not push a nation of religious law, but tend to all citizens

12.13.22 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday

Torah party reach to end electricity on Shabbat, gender-beaches & religion in schools

12.12.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Police station set up inside IDF base to prevent equipment being stolen near Kibutz

12.11.22 – Su- - - News Placed in December 12 spot – Monday

Hezbollah moves weapons to 3 positions SW of Damascus, 4k (2.4mi) from border

12.11.22 – Su- - - News – Sunday

US Jewish leaders criticize Trump hosting dinner with two prominent anti-Semites