

Ynet-News, March 27, 2023 – Monday

3.27.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Despite judicial reform time-out, violent clashes with police persist

3.27.23 – Mo- - - News Placed in March 27 spot – Monday

Netanyahu postpones judicial reform until next Knesset session

3.27.23 – Mo- - - News – Monday

Judicial Reform getting protests for & against; Police tolerate zero violence

3.26.23 – Su- - - News Placed in March 26 spot – Sunday

Protests throughout Israel joined by universities, union & banks

3.26.23 – Su- - - News Placed in March 25 spot – Saturday

Netanyahu fires Defense Minister Gallant over call to halt to judicial overhaul

3.26.23 – Su- - - News Placed in March 26 spot – Sunday

New Palestinian terrorist group emerging in West Bank

3.24.23 – Fr- - - News – Friday

Attorney general & Court view: Netanyahu judicial overhaul is conflict of interest

3.23.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Netanyahu says overhaul to continue; Lapid criticized MK power to select judges

3.23.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Netanyahu to address the nation to support the bill in the selection of judges

3.23.23 – Th- - - News Placed in March 24 spot – Friday

Pre-school & primary students with guardians block major roads to protest overhaul

3.23.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday

Knesset approves law 61-47 to ouster if three-quarters of cabinet declare

3.27.23

Despite judicial reform time-out, violent clashes with police persist

3.27.23

Despite Netanyahu calling time-out on judicial reform, violent clashes with police persist. Police deploy stun grenades, water cannons against anti-reform demonstrators in Tel Aviv as they try to obstruct main highway; group of protesters in Jerusalem obstructs roadway, sets fire to dumpster, attacks Arab taxi driver. Gilad Yalon, Adam Kutub, Einav Halabi, Liran Levi|16:51

Both proponents and critics of the government's proposed judicial reforms continued to clash with law enforcement well into the night following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's announcement that he was suspending the legislative process to pursue dialogue and build consensus regarding his desired amendments to the judiciary.

Meanwhile, a group of protesters in Jerusalem rioted, obstructing a roadway and setting fire to a dumpster.

The crowd attacked an Arab taxi driver who happened to drive through the area, causing heavy damage to his car. While trying to flee, he inadvertently struck another car, which resulted in minor injuries to a pedestrian's leg.

Law enforcement officials were working at the scene to disperse the rioters and clear the roadway.

Prior to Netanyahu's announcement, tens of thousands of pro-government protesters descended on the Supreme Court building in Jerusalem to voice their support for the government's push to reshape the judiciary.

Netanyahu's coalition mustered a 64-seat majority in the 120-strong Knesset in the latest election last November and made its plan to reshape the judicial system the fulcrum of its legislative agenda.

Incensed pro-reform protesters decried what they saw as selective enforcement by law enforcement against them as cops stopped them from obstructing a road, at times by force. Meanwhile, some 2,000 reform opponents took part in a counter-protest nearby, some calling on the policemen to take off their uniforms and join the protesters. Another similar protest was taking place in Karkur, with some 5,000 demonstrators turning out.

3.27.23

Netanyahu postpones judicial reform until next Knesset session

3.27.23

Netanyahu postpones final Knesset votes on judicial reform

Prime minister says 'not willing to tear the nation asunder' and 'there cannot be a civil war' as he announces halt to legislative process on push to reshape courts until next Knesset session

Ynet|Updated:13:13

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Monday evening that he will be postponing the final votes on his government's push to reshape the judicial system after weeks of unprecedented mass protests that swept through the nation.

"Today too, both sides in the national dispute claim love for the baby, love for our country.

I am aware of the enormous tension that is accumulating between the two parts of the nation, I am attentive to the desire of many citizens to relieve this tension. But there is one thing that I am not ready to accept - there is an extreme minority that is ready to tear our country asunder.

"It uses violence, sets fires, threatens to harm elected officials, incites civil war and calls to [refuse to serve in the army] which is a terrible crime.

"I am not ready to tear the nation asunder. I remember, we remember, that we are not facing enemies - we are facing brothers. And I say here and now - there cannot be a civil war. We are on the path of a dangerous collision in Israeli society, in the midst of a crisis that endangers the basic unity between us.

"When there is an opportunity for talks - I, as the prime minister, take a time out for talks. We insist on the need to bring about the necessary amendments in the judicial system, and we will give an opportunity to settle them with a broad consensus - this is a worthwhile goal like no other.

"Therefore, out of national responsibility, out of the desire to prevent a rift in the nation, I decided to suspend the second and third readings of the law in this session of the Knesset, to give time to reach the same broad agreement on the legislation during the next Knesset.

"One way or another, we will bring about a reform that will restore the balance that was lost between the authorities, while preserving and even strengthening the rights of the individual."

Shortly after Netanyahu's address to the nation, National Unity chief Benny Gantz and Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid both gave separate statements in which they said they were open to talks.

"These are terrible days, from which we must emerge stronger and united," Gantz said at the beginning of his remarks.

"I stood here a few weeks ago and said that we might end up in a civil war and that Netanyahu will bear the responsibility. I welcome his decision to stop. Better late than never.

I intend to enter the room for talks with an open heart and a willing mind. Not with the goal of subjugation, but with the goal of success. We will immediately show up at the president's residence and extend our hand."

Opposition leader Lapid sounded skeptical about the genuineness of Netanyahu's decision to delay the legislation and called for Israel to create a constitution.

"If the legislation does stop, a real and absolute stop - we are ready to go to the president for talks. If the government comes to genuine and fair talks, we can come out of this

breaking point stronger, more united and make this moment a defining moment in our common life," he said.

"The State of Israel is wounded and hurting, we don't need to put a band-aid on the wounds, but actually treat them. **Heading into the 75th year of the state** we must sit down together and write a constitution based on the values of the Declaration of Independence. We must let the president establish a negotiation mechanism and trust him as a fair mediator. This is all we have **demanded** in the last two months: real, **constructive dialogue** from a leadership that is ready to take responsibility.

Lapid **warned**, however, that the **protests will persist in full force if Netanyahu does not come to negotiate in good faith.**

Meanwhile, Arnon Bar David, the head of Israel's largest **labor union** Histadrut, **said** that the **union will postpone its shutdown of the Israeli economy** after Netanyahu's announcement.

However, Bar David noted that **if the coalition initiates another legislative push without dialogue** with reform opponents, the **strike will be restarted.**

First published: 20:37, 03.27.23

3.27.23

**Judicial Reform getting protests for & against; Police tolerate zero violence**

3.27.23

**Tens of thousands descend on Supreme Court to voice support for judicial reform**  
**Masses of pro-government protesters gather in the capital to urge the coalition to move forward with the legislation**

Gilad Cohen, Eitan Glickman, Yair Kraus, Ilana Curriel, Einav Halabi|12:47

**Tens of thousands of pro-government protesters descended on the Supreme Court building in Jerusalem Monday evening to voice their support of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government's push to reshape the judiciary.**

Some demonstrators flew signs saying "The **people demand judicial reform**", "I am not a second-class citizen", and "**They are stealing the elections.**"

Netanyahu's coalition mustered a 64-seat majority in the 120-strong Knesset in the latest election last November and made its plan to reshape the judicial system the fulcrum of its legislative agenda.

**Shay Kelach**, a former fighter pilot, **blasted anti-government leaders** who called on IDF reservists to not report for duty if the legislation comes to pass.

"We are the servants of the nation. **We serve unconditionally. We are pilots** in the sky above, but there is **no such thing as flying without the mechanics,**" he said.

The refusal undermines unity. It tells the technical staff, my ballot is worth more than yours. It tells them, 'I will determine for you which government will rule here and you will continue to tighten and loosen the bolts.'

Both I and the mechanic are thinking about the security of the State of Israel. We both love the people and the country with the same love that does not depend on anything, even when there are disagreements."

Meanwhile, some 2,000 reform opponents took part in a counter-protest nearby, some calling on the policemen to take off their uniforms and join the protesters. Another similar protest was taking place in Karkur, with some 5,000 demonstrators turning out.

In addition to the demonstration in Jerusalem, dozens of supporters of the reform were demonstrating outside the art center in Be'er Sheva as dozens more continued to pour in. Police officials were concerned about violent clashes erupting between the two camps and called on all the demonstrators to heed police instructions and avoid displays of violence of any kind. They vowed to show zero tolerance toward violence of any kind.

Members of La Familia, a soccer fan club affiliated with the extreme right, announced that they would join the demonstration.

In closed online chats, violent threats were disseminated such as: "They want us to continue being their slaves forever, let's go out and fight back", "Leftists need to be finished" and "Drive over them with a Jeep like that."

Prime Minister Netanyahu called on protesters on both sides to refrain from resorting to violence.

Meanwhile, members of the coalition called on more supporters to join the protest movement and voice their support of the reform.

3.26.23

Protests throughout Israel joined by universities, union & banks

3.26.23

Israel sees night of fiery protests and riots following Gallant sacking

Protesters light fires across main Tel Aviv highway; hundreds break through roadblock placed on the way to Netanyahu's Jerusalem home; local government leaders announce hunger strike; universities cancel classes

Gad Lior, Adam Kutub, Hadar Gil-Ad, Ilana Curiel, Eitan Glickman, Gilad Cohen|16:33

Following the dismissal of Yoav Gallant from the position of defense minister by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, thousands of people poured into the streets in droves all throughout Israel to protest Gallant's ouster, with some protesters lighting fires across Ayalon Highway, one of Tel Aviv's main thoroughfares.

Thousands protested outside Netanyahu's Jerusalem home. Some protesters managed to break through a police roadblock placed on the way to Netanyahu's house and managed to reach within feet of the home.

Several local government leaders announced that they will open a hunger strike in front of the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem starting Monday morning in a demand "to stop the enormous crisis and disaster that Israel is rushing towards, to prevent harm to the security of the state and the integrity and unity of the people."

The heads of the universities announced they will cancel all classes starting Monday morning. "We, the heads of Israel's research universities, presidents, rectors and administrations, will stop classes in all of Israel's research universities starting tomorrow morning, against the background of the continuation of the legislative process that undermines the foundations of Israeli democracy and endangers its continued existence," they said in a statement.

"We call on the prime minister and members of the coalition to stop the legislation immediately and immediately enter into negotiations in order to reach an agreed and broad outline."

Arnon Bar David, the chairman of Israel's most powerful workers union Histadrut, announced Sunday evening he will hold a special press conference in the presence of business leaders, "where he will make a dramatic statement."

He is expected to announce the Histadrut joining the protest against the government's judicial overhaul push and his intention to shut down the economy together with the heads of the business sector if the legislation is not stopped immediately.

Bar David met with senior business sector and banking officials at a Tel Aviv hotel for what was defined as an "emergency meeting."

At the meeting, the participants made harsh statements about what has been happening in the country for the past day, which reached its climax with the dismissal of Gallant, only a day after he gave his announcement that he would oppose the legal reform and after warning Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Israel's security situation has already been severely compromised by the continuation of the legislation sans dialogue with its opponents.

3.26.23

Netanyahu fires Defense Minister Gallant over call to halt to judicial overhaul

3.26.23

Netanyahu fires Defense Minister Gallant over call to halt to judicial overhaul legislation  
Premier removes defense chief from office a day after the latter called to initiate dialogue on government's court plan and reach a broad consensus; Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter leading candidate to succeed Gallant

Moran Azulay|Updated:14:14

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired Defense Minister Yoav Gallant Sunday evening, a day after he called to halt the government's judicial overhaul legislation.

Gallant wanted to publicly call for a halt to the legislation as early as Thursday evening - in a move that had Israeli stock immediately rally and the Israeli shekel soar to the dollar. Netanyahu convinced Gallant not to deliver the statement that evening. Gallant, however, called to halt the legislation on Saturday night, while Netanyahu was on a state visit to the United Kingdom.

The statement caused a firestorm in Israeli politics, with many Likud members refusing to address the essence of Galant's warning, and only attacking him for his call to stop the legislation.

Shortly after Gallant's removal, Netanyahu tweeted "We must all stand up strongly against refusals [to serve]", referring to hundreds of IDF reservists who vowed to stop volunteering in case the government's judicial reform comes to pass.

Meanwhile, Gallant simply wrote, "Israel's security always was and will always remain my life's mission."

Opposition leader Yair Lapid panned Netanyahu over the decision to remove Gallant. "The dismissal of the defense minister just because he warned of the threat to Israel's security is a new low for an anti-Zionist government that harms national security and ignores warnings from all security officials," he said.

"The prime minister of Israel is a danger to the security of the State of Israel... Netanyahu can fire Gallant, but he cannot fire reality and cannot fire the people of Israel who are standing up to the madness of the coalition."

National Unity Chairman Benny Gantz, who earlier called again on the coalition to stop the legislation and come to the negotiating table, said that "We are facing a clear, immediate and tangible danger to Israel's security. A danger that has worsened. Tonight Netanyahu put politics and himself above security."

Meanwhile, members of the coalition weren't nearly as moved by Gallant's defenestration. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir simply tweeted out the words "Reform Now!"

Information Minister Galit Atabrian, a member of Gallant's Likud faction, responded laconically: "The prime minister summoned Gallant to his office and informed him that he no longer trusts him and therefore he is fired. I wish Yoav Gallant great success in his future."

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter, a former Shin Bet chief, appears to be the leading candidate to succeed Gallant. Dichter also publicly voiced his concerns last week over the risks a hasty rollout of the judicial plan could have on Israel's social cohesion and security, but said that he would support a bill that would transfer the power to select judges to the hands of the coalition. Another potential candidate is Economy Minister Nir Barkat.

Gallant's ouster comes at the height of a sensitive security period, during which 15 Israelis have already been killed in a series of deadly terrorist attacks since the beginning of the year.

First published: 21:15, 03.26.23

3.26.23

### New Palestinian terrorist group emerging in West Bank

3.26.23

### New Palestinian terrorist group emerging in West Bank

The Martyr Omar Abu Laila Battalion, named after a Palestinian terrorist who carried out a stabbing attack that killed two Israelis, says its 'soldiers were preparing many surprises that would shake the brutal [Israeli] entity'

i24NEWS|06:54

A new armed Palestinian group has been established in the northern West Bank town of Salfit, media reported on Sunday.

The Jerusalem Post learned that a number of terror militias have been operating there for several months. The new group called the "Martyr Omar Abu Laila Battalion" is named after a Palestinian terrorist, who carried out a stabbing attack near Ariel, central West Bank, killing two Israelis - a soldier and a civilian.

On March 17, 2019, the terrorist stabbed Sergeant Gal Keidan at Ariel Junction, grabbed the soldier's gun and opened fire, hitting Rabbi Achiad Ettinger, who later succumbed to his wounds. The terrorist was later killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli army forces. Senior Palestinian Authority officials and leaders of Fatah, the ruling faction, have since praised Abu Laila for the attack. A memorial has been erected in his honor in the village of Abwein, near Ramallah, where he had been hiding before he was killed.

In a statement announcing its establishment, the Martyr Omar Abu Laila Battalion said its "soldiers were preparing many surprises that would shake the brutal [Israeli] entity". Similar groups operating in the northern West Bank, including the "Lions' Den" group, the Jenin Battalion, the Nablus Battalion, and the Balata Battalion. These groups consist of dozens of armed men affiliated with various factions, including Fatah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. According to Palestinian sources, other armed groups have also appeared in other areas of the West Bank, including Bethlehem and Hebron. Reprinted with permission from i24NEWS.

3.24.23

### Attorney general & Court view: Netanyahu judicial overhaul is conflict of interest

3.24.23

### Attorney general: Netanyahu involvement in judicial overhaul is illegal

In letter addressed to Netanyahu, Baharav-Miara says PM involvement in court reform would constitute a conflict of interest due to his ongoing corruption trial; Likud says his statement has no repercussions on his personal affairs

Reuters|04:41



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu violated the law by saying he would get personally involved in a judicial overhaul plan, the attorney-general said on Friday.

Gallant embraces need for judicial reform, but cautions against hasty rollout  
Knesset approves law to limit conditions for Netanyahu ouster  
In the face of intensifying protests against the proposed changes, Netanyahu said on Thursday he was putting aside all other considerations and would do "anything it takes" to reach a solution.

Netanyahu, who is on trial on corruption charges which he denies, said his hands had been tied but a law amended on Thursday to limit the circumstances in which a prime minister can be removed gave him more space for maneuver.

However, Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara, in a letter addressed to Netanyahu, disagreed.

"The legal situation is clear: you must refrain from any involvement in initiatives to change the judiciary, including the makeup of the committee for the appointment of judges, as such activity is a conflict of interest."

"Your statement last night and any action you take in violation of this matter is illegal and tainted by a conflict of interest," Baharav-Miara said.

The letter followed Baharav-Miara's earlier warnings that Netanyahu must stay out of his coalition's push for a judicial overhaul because of what she deemed a conflict of interest arising from his trials.

In a message distributed by the ruling Likud party, an unnamed source close to Netanyahu denied the prime minister violated any laws or conflict of interest agreements in his statement and said it had no repercussions on his personal affairs.

The source said it was incumbent on the premier to try and reach a wide consensus during a time of national crisis that carried implications for the country both domestically and abroad.

Netanyahu's religious-nationalist coalition has been pursuing changes to the judiciary that would give the government sway in choosing judges and limit the Supreme Court's power to strike down laws.

Proponents say the plan would rein in Supreme Court overreach and restore balance between the branches of government. Critics say it would weaken the courts, endanger civil liberties and harm the economy.

The proposed plan has sparked weeks of nationwide protests and drew concern among the country's Western allies.

3.23.23

Netanyahu says overhaul to continue; Lapid criticized MK power to select judges

3.23.23

Netanyahu says Judicial overhaul to continue

PM says will of majority of voters must be enacted, while individual rights protected; bill to give coalition majority in judges selection panel, to pass next week despite reports defense minister warns of imminent concerns for Israel's security

Itamar Eichner, Moran Azulay | Yesterday | 14:18

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday he is determined to proceed with "responsible judicial reforms" amid unprecedented nationwide protests against the government's overhaul plan.

On Monday, the Knesset will pass a bill that will give the coalition a majority in the committee to select judges, a move that will in the eyes of his opponents in the parliament and in many in the Israeli public, constitute an assault on the courts by the political branches.

Earlier Defense Minister Yoav Galant had planned to make a public statement calling for the legislation to halt because it was creating an immediate threat to the IDF and Israel's security, but after a meeting with the prime minister, Galant reversed his plan. The prime minister said he heard the concerns of his minister and took them into account.

Netanyahu said in a televised address that opponents of the legislation were not traitors, as some of his ministers and members of his party had said.

"Opponents are not traitors and proponents are not Fascists," he said. "Those who support our reform, have for decades felt that the Supreme Court did not represent them or their views, and those who oppose it, fear that it would end democracy. A democratic government must address both sides of the issue. It must display the will of the majority of voters and also protect individual rights," he said. "In order to prevent a rift in our population, the concerns of each side must be heard

Netanyahu repeated his claims that the Supreme Court justices prevented diversity in the selection of judges and interfered in government policies with no authority but he did indicate he would seek a majority of over 61 or the 120 Knesset seats to legislate laws the supreme court deemed unconstitutional.

Protest organizers and opposition leaders criticized the prime minister for forging on with what they say were destructive policies.

"Instead of halting the legislation, Netanyahu continued to spread his lies about the judicial system, which have no bearing on reality," Opposition leader Yair Lapid said "He proved he had no intention to have a real discussion. I call on responsible members of his party, the Likud, do not allow the law granting the coalition majority power to select judges, pass," he said.

3.23.23

Netanyahu to address the nation to support the bill in the selection of judges

3.23.23

Netanyahu to address the nation as speculations he may halt legislations spread  
Netanyahu head from his defense minister and the chief of staff of security concerns both for the IDF and Israel's security in general; ousted minister and Shas leader Deri says will support the PM in whatever decision he makes  
Itamar Eichner, Yoav Zitun, Moran Azulay|Yesterday | 11:25

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced he would be addressing the nation on Thursday evening after he delayed his departure for London to the early morning hours on Friday fueling speculations that he may pull the breaks on his coalition's plans to change the balance of power between the equal branches.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant recently advised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to suspend the advancement of a bill that provides the coalition a majority in the selection of judges.

The two men met privately a number of times lately and also heard from Chief of staff Herzl Halevi of his concerns over the repercussions of the government's legislative push on the IDF and on Israel's security.

Gallant said he would make a public statement himself but was summoned instead to Netanyahu's office and whether or not he will speak publically is not yet clear.

Volunteers to some of the military's elite units, including the Airforce, said they would not serve a non-democratic regime, and some have already opted not to appear for service. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has resumed its ties with Iran and on Thursday, announced it would do the same with Syria.

Netanyahu has come under extreme criticism from Israelis opposed to his judicial overhaul that they see as an assault on democracy and an effort to politicize courts.

For nearly 12 weeks, mass demonstrations have taken place all over Israel as growing numbers of citizens join in the call to immediately stop the legislative process.

On Thursday, protesters declared another day of disruption as roads were blocked, marches continued and at least 82 arrests were made in clashes with police.

The protesters plan a mass rally in the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak later on Thursday, in protest of the Haredi parties in the coalition, supporting the weakening of courts for their political purposes, including an exemption for Haredi men from military service.

But the prime minister has also heard strong condemnations from friendly leaders abroad and especially from the Biden administration, Israel's most important and dependable ally.

After announcing Netanyahu's intention to speak to the Israeli public, the ousted minister and leader of the Shas party, Aryeh Deri who is Netanyahu's long-time political ally said he would back the prime minister in any decision he makes.

Mrs. Netanyahu, who is perceived to be behind many of Netanyahu's policies and has been the subject of public ire, said she hoped to see broad public agreement.

3.23.23

Pre-school & primary students with guardians block major roads to protest overhaul

3.23.23

Road closures, clashes, and arrests: Demonstrators throughout Israel protest against judicial overhaul

Day of disruption: Thousands of protesters demonstrating, marches and rallies take place around the country, will culminate in a major demonstration in the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak in the evening

Gilad Cohen, Adam Kutub, Lior El-Hai, Hadar Gil-Ad | Updated: Yesterday | 06:47

Anti-judicial reform protest and Haredi counter-protest in front of ousted minister Arye Deri's Jerusalem home

Protesters launched on Thursday a day-long disruptive campaign designed to paralyze the country over the proposed revamp of the judiciary by the Israeli government, starting off with demonstrations outside the Jerusalem residence of ousted minister and Shas leader Arye Deri.

Thus far, the Israel Police reported that at least 87 protesters were arrested or detained for alleged violations of order across the country, as 60 of the protesters were arrested in the Tel Aviv area.

The coalition is pushing forward with a bill that would bar the Supreme Court from interfering in the appointment of the thrice-convicted politician who had lied to a judge in a tax evasion trial, and who had accepted a plea deal on the condition of no longer seeking elected office.

A group of anti-government protesters gathered outside Deri's home, flying Israeli flags and chanting slogans against both him and the legal shakeup. Not too far away, dozens of ultra-Orthodox youths congregated to express their support for the Shas leader by singing and dancing, with several police officers acting as a buffer between the two groups.

Amit Farber, one of the organizers of the protest in front of Deri's home, was seen joining the circle-dancing youths and rocking with them.

"We may think that the ultra-orthodox are not taking a stand, sitting on the fence. They let the secularists fight and they pretend like they're not part of the game. They don't make their voices heard even though we know they have interests in this coup," the 59-year-old from Rosh Ha'Ain said.

"We chose to come to one of the leaders who influence the prime minister who has an interest. We tell him 'this is as far as you go'. You are tearing the people apart. You, Deri, are disintegrating the army and destroying the country. Our other message this morning was that Deri, the corrupt leader, is dragging his public behind him blindly into a civil war.

"I danced with the Haredi youths because the message is against the leaders, not against the people. We don't have a problem with the ultra-orthodox public, but with their leaders who are invested in this coup.

"When I went downstairs to dance with them, an order came from the yeshiva dean not to talk to us, to stay away from us. What is that supposed to mean? The yeshiva dean instructed them not to cooperate with us, not to talk or touch us. They treated us like lepers."

Overnight, protesters in Israel blocked the helicopter pad near Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Caesarea residence and displayed posters outside the homes of senior members of his ruling Likud party, for their role in an alleged constitutional revolution that they say undermines Israeli democracy.

Pre-school and primary school students, along with their guardians, are expected to block major roads and intersections across the country throughout the day.

The events are scheduled to culminate in a mass rally led by IDF reservists in Bnei Brak, an ultra-Orthodox town, at 7 pm. Many of these soldiers have declared their refusal to serve in a non-democratic regime.

Demonstrators will be protesting the Israeli government's intention to pass a bill that would exempt Haredi men from compulsory military service, which the ultra-Orthodox political leadership has been attempting to legislate for years. The Supreme Court has repeatedly blocked such attempts on the grounds that they would violate the principle of equality before the law.

Reservists have been protesting in Haredi areas, accusing them of funding their religious educational institutions instead of shouldering the burden of service, that others are made to undertake.

In an interview with Ynet and its sister publication Yedioth Ahronoth on Thursday, Likud minister Miri Regev stated that Air Force reserve pilots who refuse to participate in their weekly training flights should be incarcerated.

Regev said she sees their actions as an assault on the very ethos of the Zionist state. "I think they should be put in their place and prosecuted," she said.

After an all-night session, the Knesset passed a law that prohibits the removal of an elected prime minister on any grounds other than physical or mental incapacity.

This move was prompted by concerns from Benjamin Netanyahu, who is currently facing charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust in the Jerusalem District Court, that he may be forced to step down due to his ongoing criminal trial.

Should his case come before the Supreme Court, this law would prevent the court from removing him from office. Critics argue that Netanyahu's legislative agenda, which includes proposals to have judges elected by politicians, including Supreme Court Justices, is driven by his own legal troubles.

Until his indictment, he had previously blocked attempts by allies and political partners to weaken the courts.

First published: 08:55, 03.23.23

3.23.23

Knesset approves law 61-47 to ouster if three-quarters of cabinet declare

3.23.23

Knesset approves law to limit conditions for Netanyahu ouster

After all-night session, legislation curtailing the court's ability to order the premier to take a leave of absence clears second and third hearings 61-47

Sivan Hilaie|Yesterday | 02:18

The Knesset ratified on Thursday a law that restricts the conditions under which an Israeli prime minister can be removed, legislation that opponents of incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu say is designed to shield him from facing legal heat from his ongoing corruption trial.

Protesters launch fresh day of disruption over Netanyahu government Judicial overhaul Netanyahu to hold two official meetings in weekend UK trip, protests planned Netanyahu says no new settlements in northern West Bank after ban lifted The bill, which became law after clearing second and third hearings with 61 lawmakers voting in favor to 47 against, stipulates that a sitting prime minister can only be declared unfit and forced to step down if they or three-quarters of cabinet ministers declare them so on physical or psychological grounds.

The legislation was rushed through the Israeli parliament due to Netanyahu allies' fears that the Supreme Court would force the conservative leader to take a leave of absence as his government's push to overhaul the judicial system may place him in a conflict of interest pertaining to his legal woes.

Although the coalition and the opposition agreed to cap deliberations on the bill at 16 hours, the opposition recognized at a certain point that the coalition might not have the required majority to push through the legislation and filibustered the session that was scheduled to end Wednesday afternoon until 6am the following morning. Netanyahu is facing charges of taking bribes, fraud, and breach of trust. He denies any wrongdoing and claims that the legal proceedings against him are part of an orchestrated campaign by left-wing prosecutors and media to remove him from power.

Should his case come before the Supreme Court, this law would prevent the court from removing him from office. Critics argue that Netanyahu's legislative agenda, which includes proposals to have judges elected by politicians, including Supreme Court Justices, is driven by his own legal troubles.

Until his indictment, he had previously blocked attempts by allies and political partners to weaken the courts.

====   ====   ====   ====  
====   ====   ====   ====

Ynet-News, March 22, 2023 – Wednesday

3.22.23 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Hezbollah chief refuses comment on terrorist carrying explosives into Israel

3.22.23 – We- - - News Placed in March 22 spot – Wednesday

Israel, Poland resolve disputes, reinstate ambassadors & allow youth trips

3.22.23 – We- - - News Placed in March 19 spot – Sunday

Syrian spy caught by Israel reveals Hezbollah methods, perks and salary

3.22.23 – We- - - News Placed in March 20 spot – Monday

20 battalions with stun guns deployed in West Bank bracing for Ramadan

3.16.23 – Th- - - News Placed in March 16 spot – Thursday

650 reserve troops will not report to duty Sunday in compromised democracy

3.15.23 – We- - - News Placed in March 14 spot – Tuesday

Israel blocks EU foreign chief from visiting over critical comments

3.15.23 – We- - - News Placed in March 15 spot – Wednesday

Terrorist crossing from Lebanon into Israel planted road side bomb