

Ynet-News, March 31, 2023 – Friday

Passover starts Sundown April 4, First Fruits April 12

3.31.23 – Fr- - - News Placed in March 31 spot – Friday

Human Rights Watch aiding asylum seekers & PA; ask US to stop Judicial overhaul

3.30.23 – Th- - - News Placed in March 30 spot – Thursday

15,000 Right-wing supporters insist on judicial changes to Israel legal system

3.29.23 – We- - - News Placed in March 29 spot – Wednesday

MKs blast US meddling in Israel reform; Biden influenced by left-wing fake news

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Negotiation teams kick off judicial reform dialogue at President's Residence

3.28.23 – Tu- - - News Placed – Tuesday

Spokesman Nadav Galon says protest will continue on streets for us in the public

3.28.23 – Tu- - - News – Monday

Netanyahu coalition tables judicial overhaul bill despite promise to stall

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Herzog pushes Netanyahu, Lapid & Gantz into judicial overhaul dialogue

3.31.23

Human Rights Watch aiding asylum seekers & PA; ask US to stop Judicial overhaul

3.31.23

Israel is on 'rampage' against human rights, new HRW chief says

Tirana Hassan urges U.S. to persuade Netanyahu to change course on Judicial overhaul;

Human Rights Watch labeled Israel an apartheid state in its 2021 report prompting Israeli officials, Jewish groups and others to slam the group as bias

Reuters | Yesterday | 15:02

Israel's government is "on a rampage" against human rights, the new head of Human Rights Watch said on Thursday and urged the United States and other allies to do more to hold it accountable for alleged abuses and persuade it to change course.

A planned overhaul of the judiciary by Israel's religious-nationalist government would be "a disaster" for human rights, HRW Executive Director Tirana Hassan told Reuters.

She called on Washington to follow through after it issued a rare reproach over the move. "With the current state of the Israeli government and the attacks on the judiciary in particular, we see that this is not a human rights-compliant government," Hassan said. "This is a government that's actually on a rampage against human rights domestically against its own people in Israel..."

protestors The chief spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry, Lior Haiat, said: "This is an amazing example of how biased she and the organization are.

"Israel is a strong and vibrant democracy. The demonstrators over the last few months are an impressive example of it. Hundreds of thousands of people are manifesting in the streets. No violence. Protected by the police. This is how a real democracy works. It is yet another example of an organization that targets Israel on anything, without a minimum understanding or fairness. So sad."

The government's plan to enable parliament to override Supreme Court decisions and control judicial appointments has triggered some of the biggest street protests in Israeli history, with critics calling the move a threat to democracy.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters say the plans would ensure a proper balance between the elected government and the judiciary and not endanger individual and minority rights.

Earlier this week Netanyahu paused legislative steps to implement the plan and has begun talks with the political opposition on a compromise.

Hassan, a lawyer who has represented asylum seekers, said she hoped U.S. President Joe Biden's administration would "leverage their relationship and their power to ensure that Israel sort of steps back from the brink which is where they are now when it comes to human rights.

"We expect the U.S. ... to be holding Israel to account for abuses with the same rigor that they are prepared to hold China to account for their abuses," she added.

Human Rights Watch labeled Israel's treatment of Palestinians and the decades-long Israeli occupation of the West Bank as "apartheid" in a 2021 report.

Some pro-Israel groups, including prominent Jewish organizations in the United States, have said HRW and other rights groups have shown bias against Israel in their reporting. The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported a record 152 killings of Palestinians by Israeli security forces last year in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and said Jewish settler violence against Palestinians had also intensified.

The increased Israeli army operations followed an upsurge in attacks by Palestinians over the past year in which at least 45 people have been killed, according to Israeli foreign ministry figures.

In separate comments at a meeting at the United Nations in Geneva on Thursday, Francesca Albanese, a U.N. Special Rapporteur on human rights in the territories said the situation there was deteriorating.

"I've seen increasing forms of humiliation and indignities that are imposed on the Palestinians, a strengthening of the suffocating architecture," she said.

## 15,000 Right-wing supporters insist on judicial changes to Israel legal system

3.30.23

Right-wing supporters of judicial overhaul march in Tel Aviv

Tens of thousands gathered ahead of 'Freedom March' which organizers say would show the majority of Israelis support the legislation proposed by the Netanyahu government to change the judicial system

Eitan Glickman, Adam Kutub, Roi Rubinstein | 11:56

Tens of thousands of supporters of the government and its planned judicial overhaul gathered for what they called 'a Freedom March' on Thursday in Tel Aviv after calls from ministers for the right-wing public to take to the streets in response to mass demonstrations held for the past three months, by opponents of the plan.

Some demonstrators destroyed an installation of an IDF air force jet crashing into the ground, built by opponents of the government's move. Others carried signs some saying "Bibi is the king of Israel," "the left-wing minority does not decide," and "The Supreme Court will not rule us," while some chanted calls for Chief Justice Esther Hayut to resign.

Likud legislator Tali Gottlieb who walked with the demonstrators hailed the marchers for their love of Israel and their willingness to come out and make their voices heard. "Not one of those people plans to provoke violence," she said. "We have gathered for a show of force and will express our desires after the right-wing, won the elections," she said.

On Monday, the right-wing staged its first 15,000-strong demonstration in Jerusalem as a show of force prompted by the government and parties in the coalition and were outside the Knesset to hear Netanyahu's announcement.

After supporters of the government violently clashed with demonstrators in the last weeks, Netanyahu was urged to speak out ahead of the march and condemn any acts of violence.

Organizers of the event said it was an established fact that changes must be made to Israel's legal system. "There can be dialogue and agreement reached but there cannot be surrender," they said. "The will of the voters must not be trampled on by bullies who refused to serve the military and damaged Israel's economy. The majority of the people demand a judicial overhaul and that must be achieved. We must not allow most Israelis to become second-rate citizens," they said.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said the demonstrations are important for democracy. "I call on demonstrators to refrain from violence against the police, journalists, or any other people," he said. "I have faith in the commissioner of the police that he will instruct his forces to treat the demonstrators in the same way that the protesters against the government were treated," he said.

3.29.23

## MKs blast US meddling in Israel reform; Biden influenced by left-wing fake news

3.29.23

Ministers blast Biden for 'meddling' in Israel's internal affairs over judicial overhaul remarks

Likud MK blames 'American support' for death of IDF soldiers in Gaza campaign; Ben-Gvir says 'Americans need to understand that Israel is not another star on the American flag'

Itamar Eichner|03:55

After U.S. President Joe Biden sent an explicit warning urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to abandon his government's judicial reforms, Netanyahu and his political allies harshly criticized Biden on Wednesday for what they deemed interference in Israel's internal affairs, calling his remarks "out of line."

Netanyahu was quick to respond to Biden's warning with a statement in which he said Israel will not make decisions "based on external pressures, including from our best friends."

Government ministers expressed similar opinions on Wednesday morning, claiming Biden should not meddle in Israel's internal affairs, and accusing the U.S. government of failing to recognize Israel's sovereignty.

"The Americans need to understand that Israel is an independent state and not another star on the American flag," said National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. "It needs to be clear to the whole world that the nation here has had an election and it has its wishes."

Some lawmakers took a more fiery line in response to Biden's remarks, including Deputy Knesset Speaker Nissim Vaturi of Netanyahu's Likud Party, who went so far as to blame former U.S. President Barack Obama for the death of IDF soldiers during Israel's 2014 military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

"There was a case during Operation Protective Edge in which the U.S. decided on an arms embargo on Hellfire missiles for Apache [helicopters], and Israel got by," he said. "In my opinion, soldiers were killed also because of the quote-unquote American support."

Vaturi was then asked to clarify whether he truly believed that IDF soldiers were killed as a result of what he called an "American embargo", to which he replied "yes."

"The question is whether this is a democracy for the U.S. president to come and dictate to us," he continued. "The U.S. cannot meddle in Israel's internal affairs. This is a democracy, he shouldn't force anything on us."

The firebrand lawmaker also claimed that while he understands the security reliance on the U.S., Israel will be able to defend itself without U.S. aid if need be.

"If Biden will be so kind as to meet with Netanyahu, he will be able to explain the judicial reforms to him," he scoffed. "Right now, he is influenced by left-wing journalists and opposition members."

Culture and Sports Minister Miki Zohar tweeted "It's sad that President Biden has also fallen victim to the fake news that was spread in Israel against our justified judicial reform."

He deleted his post shortly after and shared another tweet that read: "Out of respect for our important relations with our greatest ally, the U.S., I deleted the tweet. My heart is broken seeing how much damage is being done to Israel due to all the fake news being spread on our justified judicial reform."

3.28.23

Negotiation teams kick off judicial reform dialogue at President's Residence

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Working teams on behalf of coalition, Yesh Atid and National Unity meet in attempt to reach an agreement based on Herzog's outline for compromise

Itamar Eichner, Moran Azulay|12:04

President Isaac Herzog met on Tuesday with working teams on behalf of the coalition, Yesh Atid, and National Unity parties at his Jerusalem residence for a dialogue on the details of potential judicial reform.

Despite Netanyahu calling time-out on judicial reform, violent clashes with police persist. Later this week, the president is expected to meet with representatives from other parties. The negotiation team on behalf of the Likud party includes Cabinet Secretary Yossi Fuchs, Prof. Talia Einhorn, Dr. Aviad Bakshi, and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer.

Yesh Atid's team includes MK Orna Barbivai, MK Karin Elharar, former Prime Minister's Office director-general Naama Schultz, and attorney Oded Gazit.

The National Unity party's team includes MK Gideon Sa'ar, MK Chili Tropper, MK Orit Farkash, and attorney Ronen Aviani. Yisrael Beiteinu party leader Avigdor Liberman announced that he won't send representatives to the meeting.

A format for the negotiations has not yet been finalized by the president's team, and it's still undecided whether Herzog will be present at the talks or only designate the President's Residence as a venue to hold the discussion. At this point, it's still unclear if an outline presented by the president earlier this month would serve as a basis for negotiations.

Herzog strives to reach broad agreements regardless of the final outline that both sides will sign. Parts of the president's plan are acceptable to both sides, and it looks as if the outline provides common ground for discussion.

Yesh Atid will demand that the sides agree to the establishment of a constitution in Israel. The coalition initially rejected Herzog's plan, but doesn't rule out discussion based on it. Earlier Tuesday, Herzog expressed cautious optimism following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to suspend legislation on the judicial overhaul.

"I hope that yesterday made us change our path - as a society and as a state, and that the opportunity created by pausing the **legislation will bring with it an honest, serious, and responsible discussion**," the president said at a speech held at Yad Vashem Holocaust museum.

In light of violent clashes persisting throughout the country even after Netanyahu's announcement, Herzog noted that he hopes halting the legislation "will calm tensions, reduce friction and lead to positive results and broad agreements. There's no doubt that this is a sensitive time.

The **President's Residence will work** in the near future in cooperation with all systems, **political and public, as a space for** consolidating as broad **agreements** on the reform as possible, to get Israel out of the ongoing crisis going on," he said.

Herzog added: "Right now, we all need to take responsibility. To sanctify democracy and our people's unity. I've always said and will continue saying: **if one side wins - the country loses**. We must band together as one people and one democratic Jewish state."

3.28.23

**Spokesman Nadav Galon says protest will continue on streets for us in the public**

3.28.23

**Protests not stopping 'we don't believe this Israeli government'**

Spokesman Nadav Galon says there will probably be no dialog about the things that really need to be advanced and **protesters will continue to march until** the entire plot to change the judicial **system is blocked**

Sharon Kidon, Meir Turgeman, Ishay Shnerb|07:18

**Despite** the statement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday announcing he would **temporarily halt** his government's push to reshape the judicial system, a spokesman for the protesters said they have no intention of stopping their demonstrations.

Despite Netanyahu calling time-out on judicial reform, **violent clashes** with police **persist** In an interview with Ynet Radio, Nadav Galon said that "one of the characteristics of this struggle has been that **we don't believe this government**."

**Galon noted** that statements by **coalition partners** do not bode well for those who **oppose** the **legislation**: "They said explicitly that after a period of time, **they will resume** enacting the laws on the **appointment of judges** and a series of other bills, some of which they are continuing **to advance** right now, such as **the establishment of a national guard** **for** the most extreme and dangerous man in the State of Israel, National Security Minister Itamar **Ben-Gvir**," he said.

"Unfortunately, we know that there will **probably be no dialog** about the things that really need to be dealt with in Israel: a constitution, **human rights and basic rights** anchored in basic law, and a series of things that **are for the benefit of the justice system**. There is a very **extreme element** here **who seeks to crush the judicial system**," he added.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday several protesters painted the water red in a fountain near the city of Bat Yam, as a move to demonstrate "Netanyahu is slaughtering democracy."

"Netanyahu's statement will not make us stop. We look forward to the complete termination of the criminal legislation. We'll fight and protest until we succeed. Even the private Kahanist militias of Itamar Ben-Gvir will not scare us," he said referring to the extremist religious Zionist ideology based on the views of Rabbi Meir Kahane. Galon also spoke about the agreement of the opposition leaders Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz to sit down with Netanyahu and added: "They said from the beginning that they would sit and talk if the legislation was stopped. It is our job to guide them and make our voices heard. If we are strong enough, we will stay on the streets and set our red lines, we believe that they will not compromise, because, unlike the government, they need to be attentive for us in the public."

3.28.23

Netanyahu coalition tables judicial overhaul bill despite promise to stall

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Netanyahu coalition tables judicial overhaul bill despite promise to stall

Move claimed to be merely a technicality implies there is no real intent to abandon the judicial reforms, opposition members say; 'No matter how much I warned - Netanyahu lied again' says MK Lieberman  
Sivan Hilaie, Moran Azulay|03:45

Despite Prime Minister Netanyahu's announcement on Monday that he would stall his controversial legislation for a few months, coalition members on Tuesday morning tabled the bill to change the composition of the committee for the selection of judges for a final vote.

Ben-Gvir acquiesces, opening door for Netanyahu to judicial reform dialogue  
The move by the coalition members sends a message to the right-wing parties that they have no intention to abandon the judicial reforms.

Although coalition members claimed this was an acceptable technical move, MKs opposing the reforms were quick to respond with backlash.

"The public hasn't even had a day to process the legislation's halt, and already the coalition is bringing the bill to a vote," said MK Naama Lazimi of the Labor party. "This is a negotiation process with a gun held to the head."

According to the Knesset rules, a bill must be tabled at least 24 hours before it goes up for a vote in the plenum. The opposition was concerned that if the negotiations would drag on, the coalition would be able to vote on the bill before the Knesset begins its recess next week.

"No matter how much I had warned - Netanyahu lied again," said Avigdor Lieberman, a former Netanyahu ally turned opponent and leader of the Yisrael Beiteinu Party. "Instead

of conducting a true dialogue with the president and stitching together the rift in the Israeli nation, the coalition is spitting in the face of the public."

In his statement on Monday night, Netanyahu said he 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."

He emphasized that this decision was made out of "national responsibility" and the "desire to prevent a rift in the nation."

While he insisted that there was a "need to bring about the necessary amendments in the judicial system," he reassured Israelis that the Knesset would "provide an opportunity to settle them with a broad consensus."

3.28.23

Herzog pushes Netanyahu, Lapid & Gantz into judicial overhaul dialogue

3.28.23

Herzog pushes for talks to begin on judicial overhaul compromise

President says spoke with prime minister and opposition leaders after Netanyahu announces temporary halt to legislation; says will represent civil society concerns  
Itamar Eichner, Moran Azulay|01:45

Amid the judicial overhaul that has plagued the nation and reached a boiling point in the last few days, President Isaac Herzog called on both sides to establish working teams to reach an agreement through dialogue.

Despite Netanyahu calling time-out on judicial reform, violent clashes with police persist  
Herzog spoke on Monday evening with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Head of Opposition Yair Lapid, and Leader of the National Unity Party MK Benny Gantz.

The president said his efforts would continue to represent the concerns of civic groups and different Knesset factions in the compromise solution.

In his statement on Monday night, Netanyahu announced he would stall his controversial legislation for a few months.

"When there is an opportunity for talks - I, as the prime minister, take a time out for talks," Netanyahu said. "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."

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.



Gantz also spoke with Netanyahu later on Monday, and called on him not to fire Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, following the prime minister's announcement to do so on Sunday evening. Gantz stated that this is "essential to the national security."

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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