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Rabbis for Religious Freedom & Equality in Israel



“The State of Israel... will guarantee freedom of religion and conscience...”
Israel's Declaration of Independence (May 1948)

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Introduction

November 10, 2016
9 Cheshvan 5777



Friends,

To say the least, it's been a tumultuous week in both Israel and the U.S.

In this week's edition you'll start off with articles about the fight between the Chief Justice of Israel's Supreme Court, Miriam Naor, and Israel's Justice Minister, Ayelet Shaked. The dispute centers on procedures for appointing four new justices to Israel's Supreme Court next year; but actually the question is who controls the Supreme Court and its decisions. Naor is determined to hang onto the veto of new members of the court possessed by the justices since 2008. Shaked seeks to move the court toward the political right.

All of which may well affect our issues.

Israeli Justice Minister, Supreme Court Chief Agree to Renew Talks Over Judge Appointments

Sharon Pulwer, *Haaretz*, Nov. 06, 2016

[Click HERE for the full article](#)

The move comes after Chief Justice Naor accused Minister Shaked of 'putting a gun on the table' for expressing support for a bill that would deprive Supreme Court justices of a veto in selection of justices.



Justice Naor & Minister Shaked

Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked and Supreme Court President Miriam Naor met on Sunday in an effort to clear the air after the two

You'll see in this edition also the worsening comments by Israel's rabbinate regarding liberal (Reform is their term) Jews in the U.S. There's virtually no limit to the blame placed on us. Deri contends we seek to destroy Judaism. We stand accused of world-wide destruction of Judaism, in an article we are sending in Hebrew.

The parallels between events in the U.S. and Israel are uncanny. Control of the Supreme Court may well determine the fate of some of the causes we hold most dear in our advance toward religious equality in Israel. Please read the articles, and judge for yourself.

As always, we'd love to hear reactions, sent to us at organizers@rrfei.org or [in our Facebook group](#).

Shabbat Shalom,

Mark

Rabbi Mark H. Levin
RRFEI Editor in Chief

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clashed last week over Shaked's support for legislation that would deprive the Supreme Court justices on the court of a veto over the appointment of new justices to the court. Shaked said she would support the bill if a consensus was not reached on new appointees.

Last week, Naor accused Shaked in a letter of "putting a gun on the table" over her support for the legislation at this time.

Shaked on Sunday released a list of the 28 candidates nominated to the Supreme Court whom the judicial selection committee will be considering to fill four vacancies on the high court next year. Naor as well as Justices Zvi Zylbertal, Salim Joubran, and Elyakim Rubinstein will be retiring next year. Zylbertal's term does expire until 2022, but he is understood to be ready to step down.

Naor wrote that as a result of Shaked's support for the bill, the justices on the committee would not engage in preliminary discussions on the nominees. On Sunday, however, the two met and agreed that the two sides would resume discussions behind the scenes. A source told Haaretz that the differences between the two are still wide, but Shaked told Naor that she would only support the legislation if Justice Zylbertal, who is expected to resign in April, leaves the court without a replacement.

...

Analysis: Shaked vs. Supreme Court - who will win the war to shape the court's future?

Yonah Jeremy Bob, *Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 3, 2016

[Click HERE for the full article](#)

The Supreme Court has taken huge amounts of heat for its interventions in striking down as unconstitutional state policies on migrants and natural gas.

Justice Minister Shaked is a master politician and public relations maven, but she likely is about to learn a few floor moves from a more experienced dancer.

On Thursday, Supreme Court President Miriam Naor dropped the standard press-shy, low-key modesty and decorum that have characterized her reign, counterattacking Shaked with a fierceness not previously revealed. The background? A battle over the very future of the Supreme Court.

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Replacements for four justices – about a quarter of the court – will be announced together in the coming months. This is Shaked's dream – a chance to move the court to the right and toward a more conservative approach to negating government policy, both in one fell swoop.

One might initially think she had all the cards.

...

'You have placed a gun on the table'

Shlomo Piotrkowski, *Arutz Sheva*, Nov. 3, 2016

[Click HERE for the original article](#)

High Court Chief Justice Miriam Naor sent a sharp letter Wednesday to Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked in the wake of the proposed law cancelling the need for a majority of 7 out of 9 members of the selection committee when selecting new judges.

Naor wrote initially that despite the proposal being a private MK's proposal, since it has been publicized that Shaked supports the proposed law and she has not denied her support, she assumes that Shaked indeed stands behind the initiative.

"Submitting this proposal at the present juncture constitutes 'placing a gun on the table'. It means that if some members of the committee will not express their approval of certain candidates, and there will not be a special majority enabling their appointment, the constitutional 'rules of the game' will change so that they can be appointed by a regular majority of the selection committee," wrote Naor.

...

Naor added "I wish to emphasize that we do not intend to intervene in the Knesset's legislative procedures even when they constitute a change in the 'rules of the game' . We are also not involved in speculations about possible legislative processes or their propriety. However, it is clear that, just as the legislative authority acts as it sees fit, we too - the judges who are members of the judiciary selection committee - will each act as we see fit, all within the confines of the law."

...

הרפורמים עומדים מאחורי הכפשת ישראל בעולם

ישראל שקולניק, Kooker, Nov. 9, 2016

[Click HERE for the original article](#)

דו"ח מרכז ליב"ה שהוגש הבוקר לחברי ועדת הפנים בכנסת קובע כי רבים מראשי הנהגת הרפורמים בישראל עומדים מאחורי פעולות דה לגיטימציה לצה"ל ולישראל, בעיקר באמצעות ארגון השמאל הקיצוני "רבנים לזכויות אדם", אשר למעלה מ-35% מראשי הקהילות הרפורמיות בישראל חברים בו. מרכז ליב"ה: "מאבק הרפורמי לשינוי הסטטוס קוו בנושאי דת ומדינה שזור באופן מובהק במאבק בפעולות צה"ל כנגד הטרור"

בדו"ח שמפרסם מרכז ליב"ה, ואשר הוגש הבוקר לחברי ועדת הפנים אשר דנים הבוקר בסוגיית הכותל המערבי, מוצגים מקורות המימון של רבנים לזכויות אדם, המורכב ברובו מרבנים רפורמים. בישראל ישנן 54 קהילות רפורמיות ו-17 מהעומדים בראשן הם חברים ב'רבנים לזכויות אדם' או בעלי תפקידים בכירים בארגון.

הארגון, הפועל לסיוע לערבים ברחבי יהודה ושומרון ורצועת עזה, היווה חלק ממקורות דו"ח גולדסטון שתיאר את פעולות צה"ל ברצועת עזה כפשעי מלחמה.

הארגון אף פועל בקשר הדוק עם ארגון הקיצוני תעאיוש, אשר שנחשף בתחקיר "עד כאן", כי שני הארגונים פעלו לשכנוע פלסטינים להשתלט על אדמות מדינה ביהודה ושומרון.

...

Rabbis for Religious Freedom and Equality in Israel represents a broad spectrum of Jewish belief and practice, and champions the values of religious freedom and equality fundamental to World Jewry, in partnership with Hiddush for the realization of these principles in Israel and the Diaspora.

Rabbis for Religious Freedom and Equality in Israel

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