

An Urgent Call to the Gatekeepers

Supreme Court Chief Justice Esther Hayut
Legal Adviser to the Government, Adv. Gali Baharav Miara
Legal Adviser to the Knesset, Adv. Sagit Afik
Leaders of the Public and of the Israeli Legal system

Re: Last Line of Defense of the Israeli Democracy

This letter is written and cosigned by 1251 air force pilots who have served in the Israeli Air Force over three generations.

Throughout our military service as active-duty pilots we were ready to sacrifice our lives for the country. After the service, we continued to contribute to the best of our abilities serving in the Reserve, and building strong economy, industry, and education. We believed in the moral foundation of the state of Israel and in the mission to protect a democratic homeland for the Jewish people.

We have diverse social and political backgrounds spanning right- to left-leaning, orthodox to secular, and have Ashkenazi, Sephardic, and other origins. We live in all parts of the state. Today, we are united in deep concern for the democracy in Israel.

You are the last line of defense, the gatekeepers who can stop the process of eroding the Israeli democracy. Israel, which was founded as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people, cannot maintain the spirit of its Declaration of Independence if it abandons its liberal democracy identity.

We expect you to use all legal and other instruments at your disposal, and to use your power with full determination and without hesitation, to stop the impending disaster. We pledge to stand by you as we fight for the future of Israel.

Signed: Retired and Reserve Israeli Air Force Pilots