

What is in Store for the Second Stage of the Judicial Coup?

Some of us are not necessarily interested in delving into the abstract concepts of democracy and independence of the judiciary, and find it hard to fully comprehend the true implications of the judicial coup led by the current extremist right-wing government.

So in simple words, the first stage of the judicial coup is to strip the judiciary, including the Supreme Court, from its authority to strike down laws which violate rights or discriminate.

If this will be accomplished by the ruling coalition, then at the second stage they will have the freedom to pass new legislation, at their whim.

To illustrate what may lay ahead, we compiled a partial list of the laws that, to our knowledge, are on the right-wing government's agenda for the second stage of the coup. Note that we can only assume that the really toxic laws are still kept in secret for the day after.

So, this is what we know to be on the agenda:

- **Women** - Intent to deepen the gender-based segregation within the institutions of higher education; Expanding the authority of the Rabbinical courts to deal with civil cases.
- **Media** - Reduction of the budget of the public broadcasting corporation and expropriation of some of its radio frequencies, in favor of private broadcasting corporations.
- **Culture** – Stripping the National Library of Israel of its independent status, and enabling the government to appoint the board and senior management of the library.
- **Right to vote and to be elected** -
 - Changing clause 7a to Basic Law: The Knesset, which allows the Central Elections Committee to disqualify parties from running in elections, in ways which will cause the disqualification of more Arab parties.
 - The Chairperson the Central Elections Committee, which is now a Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court, will become an appointee of the Knesset's Speaker.
- **Labour Laws/Workers** - Limitation of the right to strike and the right to establish workers' unions.
- **Asylum seekers and illegal foreign workers** – Enacting Basic Law: Immigration, which will enable detention for an indefinite amount of time of illegal immigrants, and strip them of the right to appeal their detention.
- **LGBTQ** - Amendment of the anti-discrimination law, which will enable prevention of service due to religious faith.
- **Palestinians** - Re-legislation of the settlement regulation laws, enabling the expropriation of private Palestinian lands if Israeli settlements were built on these lands.
- **Ultra-Orthodox/Haredim** – Enacting full exemption from military service for students in Yeshivot (institutions of religious studies).
- **Arabs/Israelis/Left Wing** - Prohibition of waving the Palestinian flag within the academic institutions of higher education, and threat of expulsion on those students violating this law.
- **Academic Institutions** - Institutions that allow waving the Palestinian flag will lose funding.
- **Civil Society Organizations, NGO's** - Heavily taxing donations to civil society organizations. The tax burden might cause many civil society organizations to close down and halt their activities.
- **Reform Jews** – abolishing the area near the Kotel in which Reform prayer was allowed.
- **Religion & State** - Legislation of a law of *hametz* (bread or bread related foods during Passover) to prohibit hametz within the hospitals. Disproportionately budgeting of religious schools.