

Israel's internal 'dysfunction' ranks high in think tank's annual risk analysis

War against Hezbollah, Iranian nuke are atop list of threats facing Israel, according to the Institute for National Security Studies, but societal issues come in a close third

By [Judah Ari Gross](#) / 6 January 2021

While a potential war with the Hezbollah terror group and Iran developing a nuclear weapon remain the most significant threats facing Israel in the coming year, internal conflicts and governmental dysfunction have become the next greatest danger facing the country, according to a leading Israeli think tank's annual risk assessment released Wednesday.

This was the first time that domestic schisms — or “internal and multi-system dysfunction,” as the report's authors described it — have beaten out external threats in the Tel Aviv-based **Institute for National Security Studies'** yearly analysis, which it presented to President **Reuven Rivlin**.

According to the think tank, these domestic issues came to the fore in the past year with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, prompting the researchers who wrote the report to rank the divisions the third most serious threat facing the country.

Rivlin accepted the report's findings and called for the government to work on restoring public confidence in it and to address the “baseless hatred” between different segments of Israeli society.

“There is a pressing need to revive the trust between the citizens of Israel and the state. That trust was damaged in the past year — seriously, maybe even critically,” Rivlin said.

This appeared to be a reference to the repeated rounds of elections due to various political parties' inability or unwillingness to form a coalition, breakdowns in the government, and the politicization of the management of the coronavirus pandemic.

“For the first time since **INSS** began its annual public scale of threats, experts have ranked the internal challenge as one of the three leading threats to Israel's national resilience and security,” the institute said.

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