

New Coalition Agreement Will Transfer Some of Civil Administration's Powers to Smotrich

Debbie Mohnblatt / Dec. 4, 2022

Whether the Finance Ministry's authority will extend only to Israeli civilians in the West Bank or will include full control of the Civil Administration division has yet to be confirmed

Israel's Prime Minister-designate Binyamin Netanyahu, head of the Likud party, announced Thursday that he had signed a coalition agreement with Bezael Smotrich, the head of the Religious Zionism party. As part of the deal, some or all of the powers of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) unit and its Civil Administration division in the West Bank, which currently operate under the Defense Ministry, will be transferred to the Finance Ministry that Smotrich is expected to head.

[...]

However, **Yohanan Tzoreff**, a senior research fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University** and an expert on Palestinian affairs, tells The Media Line that the Finance Ministry could be given jurisdiction over additional COGAT responsibilities rather than limiting its authority to issues involving Israeli civilians.

He believes that dividing the Civil Administration's responsibilities between the Finance and Defense ministries could cause conflicts between them, leading to tensions within the government.

[...]

Tzoreff adds that the Palestinian Authority could interpret this as a breach of the understanding that it has with Israel, and that it could increase tension between both and pose problems for the existing coordination.

For full article:

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