

Legal overhaul could jeopardize Israel's security and ties with US, think tank warns

In 86-page report presented to Herzog, Institute for National Security Studies says plan could undermine democracy, have severe implications for internal and external stability

By Tobias Siegal and TOI staff 24 January 2023

The government's plans to overhaul the judiciary could undermine democracy and set Israel on a collision course with United States, potentially endangering crucial strategic ties with its greatest ally, a leading think tank warned Monday.

In an 86-page report, the **Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University** also warned that the increasing polarization in the country could have a substantially detrimental impact on the country's security.

The report noted that Israel continues to maintain a qualitative military edge over its regional rivals but expressed concern that this advantage could be undermined by the political turmoil.

The unrest could not only endanger Israel's ties with the Biden administration, which has repeatedly expressed concern, but also harm Israel's security, said **INSS director Tamir Hayman**, a former Military Intelligence chief.

"In the geo-strategic field, we identified the special relationship with the US as the most significant challenge facing the decision makers — it is a very significant anchor in Israel's perception of security and any damage to it will directly affect Israel's dealings with the other arenas," said Hayman as he presented the report to President Isaac Herzog.

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