

Why is the Israeli army concerned about the new Netanyahu government?

Murat Sofuoglu / Jan. 3, 2023

According to the local media, Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right allies' plan to restructure the military has triggered some in the Israeli army to question how it might impact its chain of command.

Israel's right-wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as the prime minister of the most extremist-dominated government in the country's history, which raised eyebrows not only in Western capitals but also the headquarters of the Israeli army.

[...]

These structural upheavals are coming in the form of “concessions” to far-right groups due to Netanyahu's political constraints and “caused the army to react” says **Yoram Schweitzer**, a former member of the Israeli intelligence community who now heads the Program on Terrorism and Low-Intensity Conflict at the **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)**.

Netanyahu's changes have already triggered anger in the military establishment. Earlier in December, Commanders for Israel's Security, a group of former Israeli senior officers, shared a public letter which warned that the restructuring might provoke “internal divisions and conflict between officers and troops, insubordination, anarchy,” which will ultimately lead to “the disintegration of the IDF as an effective fighting force.”

But the military's reaction against Netanyahu's far-right allies' new authorities over the army does not mean that political and military establishments will clash with each other, according to **Schweitzer**, whose institute hosted Kochavi last week. The top general did not talk about his call to Netanyahu during his program at the INSS, an Israeli think-tank, Schweitzer tells TRT World.

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