

## **Ben-Gvir Gets Control Over Israel's National Guard in Exchange for Judicial Reform Pause**

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Details on the new security force that will operate under the National Security Ministry are yet to be defined, but the deal has sparked serious debate

[...]

Dr. **Meir Elran**, a senior researcher and director of the Domestic research cluster of the **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** at **Tel Aviv University**, told The Media Line that the decision to create a National Guard was already approved in June 2022 under the government of former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. "The process of establishing the National Guard is going on presently, and this is just a reiteration of the same decision that was already made before by the previous government," he explained.

The creation of a National Guard was approved a year after Operation Guardian of the Walls that took place in May 2021, during which the level of violence escalated in mixed Jewish and Arab Israeli cities.

**Elran** says that this body should be created by expanding the country's Border Police, and that its relationship to the National Security Ministry should be the same as that of the Israel Police.

Currently, he explained, the "functional and operational responsibilities of the national police are characterized and defined by law. The commissioner of the police is responsible for the law."

The government minister is responsible for "bringing budgets from the national budget, and being responsible for the coordination of different things, but he is not the commander of the national police," **Elran** added.

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