

Reservist Protest Against Israel's Judicial Overhaul Is Warning, Analysts Say

Maya Margit / March 21, 2023

No-shows are not yet significant but could quickly become problematic if the Israel Defense Forces becomes politicized

Israel's reservist protest against the government's judicial overhaul is leading some defense analysts to sound the alarm and warn that the IDF could become politicized.

Hundreds of reservists, up to 750 so far according to Israeli media, have refused to serve and failed to report for duty in recent days to protest the controversial legislation package. The personnel include members of the military's Special Forces, Air Force and offensive cyber specialists.

Organizers of the "Brother in Arms" protest on Tuesday cautioned that they are preparing to "escalate the struggle," as the government continues to rush through the controversial legislation. At a press conference held in the coastal city of Herzliya, leaders of the group warned that the IDF is at risk of disintegration if the bills are passed and that thousands would stop volunteering to serve in the reserves.

Also on Tuesday, **Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** issued a first-of-its kind "strategic alert," citing severe threats to Israel's national security. The INSS warned that the widespread public outcry against the judicial overhaul, which has resulted in some of largest demonstrations in the country's history, could seep into the IDF and eventually impact its operational capabilities.

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