

Ex-IDF intel chief: Overhaul damage to Israel's national security may be irreversible

In interview with Zman Yisrael, Maj. Gen. (res.) Tamir Hayman says he no longer trusts Netanyahu on matters of security, cautions premier may no longer be thinking rationally

By Amir Bar Shalom and ToI Staff / 10 April 2023

Former military intelligence chief Maj. Gen. (res.) **Tamir Hayman** says he no longer trusts Benjamin Netanyahu's judgment on matters of security after the prime minister's attempt to fire Yoav Gallant as defense minister, and that some of the damage to Israel's economy and social cohesion, and its ties with the US, inflicted by the government's currently suspended push to overhaul the judiciary may be irreversible.

In an [interview](#) (Hebrew link) with The Times of Israel's sister site Zman Yisrael, Hayman said he doesn't have a rational explanation for Netanyahu's recent behavior. He lamented "uncertainty after uncertainty" in recent weeks as mass demonstrations against the dramatic judicial overhaul planned by Netanyahu's hardline coalition rocked the country amid intense public criticism, a rising wave of objections by top public figures including the president, jurists, and business leaders, and, crucially, threats by members of the military to skip training or service in protest.

Increasingly, reservist groups, including pilots and special forces officers — who are a key part of the army's routine activities — had warned that they will not be able to serve in an undemocratic Israel, which they charge the country will become under the government's plan. Soldiers have also expressed concern that a lack of international trust in the independence of Israel's judiciary could expose them to prosecution in international tribunals over actions they were ordered to carry out during service.

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Jacob Magid contributed to this report.

This [article](#) first appeared in Hebrew on The Times of Israel's sister site, Zman Yisrael.

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