



Cracks are emerging in Israel's military. Reservists threaten not to serve if government plan passes

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By Tia Goldenberg / Associated Press / July 19, 2023

JERUSALEM -- Cracks are emerging in Israel's military.

The Middle East's best equipped and most powerful force is under one of the worst assaults it has encountered — a battle within its own ranks.

A contentious government plan to overhaul the country's judiciary has cleaved deep rifts within Israeli society. Those rifts have infiltrated the military, where reservists in key units have pledged not to show up for duty if the legislative changes are pushed through.

[...]

If the government moves ahead with the legislation, more refusals are expected. If these take root, and especially in the air force, the military's performance will take a hit, said **Idit Shafran Gittleman, a senior researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies.**

How big of a hit will depend on how widespread the refusals become and how the military responds to them, she added.

For the near term, if pilots don't show up for training or service, strikes on Syria might be delayed or in the case of the refusenik air force ground personnel, need to be reorganized, Shafran Gittleman said.

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