



## **Israel's judicial overhaul sparks military crisis as number of refusing reservists grows**

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As Israel plunges deeper into crisis after the country's parliament passed the first bill of a controversial judicial overhaul, thousands of Israeli army reservists – the backbone of the Israeli military – are threatening not to show up for work. And Israel's leaders are sounding alarms about the country's readiness for war.

[...]

**Chuck Freilich**, a senior researcher at **The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** in Tel Aviv who served for over 20 years in Israel's national security establishment, said that Israel is at a historical “inflection point,” in which “extreme measures may have to be taken to endure Israel's fundamental character of democracy.”

Speaking about reservists refusing, **Freilich** said that “on the one hand, it is admirable.” But on the other hand, he said, “it is a horrible thing for the IDF.” It was remarkable, he added, that one of the world's better militaries “is threatening to come apart at the seams over domestic changes.”

When the vote passed on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the IDF to “stay out of any political controversy,” saying that “the call for refusal harms the security of all citizens of the country.”

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