

## **New IDF Civil Admin head appointed amid ongoing power struggles**

Tension between Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant adds another layer of complexity to an already-complex situation, experts tell JNS.

Yaakov Lappin (September 10, 2023 / JNS)

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi has tapped Brig. Gen. Hisham Ibrahim as the new head of Israel's Civil Administration, which regulates much of daily life—both Jewish and Arab—in Judea and Samaria, according to *Israel Hayom*. Ibrahim will replace Brig. Gen. Fares Atila.

[...]

**Professor Kobi Michael, a senior researcher at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies** and former head of the Palestinian desk at Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry, noted that the decision to set up a Civil Administration as a separate entity responsible for civilian activities—Jewish or Palestinian—in Judea and Samaria was taken in 1981, during Israeli-Egyptian negotiations over Palestinian autonomy.

During that time, he said, “It was decided to soften up the Egyptian position on Palestinian autonomy and to move the powers of the Israeli military governor to the Civil Administration head.”

The head of the Civil Administration, he continued, “is organizationally under COGAT—and that subordination includes force build up, promotions, personnel, working regulations and policy in general,” said **Michael**. At the same time, the Civil Administration is part of the Israeli military's toolkit and is called upon by IDF Central Command, he added.

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