



NEW GOVERNMENT ACTIONS RELATED TO ARAB SOCIETY

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Overview: Government Initiatives' Explicit and De Facto Impact

Slowing down the trend of narrowing gaps

- Cuts to Negev-Galilee budgets (in GD 550/1279).
 - Shift of budgets from civil issues to law enforcement.
 - Establishment of Jewish towns & villages at expense of Arab ones.
 - Preference for Jews in Universities and in the public sector.
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Cracking Down on “Nationalist Crime”

- Reframing civil crime as nationalist.
 - Increase of ISA operations in Arab society.
 - Change in police open-fire regulations.
 - Change in demonstration dispersal regulations enacted due to “Or Commission” report.
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Limiting Expressions of Palestinian Identity

- Prohibiting raising the Palestinian flag.
 - Increased regulation of Arab school teachers.
 - Along with de-legitimization & incitement in public discourse.
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GR – 550 AND EFFECT ON ARAB LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- ▶ Concerns of reducing budgets or new barriers on accepting state budgets from GR – 550.
- ▶ Organizational changes in governmental authorities challenge budgeting and implementation.
- ▶ ‘Stronger’ Arab authorities are expected to suffer greater cuts.
- ▶ A new section enables deviating budgets from GR 550 to issues of law and enforcement (originally only in GR – 549).



EFFECT ON EDUCATION, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

- ▶ Programs operating under the unit for external programs, now under Avi Maoz, are at risk of budget cuts.
- ▶ GR – 550 budgets marked for Arab culture and identity are at risk of reduction or cancellation.
- ▶ Funding for the unit for cross sectoral collaborations is at risk.
- ▶ Fear of resignation of Arab staff serving in key positions in State.



GR - 1834 FOR MIXED CITIES

- ▶ Passed in 2022 as an initial stage, with a relatively small budget. GR 1834 committed the next government to follow up with a holistic GR, encompassing larger budgets and greater scope of programmatic work.
- ▶ The coalition agreements have no indication of following up on prior agreements under the current configuration of the Ministry for Social Equality.



GR - 549 AGAINST CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN ARAB SOCIETY

- ▶ Crime and violence remain the most pressing issues in Arab society.
- ▶ GR - 549 had budgets marked for civil programs essential to combat crime and violence in Arab society. Two explicit examples are:
 - ▶ (a) preventing recidivism by establishing and strengthening ex-prisoner rehabilitation programs in collaboration with local Arab authorities' welfare departments.
 - ▶ (b) community programs against domestic violence.
- ▶ The coalition agreements with Otzma Yehudit for the establishment of the Ministry for National Security focuses entirely on enforcement and policing.
- ▶ Introducing Border Police and the Shabak as legitimate enforcement mechanisms in Arab society further blur the lines between Palestinian citizens of Israel and West Bank Palestinians.



GR - 1279 AND THE NEGEV BEDOUIN

- ▶ The Authority for economic development for Negev Bedouin (previously under the Ministry of Welfare) is relocated to the Ministry for Social Equality.
- ▶ The Bedouin Authority (previously under the Ministry of Interior) is relocated to the Ministry for Social Equality.
- ▶ The coalitional agreements lack any reference to the Negev Bedouin while relating to the establishment of new Jewish settlements in the Negev.



ESTABLISHMENT OF 14 NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENTS IN THE NEGEV AND THE GALILEE

- ▶ The establishment will take place under the Negev - Galilee office. The initiation of the new settlements is dedicated to Jewish populations only, within the two areas with the highest density of Arab populations.
- ▶ The declared goal under the coalitional agreements is “strengthening Jewish presence, restoring the sense of control and governance in areas with significant non-Jewish presence.”

Insights and conclusions

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The implementation percentage of coalition agreements is 62%.



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There are unintended results of actions – raising the threshold barrier caused increase of Arab representation in the Knesset.

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5-years plan are generally strong and resilient. The great risk is lower motivation for implementation.

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As government motivation to implement 5-years plans decreases, the importance of civil society increases.

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Even in times of striving to protect existing plans, there is great importance in planning proactively for the future, and to develop new initiatives.



Thank you