



## A CALL TO REASON

Israeli democracy is in existential danger. The sixth government led by Netanyahu is not a normal transition of power between different parties, i.e., a typical feature in a functioning parliamentary democracy. It is a push towards a regime change. Domestically, limits to the autonomy of the Supreme Court and the subjugation of the judiciary to the executive branch aim at upsetting the foundations of a liberal democracy: separation and checks and balances between powers.

Moreover, coalition agreements aim at changing the Law of Return to annul the “grandchild clause” whereby a Jewish grandparent is sufficient for the right to aliyah and Israeli citizenship. Similarly, conversions as a path to citizenship conducted by non-Orthodox rabbis in Israel or by Orthodox rabbis not subject to the Chief Rabbinate’s control would be refused, contrary to a ruling by the High Court in 2021. Ultra-orthodox parties are pushing to ban non-orthodox rituals and prayers at the Wailing Wall and to introduce their own educational programs in the public school system. Concerning the Palestinian issue, the new government platform openly promotes sovereign rights of self-determination exclusively for the Jewish people on all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. The steps that will turn this principle into policy are anchored in coalition agreements that provide for the transfer of responsibility over the occupied territories from military to civilian authority and the extension of Israeli civil law to the West Bank, equivalent to annexation. The Jewish and democratic state created by the founding fathers of Zionism which withstood the troubles of history runs the risk of not surviving the choice between a semi civil war and a slide towards a theocratic regime.

We Diaspora Jews fully support Israeli citizens and civil society organizations who have been demonstrating in protest rallies for weeks and lately gathered in front of the Knesset in support of a strike called by many associations.

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