

One Year of Government 34 of Israel: Leading Parties' Positions on Key Issues¹

The paper explores the leading Israeli parties' positions (the right-wing mainly) on the key issues. The set of "key issues" is our choice and contains Judicial (legal system) reform, Judea and Samaria status, 2nd amendment right and self-defense, other security issues, economic policies. The paper is focused primarily on the most important issues like Kfar Duma arson case (investigation was accompanied by grave violation of suspected persons' rights), terror wave, Gas deal, new legislation weakening real estate owner's rights for the developers' benefit and more.

The principal issue of the paper is the parties' commitments to their pre-election promises and informal mandates.

Keywords: Party political platform, consistent position, Right-Left cleavages, ideology,

JEL codes: D72, D73

Abbreviations:

BY Bait Yehudi, Jewish Home party (faction)

UTJ United Torah Judaism party (faction)

YB A.Liberman led Yisrael Beitenu Our Home is Israel party (faction)

DM Defense Minister

PM Prime minister

¹See the report prepared on the eve of the March, 17 XX-th Knesset Elections at:
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=2565526> ; for this report's updated version access
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=2785661>

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Fourteen months has passed since the day of elections and more than one year since Government 34 of Israel has been sworn in 14 May, 2015 – long enough for the various political parties to demonstrate their readiness to live up to pre-election promises. Comparing practical action taken in this time with pre-elections platforms provides a fair notion of the dynamics and choices made by party leaders: whether scrupulously to follow the line as previously defined and refined, or to try new approaches.

The present brief survey focuses on some of the most outstanding of the year's developments. Recent events could not but make the political parties show their mettle in practice. In addition, we will consider the actions (or inaction) taken by different parties in connection with the key elements of the programs they had emphasized on the eve of the elections in March 2015.

Our study considers the positions assumed by the different parties by measuring their relative correspondence to rightist and leftist ideologies. To define the Right vs. the Left, we refer to the criterion put forth by F. Humboldt: leftists believe that the state must "...facilitate happiness," while rightists are of the opinion that the state must "...only attempt to prevent evil." Hence, leftist ideology requires total empowerment of the state and expanding of its functions (as a rule, this is achieved at the expense of the citizens and non-state institutions or NGOs), while rightist thinking calls for limiting state functions to defense and fighting crime. In some cases the authors have found a way to indicate what position should be expected as part of the framework of a particular ideology.

As in earlier studies, the authors distinguish between actions undertaken as part of an ideology and the declaration of an ideology. Actions include:

- 1) Implementing a project as part of government activity;
- 2) Advancing a law bill or consistent and honest efforts aimed at bringing this about;
and
- 3) Consistent and active advancing of public discussion of current themes or issues.

Declarations include:

- 1) Publicized declarations, the leaders speeches and key comments;
- 2) Proposing of law bills unaccompanied by any active measures taken to advance them;
- 3) Creating ministerial committees, lobbies, and the like – without any results to be observed in practice.

The authors have also taken into account the difference in pronouncements made by rank and file party members and their leaders.

Our obvious and intentional shifting of attention to the activities of rightist parties is only partly accounted for by the fact that these parties are now officially in power. The principal reason for focusing on them consists rather in that the authors do not see leftist parties as a reasonable alternative to any one of the possible ways of proceeding currently in question, whether in economics or in politics. Leaving the Left out of focus thus makes it possible without incurring any substantial loss to subject matter, to save time which can prove useful for collecting the material and acquainting the reader with it.

The Court System and Law Enforcement Agencies

“Jewish Terrorism,” Administrative Arrests, Secret Charges, and Torture

The Likud

Measures Consistently and Actively Taken as Part of an Extremely Leftist Ideology

Extensive use of administrative arrests, often based on secret charges, and deportation orders (and in the last few months – torture) against non-system political opposition in Judea and Samaria. Directly responsible for these measures is Minister of Defense M. Yaalon.

Immediately following the arson in Duma, the Minister of Defense announced that Jewish extremists were the perpetrators. The very possibility of an objective investigation was thus for all intents and purposes eliminated. The weak grounding of the accusations leveled at the suspects by the prosecution and the Jewish Department of the Shabak Security Service formed an obvious contrast² with the sharpness and speed of the political pronouncements.³

According to coalition agreements, the civil administration of Judea and Samaria must be subject to Jewish Department control. The Minister of Defense has refused to comply with this requirement. No sanctions followed from the Prime Minister.⁴

² <http://honenu.org/judge-orders-kfar-duma-case-detainee-released/>

³ <http://www.inn.co.il/News/Tag.aspx/14183> ; <http://www.maariv.co.il/news/military/Article-497419>;
<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/201609>

⁴ <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/301288>

A bare few members of the party opted on an individual basis to make a public show of dissociating themselves from this ideology (Miki Zohar), but even that only temporarily.⁵

The Jewish Home

No Independent Position Has Taken Shape; Supportive of Steps Taken by the Likud; Declaratively Support Less Unequivocal

Steps taken by Minister of Justice A. Shaked were limited to addressing the legal adviser (the same one who had authorized torture⁶) and the head of the Shabak with the request that they ensure that the law would be strictly adhered to while the investigation of the arson case in Duma was in progress.⁷

As per statements officially made, party leaders N. Bennett⁸ and Minister of Justice A. Shaked have expressed support for the stance taken by Yaalon, which dictates the position of the investigating bodies and the court.

A. Shaked later announced her intention of presenting at a session of the government a law bill for limiting the usability of evidence obtained by resorting to torture.⁹ The bill included no mechanism for verifying whether the evidence in question was in fact obtained by torture.¹⁰ There is no information concerning any progress made in work on the bill.

Knesset Member Betzalel Smotrich has made the exaggeratedly clear – as well as unambiguous – statement that Jewish terrorism does not exist.¹¹

Note: the Jewish legal tradition in principle disqualifies confessionary statements, not to mention confessions obtained by means of torture.¹²

Court Reform and Reform of the Legal System

Kulanu

⁵ <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Likud-MK-accepts-Jews-attacked-in-Duma-after-Yaalon-shows-him-evidence-438371>

⁶ Sources: Attorney General Approved Torture of Jewish Suspects in Duma Murder Case PM Netanyahu was only informed of the use of torture after the fact; AG Yehuda Weinstein may have overstepped authority with his decision. <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-1.694743>

⁷ <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/312435>

⁸ <http://news.walla.co.il/item/2918261>

⁹ <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4758615,00.html>

¹⁰ Edna Karnaval, “[Ayelet shaked ‘ovedet ‘al ha-tzibur: Mahapekhah be-dinei reayot: Shoftim yukhlu le-hakhshir kol reayah ve-khol hodaah be-‘inuyyim](#)” [“Ayelet Shaked Manipulates the Public: A Revolution in Testimony Law: Judges Will Be Able to Use Any Testimony and Any Confession Obtained by Means of Torture”], *Dinei mishpachah be-yisrael* [Family Law in Israel], February 2, 2016.

¹¹ <http://news.walla.co.il/item/2914121> (Hebrew).

¹² <https://soundcloud.com/ourim/65a> (audio recording of an interview with R. Sherki, in Hebrew).

Members of the Kulanu party (but not the leader of this group) have made statements to the effect that curtailing the authority of the Supreme Court is inadmissible. No views along these lines found expression in any of the materials used by the bloc during the election campaign.

No practical steps have been taken.

The Jewish Home

Prior to the elections, reform of the court system was a declared party goal.

To put the reform through, the Jewish Home demanded the portfolio of Minister of Justice and the office of Head of the Ministerial Committee on Legislation.

No practical steps have been taken, most probably due to the Likud's position (see below).

Likud

*Blocks any action targeting court system reform*¹³

The Army (Objectives, Functions, Responsibility)

The Tunnels Discussion

The classical leftist position aims to appease the terrorists, while the classical rightist amounts to fighting terror.

Likud

Active, preemptive opposition: preemptive strikes in response to information many times tested¹⁴ and officially confirmed by terrorist leaders concerning tunnel construction; rejected by Netanyahu and Ya'alon (both are Likud¹⁵). See also the report being prepared by the State Comptroller on the work of the government in response to the threat of terrorist attacks involving the use of tunnels.¹⁶

¹³ <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART2/693/616.html> (Hebrew)

¹⁴ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/207508>

¹⁵ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/207733>;
<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/207324>

¹⁶ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/207543> ; search for reports on the State Comptroller's site: <http://www.mevaker.gov.il/he/Reports/Pages/default.aspx#topSearch>

The Jewish Home

As per statements officially made, Bennett has put forth a proposal for active measures; this was rejected by the Cabinet of Ministers (see above). On the other hand, Minister of Agriculture Uri Ariel has pledged to support the government's decision to sanction the construction of a port for terrorists.¹⁷ The precondition – a confirmation by the army that the port would not pose a threat to state security – cannot be taken seriously, considering that the project as a whole was first introduced by a group of leftist-politicized generals openly demanding negotiations with terrorists.¹⁸

Protection for Military Men against State Prosecution and Judiciary Activism

No Steps Have Been Taken by Any Party in Support of the Right of Military serviceman to Self-Defense

August 2015 saw the order go into effect, issued by the Central Military Commander, which forbids soldiers to open fire if their lives are not in immediate danger (for instance, if the terrorist has not yet raised his weapon or is in the act of departing after having perpetrated an attack).¹⁹ The authors are unaware of any steps taken by any politician to annul this order.

In October, as per the initiative of Security Minister Gilead Erdan (Likud) and Minister of Justice Ayelet Shaked, the decision was reached to permit policemen to shoot at terrorists, without requiring that they first preliminarily (!) ascertain that the individuals being aimed at are of age.

As per declarative statements formally made, in February, Chief of General Staff Eizenkot announced, “The words ‘One who has risen against you to kill you – kill him’ are simply an empty slogan.”

The Minister of Defense and the Prime Minister have expressed support for Eizenkot. Many prominent members of the Likud refused to share in this responsibility with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense (including Security Minister G. Erdan and Transportation Minister I. Katz).

¹⁷ <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/315205> (Hebrew)

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/208478> (English)

¹⁸ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/Flash.aspx/352384>

¹⁹ <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Israel-tightens-rules-of-engagement-for-combat-troops-in-West-Bank-411868>

The same goes for the Jewish Home party. N. Bennett has openly expressed his support for the general. B. Smotrich has demanded that Eizenkot be removed from his post. Meanwhile, politicized persecution of military servants goes on uninterrupted.²⁰

DM Ya'alon vs. Elor Azaria and for free speaking generals

Initial scenario of Sgt. Elor Azaria case (Hebron incident, soldier finished wounded terrorist, claiming, that the latter could be still dangerous). Defense minister M. Ya'alon (then Likud) had intervened before very start of investigation²¹ virtually (informally) instructing his subordinates to charge soldier instead to defend him legally. DM got initially backing from PM Netanyahu. Then Ya'alon escalated his campaign against the soldier and against the public behind them²² in spite of growing body of evidences, corroborating soldiers' legal defense version²³. BTW, Moshe Ya'alon should be credited for annihilation of neutralized terrorist Abu Jihad during 1988 mission²⁴. So Ya'alon's current position is not based on his own combat experience but directly contradicts thereof.

At that point BY²⁵ and PM preferred to distance themselves from Ya'alon's posture in the case. Ya'alon missed the point, was proceeding the escalation and incitement (in Yair Golan's Independence Day speech incident for example)²⁶, encouraging generals to promote openly leftist ideology²⁷. Eventually he undermined his credibility severely and his portfolio became the natural bargaining chip during new coalition negotiations with Liberman – YB faction.

NGO Transparency Bill

The principal issue of discussion on the Bill is Jewish state capacity to defend Jews. The story is, really not about civil society and is not about "human rights" (but the pretty controversial right to kill Jews without punishment). The primary goal of specific foreign government paid NGO-s²⁸ is to restrict IDF and security services capacity to protect Israelis' lives²⁹.

²⁰ Military court judge keeps soldiers in jail on claims of terrorists that they struck them, lawyer warns state is destroying IDF morale. <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/203352>

²¹ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/210039>

²² <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/Flash.aspx/357726>

²³ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/211069>

²⁴ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/209900>

²⁵ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/Flash.aspx/356626>

²⁶ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/18926>

²⁷ Pay attention, in particular, to Ofer Winter case description <http://www.jewishpress.com/news/breaking-news/netanyahu-confronts-yaalon-over-call-to-idf-officers-to-speak-their-minds/2016/05/16/> ;

²⁸ See for NGO's activities and funding description at: <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/>

²⁹ See the bill draft text (Hebrew) at Knesset web-site <http://knesset.gov.il/Laws/Data/BillGovernment/1005/1005.pdf> ; see also information at Ayelet Shaked

BY, Likud

The Bill promotion was among the issues of the Coalition Agreement BY with Likud. The Bill was approved by Knesset 8 of February, 2016 in 1st reading³⁰ and was publicly endorsed by prime-minister B.Netanyahu³¹. Even adoption of the law couldn't change a thing in the activities of that sort of NGO. Anticipated problem of reputational damage to the "Human rights" NGOs of this sort from broader publicity of the fact of heavy funding from unfriendly to the Israel EU governments, have been losing its significance since Ezra Nawi activities revealed³².

Economic issues, Private property rights, economic freedom Gas Deal

Likud

Promoted the deal consistently.

Coalition parties and Israel Beyteynu

The BY had supported deal. Some coalition members parties and YB exploited the case to extort concessions, eventually supported the deal (Kulanu, UTJ, YB,)³³; the most radical attempt of extortion was occupied by Shas³⁴.

Left parties

Lefts are waging war against the Gas Deal, claiming the monopoly danger. Their claim's substance is – any successful investment project must be destroyed if competitors failed to reach comparable success. The fact, that the Deal and the project realization will inevitably

personal web-site <http://ayeletshaked.co.il/> (Hebrew) section "Parliament activities". MK's from BY, YB and Likud had proposed more harsh version of the Bill. See also discussion between MK Anat Berko (Likud) and New Israel Fund (NIF) president Talia Sasson on the nature and substance of these NGOs and on meaning of private NGOs funding vs. foreign governmental funding: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/206707> (Hebrew); the most striking theses of NIF's president is claim that foreign governments' funding is morally superior and private funding is inferior because "the Governments have (may be, she actually meant - obliged, bound by) principles, the private persons – not". Legal disarmament of IDF, targeted by these EU governments, provides clear understanding of the kind of the principles, which they are really bound by.

³⁰ <http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Knesset-votes-on-NGO-transparency-bill-444291>

³¹ <http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Netanyahu-NGO-transparency-bill-is-right-democratic-and-necessary-443495>

³² Leftist Haaretz coverage: <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.697330>; Right wing journalist opinion: <http://www.jewishpress.com/news/report-left-turns-in-palestinian-land-brokers-to-be-tortured-and-executed/2016/01/08/>

³³ <http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Kulanus-concerns-about-gas-plan-raise-Likuds-ire-412410>

³⁴ <http://www.calcalist.co.il/local/articles/0,7340,L-3671760,00.html>

increase number of competing alternatives for gas purchase in the Israel is surprisingly ignored by Leftists.³⁵

Arabian parties (Joint List faction)

There is hypothesis, this faction was involved in negotiation around the Deal with Government. Left radical MK Stav Shafir (Avoda – "Zionist union") charged Arabian MK M.Zahalka as traitor negotiating Netanyahu to support the Deal in return of large scale budget investments in Arabian towns³⁶. We haven't reliable evidences of this hypothesis yet.

Weaker Safeguards for Home Owners' Rights

The Jewish Home

Limited Action within the Framework of Leftist Ideology

The new version of the "Deportation – Construction" law bill, which has passed first review and is being advanced by the Minister of Justice, permits a judge to coerce a home owner to abandon his house and accept the conditions urged by the constructor, provided that 80% of all home owners in the immediate vicinity have already done so.³⁷

The comment made about the bill by the Minister of Justice³⁸ - "One stubborn refuser cannot be the snag of an entire household" – raises questions about the Minister's commitment to upholding the guarantees of the rights, liberty, and property of the citizens of the state. Construction costs naturally go down. At the same time, no decisions have been reached which would drastically lower the constructor's expenditures incurred in the course of okaying projects with government agencies.

Note: the stance taken by the Minister of Justice goes against the Jewish legal tradition, which sees property as an extension of the individual person, to say nothing of real estate (see the Biblical episode with the vineyard of Naboth in II Kings 9:33-34).

Shas

Limited Action / declarations within the Framework of Leftist Ideology

³⁵ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/zionist-union-petitions-high-court-over-gas-deal/>

³⁶ http://www.mako.co.il/news-military/politics-q3_2015/Article-a6fa6570838af41004.htm

³⁷ <http://knesset.gov.il/Laws/Data/BillGovernment/1023/1023.pdf>

³⁸ "One stubborn refuser cannot be the snag of an entire household" – <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/317325>

Internal Affairs minister Aryeh Deri had prepared agreement with local councils of Arabian towns. Under the agreement the Government avoid illegal building destruction if Arabian local authorities will promise not to build more illegal constructions³⁹.

Business regulations and regulatory burden

Likud

Formally supports deregulation.

The action objective declared - to form ministerial commission on regulatory issues to reconcile and resolve disputes between ministries on the respective issues when the dispute not requires decision of court. Practical consequences of the move still unclear⁴⁰.

Budget

Shas, BY, Kulanu, UTJ (last moment, YB)

Governmental coalition's parties push additional spending to benefit their voters. No one promotes budget cuts at least at expense opposition voters' strongholds.

Jewish character of the State of Israel

Wave of terror

Governmental coalition leaders failed to show consistent efforts to protect people or even to break policies preventing self-defense. Prime minister and outgoing Defense minister (M.Ya'alion) bear the principal responsibility for the failure.

BY

Limited actions

Justice minister Ayelet Shaked had accelerated procedure of murderous terrorists homes' destruction (three weeks instead 10 months). BY leader and Education minister N.Bennet failed to break use of governmental funds for terror incitement in the schools of Eastern Jerusalem.

Kulanu

Limited Action within the Framework of Leftist Ideology

³⁹ <http://hakolhayehudi.co.il/news/%D7%93%D7%A8%D7%A2%D7%99-%D7%94%D7%AA%D7%92%D7%99%D7%99%D7%A1%-D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%A2%D7%9F-%D7%94%D7%A2%D7%A8%D7%91%D7%99%D7%9D-5632>

⁴⁰ <http://www.pmo.gov.il/Secretary/GovDecisions/2015/Pages/des43.aspx>

The party Leader M.Kahlon (as well as prime minister Netanyahu) is personally responsible for regular money transfer to benefit terrorists' rulers in the Autonomy⁴¹. Autonomy funding under growing debts for electricity and water to Israeli companies to say nothing of responsibility for damages of terror.

Judea and Samaria

BY

Official support of Jewish settlements in the region is not supported by regular efforts. So, Justice minister Shaked confessed her inability to adopt Judge Levi's Report (p. 20)^{42 43}

Likud

Official and, then, de facto freezing of Jewish building in Judea, Samaria and even in Jerusalem⁴⁴.

Likud declined discussions of the issue in the settlement commission in violation of coalition obligations⁴⁵.

Lack of actions against illegal Arabian building stands in stark contrast to rigid and formal approach to Jewish building in the same region.

Leftist parties

The most revealing story of the year is the leaders of the Lefts –both formal and informal reactions on Ezra Nawi case⁴⁶. The latter with his aides had hunted out and revealed Arabians ready to sell their lands or homes to Jews using provocation method due to over them to terrorists for tortures and executions⁴⁷.

⁴¹ <http://cursorinfo.co.il/news/novosti1/2016/02/26/parad-bezumiya--minfin-perevodit-palestincam--millionov-shekeley/>

⁴² <http://en.calameo.com/read/00166080232ed00dc8615>

⁴³ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/207890>

⁴⁴ <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/315851> ; <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/306487>

⁴⁵ <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/315179>

⁴⁶ Meretz party leader Zahava Gal'on prefer to attack the "Uvda" (the Fact) TV show for airing Ad Kan group records revealing disgraceful activities of left-wing extremists <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART2/747/459.html>; Typical reaction of leftist Mass media is bushing "Uvda", not the practices of cooperation with Autonomy in "arrests" (actually, kidnapping) tortures and executions of Arabs selling their lands to Jews. <http://972mag.com/how-respectable-journalists-are-joining-attacks-on-israels-left/115784/>. Official opposition leader Yitzhak Herzog preferred to distance himself from left-wing extremists. It still unclear will he retain his position or will be ousted by more challenger.

⁴⁷ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/206141>; <http://www.timesofisrael.com/left-wing-israeli-says-he-helps-kill-palestinians-who-sell-land-to-jews/>;

Political Reform

New bills targeting short run pragmatic goals due to extend Likud's mandate for the next cadence⁴⁸ instead of clear ideology based solution of responsible voters empowerment through reestablishment of taxation (and / or Army service) – representation connection⁴⁹.

Education

Left parties require traditionally claims the need to prioritize special needs of the weakest students, to push out the most important disciplines, which provide opportunity to measure students' achievements more or less objectively. They push in new disciplines poorly grounded in science, searching for opportunities for left-wing ideological indoctrination of children (peace, coexistence lessons etc). National and religious values are targeted by lefts to remove them from the study courses and from the textbooks.

BY

Promotes priority for exact sciences.⁵⁰

Ministry of education headed by Naftali Bennet had moderately increased funding for gifted pupils' programs in the schools – 11 million NIS 2014 (0.027% of the ministry budget) to 18 million NIS в 2015 (0.037%) and 23 million in 2016 (0.045%)⁵¹

The most militant and politicized supporters of Left cause are fired from the ministry; newly appointed officials hasn't clearly demonstrated political preferences and agenda⁵²
One case was when the Ministry pulled budget funding from the play glorifying terror⁵³.

Human Rights

Freedom of Speech – Dynamic of the Media Market

Reports were available within the year about the possibility of a tender to extend TV broadcasting throughout the entire country for a non-leftist broadcaster.

⁴⁸ <http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Netanyahu-to-push-absentee-balloting-other-electoral-reforms-435741>

⁴⁹ See for details Universal Suffrage: Undeclared Conflict of Interest <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2745294> and Rebuilding the Democracy of the Taxpayer <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2266956>

⁵⁰ <http://news.walla.co.il/item/2885976>

⁵¹ See information at Finance ministry web-site www.mof.gov.il

⁵² <http://www.news1.co.il/Archive/003-D-75147-00.html>

<http://che.org.il/?p=37846>

<http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/303736>

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/208326>

⁵³ http://www.mako.co.il/news-israel/entertainment-q2_2015/Article-b19f0ca7748dd41004.htm;
<http://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-pulls-state-funding-for-controversial-arab-play/>

The process went on of gradually expanding the use to which the internet was being put to provide an alternative to the domineering leftist TV and radio channels, which continued to operate, funded at the taxpayers' expense.

During the preceding Knesset's term, the non-leftist 20th channel was created. The channel began operating, but is forbidden to broadcast the news (!).⁵⁴ In addition, the authorities are trying to censor the channel's broadcasting, demanding that the "reformers" be cast in a "positive light."⁵⁵

Almost immediately following the elections, the channel attempted to legalize news broadcasts.⁵⁶ But even nine months later the editors still find themselves needing to appeal to the public for support.⁵⁷

Defending the Right to Self-Defense

Likud

As per declarative statements formally made, MK Amir Ochanna (Likud) has established a lobby to "work out a policy concerning bearing arms in Israel."⁵⁸ He has also submitted a law bill (thus far not yet uploaded on the Knesset site), which extends the list of those having the special right to request – and generally to be granted – permission to acquire and carry weapons. The issue is about granting permission of this kind to civilians who are also IDF reservists.

The law bill has not yet been voted upon.

See also above the discussion of cases involving administrative arrests, torture, and sellers of homes and land to Jews being handed over to be made short shrift of (torture and murder) to Arab terrorists from the so called "Autonomy."

⁵⁴ <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.663308>

⁵⁵ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/208676>

⁵⁶ [http://www.westernjournalism.com/israeli-media-manipulates-news-reporting-political-reasons/;](http://www.westernjournalism.com/israeli-media-manipulates-news-reporting-political-reasons/)
<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/193385#.VskGKZpf3cs>

⁵⁷ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/205860>

⁵⁸ http://www.knesset.gov.il/mk/heb/mk.asp?mk_individual_id_t=953

The Family, Family Relationships, State Interference

Leftist ideology calls for a maximum level of openness in family relations and the rearing of children to state interference, while rightist thinking sees family values as the foundation of a healthy society.

Likud

Minister of Equality Gila Gamliel (Likud) and her fellow party member I. Kish have proposed a law bill⁵⁹ which eliminates the notion of a parent's natural right of guardianship, replacing it with the notion of "parents' responsibility"; this is as much as to say, responsibility abides, but no rights remain (these last having now gone to the court).

Discussion of the proposed law bill has centered on the stipulation that the courts cannot automatically keep the child when the mother obtains a divorce. This became a turning point for many parliament members. This is why a vote cannot serve as an indicator of the attitude toward interference by the state.

Justice minister Ayelet Shaked had executed pre-election promise to reshape Prosecution instruction 2.5 "which had, for the last 12 years, effectively given a free pass to women who file false charges against men."⁶⁰ It happened almost one year after Shaked's appointment.

Kulanu

Knesset member Ifat Shasha-Biton has stated that sometimes the child needs to be taken away from the family; the MK herself trusts the social workers involved.⁶¹

Some Conclusions

Likud

The party has consistently avoided taking any active measures in connection with most of the issues of significance; it has also been blocking attempts made by other parties to take action. The only area in which active and consistent measures can be observed is the struggle against the Jewish profile of the State and/or representatives of an ideology corresponding to this.

⁵⁹ See one of the versions of this here (in Hebrew): <https://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/20/591.rtf>

⁶⁰ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/210248>

⁶¹ "“Sometimes, removing a child from his home is lifesaving. I trust the social workers who examine every case with the desired sense of balance.”. <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/Flash.aspx/353016> The statement almost word-by-word repeat Likud and Jewish Home deputies declarations their trust in "Jewish department" of the Shabak (GSS). – see above.

The Jewish Home

In virtually all areas (with the exception of education), the party takes its cues from the Likud. Offering an ideological alternative to the Likud – as the party publicized its intention of doing prior to elections in 2013 and 2015 – is evidently no longer an objective pertinent to the situation. The Jewish Home has resumed the position of junior vassal, a traditional stance for the MAFDAL.

Kulanu

The bloc founded upon the high personal popularity of the leader and the exasperation of the larger parties has no – and cannot have any – solid or unchangeable stance on any issue (bearing in mind that the bloc leader’s position oscillated during the last few years between assuming a stance identical to that of the Labor Party and supporting Moshe Feiglin’s “Jewish Leadership” party in the Likud⁶²).

The absence of rigidly ideologized parties with a national or market profile in the Knesset has led to failure to provide pressure normally accompanying competition; it has also led to the emergence of an “official” political spectrum incapable of making decisions in situations requiring minimal resolve, courage, or responsibility.

The Right largely restricts itself to making provisions for a more favorable cadre environment for its activities or taking only secondary steps. Contrasting with this, the Left with rare exceptions acts with self-confidence, strictly adhering to the framework of the values and priorities it has proclaimed. We have written about this development and its roots in our first survey devoted to the elections to the 20th Knesset; in our discussion of the coalition agreements, we also predicted a recurrence of the same situation.

Additional references recommended for further reading on the issue

Knesset web-site – scheduler of sitting, agenda, bills, legislation, elections outcomes

<http://knesset.gov.il/>

The bill drafts page (Hebrew):
<http://main.knesset.gov.il/Activity/Legislation/Pages/default.aspx>

⁶² Kahlon has again and again visited and spoken at events organized by the “Jewish Leadership” party. While serving as Minister of Welfare and Social Services, he also invited Michael Foy, one of the party’s leaders, to work as an adviser in his ministry. See <http://www.7kanal.com/news.php3?id=287509>

Selected politicians' behavior monitoring:

<https://okneset.org/>

"Jeremy's Knesset Insider" <http://knesetjeremy.com/>

Updated collection of the public opinion monitoring in the Israel