



[Israeli Supreme Court Rules that Netanyahu Can Form a New Government Despite Being Criminally-Indicted on Corruption Charges](#)

Israel's Supreme Court ruled unanimously that a power-sharing agreement between embattled incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his rival Benny Gantz was lawful, despite Netanyahu being under criminal indictment for bribery and breach of trust. The decision ended 17 months of political deadlock in Israel, and prevents the country from calling a fourth election in a period of just over a year. As a result, Netanyahu and Gantz expect their coalition to be sworn into office next week. The Supreme Court investigated whether Israeli law allowed for an individual charged with severe crimes to be sworn in as prime minister after critics and government watchdogs brought the case to the court. The justices expressed their unease about the coalition deal, but ruled that nothing in it was illegal, and there were no grounds to prevent it.

Netanyahu and Gantz had originally been rivals, both vying to become prime minister. However, after a third inconclusive election, they formed an uneasy power-sharing coalition. The emergency government was formed to help Israel battle the coronavirus, which was difficult without a proper government in place. Under their agreement, Netanyahu would continue to serve as prime minister, before being replaced by Gantz after 18 months. The two would have equal political power, and enjoy veto-power over the other. The coalition deal also includes an exemption that allows Netanyahu to remain in office while under indictment.