



[Protests Intensify as Netanyahu's Extreme Right Wing Israeli Government Tampers with Judiciary](#)

As the final vote regarding an overhaul of the judiciary capabilities within Israel quickly approaches, the protests regarding these changes have intensified. Israel's parliament is set to vote this upcoming Sunday and Monday. The bill would remove specific capabilities of the Israeli judicial branch while strengthening legislative powers, such as reducing the "reasonability" clause that allows the judiciary to overturn government decisions, allow for greater government control of judge appointments, and provide more direct power to parliament regarding decision-making. The most prominent proponents of the change are members of Netanyahu's nationalist and religious government, citing this bill as necessary to reduce judiciary power and conduct effective governing. However, opposition remains consistent as Israeli protesters view this as an infringement of the balance of the Israeli government, as the bill provides too much power to parliament and prohibits the Supreme Court from upholding civil rights and liberties. As the bill moves into its final vote after it was tabled for three months with hopes of an external compromise being accomplished, the momentum of the bill's fast-track approval coincides with the increase of public protests in Israel.

Contention regarding the judiciary overhaul bill has split the state into two broad stances, those who agree with Netanyahu's far-right government and its promotion of nationalism and religious extremism and those who want a more secular and pluralist state. Nationwide protests have continued for 28 weeks since the bill's initial introduction at the beginning of this year, with the magnitude of demonstrations increasing as the final vote approaches. This past Tuesday marked the "day of disruption," in which protesters committed to disrupting daily practices to raise awareness for their opposition. This included a two-hour strike by doctors outside of Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv and the protesting of 161 of the corps' reserve officers. With the "day of disruption" planned to continue throughout the week until the final vote, the effects of protests and strikes on the daily happenings and economy of the state are yet to be fully realized.

The protests have intensified as Netanyahu remained hospitalized from dehydration on Saturday. He was officially discharged on Monday, reaffirming his commitment to the bill's passing and its prevention of questioning the "reasonability" of parliamentary decisions. As Netanyahu is still undergoing a long-standing corruption trial since 2020, his commitment to the bill and judiciary overhaul has oppositional protesters questioning the checks and balances within the Israeli government, particularly the Supreme Court's decreasing ability to regulate the other branches of government. This, combined with Netanyahu's increasingly far-right cabinet and government, garners fears amongst Israelis concerned about the religious and nationalist interests promoted by these individuals. More significant concerns lie within the security of Israel's government and economy moving forward, as the shekel has fallen more than 5 percent since the bill was introduced.

With no indication of the overhaul's potential for failure in parliament, the bill is expected to pass as early as this weekend, but most likely sometime next week. Protests are also likely to continue, with more massive demonstrations scheduled for the upcoming week. As the actual effects of this decision are yet to be demonstrated in Israel, only time will tell the negative consequences this judicial overhaul has on government trust, the economy, and the promotion of Israel's democracy.