



Amman Center for Human Rights Studies Statement on **Israel's New Coalition and The Future of Palestinian Human Rights**

IN A NUTSHELL

The recent coalition built to unseat Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel is a step towards a diversified democracy in Israel. Nevertheless, ACHRS expresses deep concern over the extremist views posed by Prime Minister-hopeful Neftali Bennet in regards to human rights violations against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and the annexation of territory in the West Bank. ACHRS condemns the views held by Bennet and urges the future premier to adhere to international law.

Last Wednesday, Israeli political parties formed a coalition that could potentially unseat current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Netanyahu has been in power for more than 12 years, and in the last two he has failed to form a functional government in Israel. This coalition renews hopes of a diversified democracy in Israel, yet the lack of diverse democratic competitors to Mr. Netanyahu is a cause of concern.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has become progressively authoritarian during his 12-year rule. He has been emboldened by the lack of democratic accountability to disregard international law and to continue the support of the building of settlements in the West Bank.

The recently proposed coalition of eight political parties would be led by the prior Minister of Defense, Naftali Bennet, who is poised to govern for the first two years of the coalition's administration. Yet, while the Amman Center for Human Rights welcomes the pluralization of Israel's democracy, it expresses a deep concern for the extremist views held by Mr. Bennet.

Mr. Bennet was the prior leader of the Yesha Council, a lobbying entity that advocates for Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and that has openly called for Israel to annex the majority of the West Bank. Article 49(6) of the International Court of Justice's latest opinion "prohibits not only deportations or forced transfers of population...but also any measures taken by an occupying Power in order to organize or encourage transfers of parts of its own population into the occupied territory."

If the proposed coalition is ratified by the Israeli parliament in the upcoming days and Mr. Bennet indeed takes office, there will be a grave danger of increased human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza. The Amman Center for Human Rights encourages other NGOs and the international community to exert pressure on Mr. Bennet to adhere to international law and engage in a dialogue of peace and mutual understanding with the Palestinian people.