

Bill:

The Eighteenth Knesset

Bill of Members of Knesset:

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Proposal for Associations Law (Correction-Restrictions for Registration and Activity of Organizations)

Amendment to Clause 3.1: In the Non-Governmental Organizations Law – 1980 (the Main Law), in Clause 3 what is written will be part A), after which will come: B) “No organization will be registered for which there is a reasonable suspicion that the organization passes information to foreign authorities or is involved in legal prosecution abroad against senior Israeli politicians and/or IDF officers suspected of war crimes,”

Amendment to Clause 49.2: In clause 49 of the Main Law after clause 6) will come: “(7): The organization or its goals are directed towards filing legal prosecutions abroad for war crimes, against senior Israeli politicians and/or IDF officers, because of war crimes”;

Explanation:

Today registration and activity of an organization is forbidden if it denies the existence of the state of Israel or its democratic character. Likewise, the organization will not be allowed to register, and can be disqualified by order of the District Court if its activities are illegal. In recent years Israel has gone through difficult changes, in terms of both security and diplomacy; Israel's publicity has suffered from sharp and anti-Zionist criticism abroad against Israeli security measures.

The Palestinian publicity campaign makes waves in the wider public and especially among youth and students at many academic institutions across Europe and in the USA. The activity of Israel in the territories, even when it is part of a defensive military campaign after attacks or missile firing on our country, is perceived as illegitimate. The UN's one-sided and controversial report by Judge Goldstone, on the IDF's actions in Gaza during "Operation Cast Lead", brought Israel to an unprecedented low in terms of publicity.

In many countries, such as England, there are a growing number of voices calling for arrest of senior Israeli government officials and IDF officers on suspicion of war crimes against the Palestinians.

Our best leaders and officers find themselves fearing arrest in a foreign country because of crimes never committed which have been attributed to them.

It is very troubling that at this time, when we must be united against these baseless accusations, we find that Israeli NGOs and associations, through passing of information (mostly incorrect and even fraudulent) to foreign authorities who are our enemies, and through public agreement or approval that Israel is guilty of war crimes. Sometimes they even provide significant legal assistance in phrasing the legal claims.

The underlying assumption behind this bill is that this type of activity must be made illegal, (specifically regarding NGOs that receive a lot of money and some of which are supported by the state), because they effectively undermine the state and damage it, as if they were denying its existence.

Therefore it is suggested in this bill to prevent preemptively the registration of NGOs for which there is a reasonable suspicion that they will take legal action against senior government officials or the IDF in cooperation with foreign authorities. It is furthermore suggested to make illegal NGOs whose activities are directed against senior government officials or the IDF. The manner of illegalization will be identical to the method in the Main Law—through widening the legal grounds for breaking up the NGO by court order, which will be served through the NGO Registry or the Attorney General.