



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Order Allegedly Given by Ben Gvir Not to Enforce the Law on Settler Violence

On November 23, 2023, Israeli [Channel 12 News reported](#) that the Commander of the Central Command, Major General Yehuda Fuchs, submitted a document to the Chief of Staff, accompanied by the opinions of the head of the ISA (Israel Security Agency). According to this document, the Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, instructed senior police officers in the West Bank (Israel Police Judea and Samaria District) to refrain from enforcing the law against extreme settlers and right-wing groups committing offenses against Palestinians.

These allegations, which have not been denied by the minister, appear to suggest severe interference by the Minister of National Security in the fight against Jewish ideologically motivated crime in the West Bank. The instructions seem to compromise the police and law enforcement agencies as a whole for acting on illegitimate political considerations. It should be stated unequivocally: **instructing the**

police not to enforce the law against nationalist Jewish terrorism is tantamount to promoting violence against Palestinians in the West Bank and to providing impunity for such activities.

Aligning with such illegitimate instructions would constitute a serious violation of customary international law that Israel is bound by, to uphold the safety and security of the protected Palestinian residents. Even according to Israeli law, there is no doubt that an instruction that practically grants free rein to violent groups to continue violating the law and harm innocents is an unlawful directive. It is the duty of the police to investigate suspicions of offenses, and a minister cannot order it to refrain from acting to fulfill this duty.

Did Ben Gvir Order the Police Not to Investigate Settler Violence?



Urgent Letter to the State's Attorney General, State Attorney, & Commander of the Central Command

Together with human rights organizations Bimkom & Haqel, Yesh Din has issued an [urgent letter](#) to the state's Attorney General, State Attorney, and Commander of the Central Command regarding the alleged order. The letter states the following:

"As we have seen in the weeks following the October 7th massacre,

extreme right-wing violence in the West Bank has been escalating, and security officials expressed vocal condemnations. International bodies have themselves published statements against this phenomenon. If Jewish nationalists are granted immunity from violent actions against the Palestinian civilian population, as suggested by the reports about the minister's directive, one can only imagine the grave potential consequences. Providing such immunity may encourage further violence against Palestinians.

In light of the above, Yesh Din requested the response of the state's Attorney General, State Attorney, and Commander of the Central Command to the following:

- a. Confirm whether such an instruction was indeed given.**
- b. If the instruction is confirmed, state unequivocally that it is an illegal directive that should not be implemented, and publish your findings for the public and professional ranks within the Israel Police.**
- c. If the instruction is confirmed, consider whether it constitutes a criminal offense of a breach of trust by the Minister of National Security, and initiate an investigation accordingly. A minister who gives orders to the law enforcement body he oversees with the intent of gaining political achievements for his voting base is abusing his public powers and violating public trust.**

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