

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE GAS DEAL?

Between 1999 and 2009, 4 gas fields were discovered off the coast of Israel, 2 of which are major gas fields: **Leviathan** and **Tamar**. Since then, the government has been in negotiation with **Noble Energy** and the Israeli **Delek Group** regarding the **rights to the fields**. Public **protests** have grown considerably in the past year as a result of the following 2 concerns:



Credit: Albatross

QUESTIONS OF DEMOCRACY:

SOCIAL JUSTICE OBJECTIONS:

The gas deal is **UNCLEAR** to:

62% of Jewish Israelis

71% of Arab Israelis*

The public's low comprehension of the deal may highlight the **LACK OF TRANSPARENCY** about who benefits which protestors have criticised. Another concern is the **government's process** in negotiating the deal: Since May there have been a number of resignations (Anti-Trust Commissioner David Gilo, Economy Minister Aryeh Deri) as well as the dismissal of Public Works Authority (Electricity) Chair Orit Farkash-HaCohen.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION and **FREEDOM TO PROTEST** have both come under pressure with the rise in protests against the gas deal. Following the 7th November demonstrations a number of the key organisers, including **Alon Visser**, were **questioned by police, arrested and barred from various cities** for 15 days. Visser's restraining order was **cancelled shortly after**.



Credit: Tomer Appelbaum

There have been multiple **PROTESTS** in reaction to the gas deal, which many have characterised as **heir to the 2011 social justice protests**. On 7th November **7,000** people protested in Tel Aviv and **a week later 10,000** protested in 16 cities across Israel. **What are their objections to the gas deal?**

1

Demonstrators claim that the gas deal creates a **MONOPOLY**, meaning there is **no competitive market**. The projected fall in world gas prices will not be reflected in the **prices Israelis will have to pay** for gas in the future.



2

The high gas prices which Israelis will have to pay **endanger equal access** to gas for all Israel's citizens. The deal also steps up exports, imperilling the **SECURITY** of Israel's gas supply for **future generations**.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Netanyahu **signed the deal** on 13th August. On 9th November, a **petition was filed at the High Court** challenging the exclusive allocation of rights to the field. **1000s of protesters** continue to take to the streets across Israel every weekend.

Disclaimer: New Israel Fund is not funding any protests against the gas deal — these protests are independent. But NIF is engaged in the wider issue of safeguarding democracy and focuses resources on ensuring the right to protest.

*Peace Index, June 2015 http://en.idi.org.il/media/4137271/Peace_Index_June_2015-Eng.pdf