

DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS?

On 31st October 2015, the Justice Ministry released a draft of the 'Transparency Bill' which makes demands of NGOs that receive funding from foreign state entities. As this bill approaches discussion in the Knesset, a fiery debate is taking place in Israel:

13/12

Rivlin at HaaretzQ: President Rivlin is **fiercely criticised** for "sharing a platform" with human rights NGOs due to his appearance at an NIF-Haaretz Conference



"Without a live and kicking opposition, our democracy is worth little. I am here today because I believe that the free market of ideas is a holy principle." - President Rivlin at HaaretzQ Conference 13/12/15

14-15/12

Breaking the Silence (BtS) banned: Defence Minister Ya'alon & Education Minister Bennett ban BtS from speaking at army events & schools

16/12

Im Tirtzu video released:



"When we fight terror, they fight us": Right-wing extremist group *Im Tirtzu* releases video in support of 'Transparency Bill' depicting NGO activists as moles "planted by" foreign governments. Activists Hagai El-Ad (B'Tselem), Yishai Menuhin (Public Committee Against Torture), Avner Gvaryahu (Breaking the Silence), Sigi Ben Ari (HaMoked) are explicitly targeted.

Responses to the video:



Hagai El-Ad:

"I'm not afraid of Im Tirtzu. I'm afraid of the next 50 years of occupation."



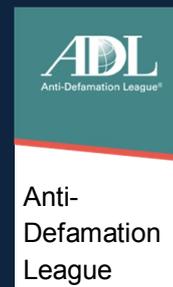
Former IDF Major General Amiram Levin

"The instructions to silence Breaking the Silence harm and weaken the IDF."



Opposition leader Isaac Herzog

"[The video] spills the blood of activists."



"This is a form of incitement which clearly crosses over into hate speech."

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'Transparency Bill':

Ministerial committee passes controversial bill to the Knesset

WHAT IS THE TRANSPARENCY BILL?

NGOs which receive funding from foreign-state entities will face increased disclosure demands, including wearing identification tags in the Knesset.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE BILL?

In a statement, Sharon Abraham-Weiss, Director of Association for Civil Rights in Israel, argues that the bill is:

- 1 DISCRIMINATORY**, targeting human rights NGOs which receive foreign state-funding, but not right-wing NGOs which receive foreign funding from private individuals
- 2 UNNECESSARY**, since there are already strict reporting regulations for NGOs
- 3 And INSULTING** to human rights workers, implying they represent foreign interests rather than democratic values of the State of Israel