

# The Minister for the Ruin of Israel's Education

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The Israeli government has declared total war on its state and people: The judicial system is under constant attack; the police has essentially ceased to exist as the body charged with protecting the citizens and has become a militia attacking them; road fatalities are at their peak; violence in the Arab communities has reached unimaginable proportions; the healthcare system has been deteriorating over the years with a dangerous decline in the number of hospital beds and doctors per capita; irresponsible budget management has led to Israel's credit rating being downgraded by three levels, on its way to "junk bonds" status. The free press is severely threatened, with the authorization of media ratings potentially coming under government "supervision". The various branches of Israel's civil service, is undergoing an alarming employee replacement process involving the promotion of unqualified people, on the basis of their loyalty to the regime. Commanders and leaders of the IDF and the other defense bodies have become targets of persecution, in a concerted effort to absolve the government of responsibility for the worst disaster the Jewish people has experienced since the Holocaust.

At the root of the problem undoubtedly lies the Prime Minister, under whose inspiration and direction all matters are conducted. However, it is the coalition's composition, which enables these travesties to unfold. The government's current coalition consists of three blocs: the Ultra-Orthodox bloc, most of whom are uninterested in the State of Israel and whose main goal is extracting money from it without contributing to its strength and security; the Messianic bloc, devout to the principles of sanctification of the land, sacrificing of soldiers and hostages, and purification of Israel society of its non-Jewish residents. It should be noted that the vast majority of Israelis identifying with Religious Zionism; the "borrowed" name of the Messianic bloc's government party (which doesn't pass the electoral threshold, according to most polls), are not among its supporters, but are, rather, among the finest of this country's dedicated pioneers and combat soldiers, sacrificing their lives for its security. The Likud party bloc consists mostly of opportunists who have no political existence without their leader. Many in the coalition have never engaged in any effort that contributes to the country, galivanting in political dealings for most of their lives. Those who did contribute, except for

one single person – Yoav Gallant – have changed beyond recognition, becoming spineless sycophants. Gallant, with his enormous contributions, is paving his way to dismissal.

Yoav Kisch – a former Air Force fighter pilot – has outdone them all, undoubtedly the worst Minister of Education in Israel's history, who has made it his mission to destructively control every educational, scientific, and cultural system in his reach. In doing so, he brings upon us rapidly another disaster, little discussed, the destruction of the state's most important long-term system – the education system – a destruction that will turn the state into a backward and poor country and may ultimately lead to its demise.

Here are his main actions:

(1) Increasing the ultra-Orthodox education budget by billions of shekels at the expense of public education, condemning hundreds of thousands of children to lives of poverty without any contribution to the state. It was claimed that the additional budget would be made with budgetary oversight and would require the implementation of core subjects in education. While he must legally comply with these conditions, they are laughable to the ultra-Orthodox and will likely not be enforced;

(2) Classroom overcrowding in the secular schools is unbearable and among the highest in the world, and the minute investment in classroom construction was cut even further in the 2024 budget;

(3) Despite various programs created by universities to accommodate reserve duty soldiers, the minister attempted, without authority, to force them to lower admission requirements and curriculum standards, thereby reducing the level of education and knowledge of graduates;

(4) Supporting the exemption from military service for the ultra-Orthodox, with a clear message: it is moral and fair to draft thousands of high school graduates for three years of army service (and perhaps more), to tear thousands of students away from their studies for reserve duty while delaying their training and entry into life as scientists, doctors, engineers, and teachers, and to draft self-employed individuals, industry workers and farmers – all of whom who are honest taxpayers – for hundreds of days of reserve duty, while exempting Ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students from military service, who engaged in neither academic study nor work, and who survive on perpetual welfare;

(5) The devastating failure in providing education for students in the north of the country, both evacuated and non-evacuated ones. Despite the investment in the preparation of temporary schools, few are enrolling. The absence from permanent residences, which may extend to a third year due to reconstruction needs, and the many who won't return and will have to find educational solutions elsewhere, will create upheaval and disintegration of social frameworks, causing irreparable damage to children;

(6) Attempts to appoint unqualified vice-chairman and members to the Council for Higher Education, and recently the declined renewal of the current Planning and Budgeting Committee chairman's appointment (renewed after pressure for only one year, but with a replacement appointed long before the current chairman's term ends), indicate the minister's desire to reshape the entire higher education system to suit the government's taste. Scientists, intellectuals, and cultural figures have always been thorns in the side of totalitarian regimes, and it's ridiculous that the most political education minister we've ever had accuses universities of political conduct;

(7) Promoting a law that will turn academic institutions into a "thought police", by requiring them to impose severe sanctions on students who are somehow thought to support terrorism, instead of referring the matter to the law enforcement authorities;

(8) These, and the attempts to take control of the National Library, Yad Vashem and more, while staffing them with yes-men, indicate that Kish is only interested in imposing the worldview of the destructive and malicious government on the most distinguished national, cultural, social and research bodies, from which Israel has always rightly deserved admiration and respect worldwide;

(9) Finally, the pathetic attempt to cancel the 2024 Israel Prize in all the categories of science, humanities and culture, and to replace them with new prizes in heroism, revival, and mutual responsibility. The attempt shows a basic lack of understanding and shortsightedness by the Minister regarding the institution of The Israel Prize, as revival and heroism are not values that exist in their own right and are required, among other things, in order to enable the scientific and cultural creation reflected in the original prize categories. And when it became clear that a central reason for his cancelling of the prize was related to the strong opposition to the government by laureate Eyal Waldman, one of Israel's greatest entrepreneurs, the Minister's excuse that it was done in light of October 7th and the war in Gaza was totally eliminated.

All of these put Yoav Kish, son of a Zionist military family, in line with the government's greatest charlatans. His memories from the cockpit should have made him appreciate the important and critically necessary role of core subject education, independent thinking, and scientific-technological education for upholding Israel's economy and security. But this did not happen; not a twitch stirred in his flawed conscience.

The main and immediate danger from the actions of Kish and his colleagues in the government is a mass exodus from Israel of professionals who are critical to its existence and security: engineers, computer scientists, medical doctors, educators, economists, and cultural. They will find it difficult to raise their children and see their future in a poor and backward country where freedom of expression is limited and supportive infrastructure like education and health are undermined. Those who remain will mostly be those who cannot leave, due to a lack of demand for their services overseas. Israel's deterioration into backwardness and poverty will also bring real security risks to its very existence. Israel cannot afford to fall behind technologically.

Even if we ignore the immediate need to replace the entire government due to its many failures and we place focus exclusively on the Education Minister, his persisting conduct will lead Israel to destruction.