

Statement from the Weimar Triangle of Lawyers on Israel Judicial Reform

25 July 2023,

The German Bar Association, the Paris Bar, and the Warsaw Bar jointly express their profound concern over the judicial reforms in Israel, which were voted upon in Parliament yesterday. As legal professionals committed to upholding the rule of law and defending the independence of the judiciary, we feel compelled to raise our collective voice against these proposed changes.

An independent judiciary is the bedrock of a democratic society, ensuring that the principles of justice, fairness, and the protection of fundamental rights are upheld. Any attempt to undermine or weaken the independence of the judiciary poses a significant threat to the rule of law and the democratic fabric of a nation.

While we understand that countries may undertake reforms to improve their legal systems, it is essential that such changes are implemented with utmost care, respect for due process, and in consultation with legal experts, stakeholders, and the judiciary itself. Unilateral alterations to the judicial system without transparent and inclusive dialogue may undermine public trust in the legal institutions and cast doubts upon the impartiality and integrity of the judicial process.

We firmly believe that the proposed judicial reforms in Israel, as we have come to understand them, raise serious concerns about the potential erosion of the judiciary's independence. As representatives of legal professionals in Germany, France, and Poland, we stand in solidarity with our colleagues in Israel who have expressed similar apprehensions.

In light of these developments, we call on the Israeli government and its representatives to reconsider the reforms and engage in meaningful consultations with the legal community, civil society, and relevant stakeholders to safeguard the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary.

We also urge the international community, including other bar associations, legal organizations, and human rights advocates, to closely monitor the situation and express their support for preserving the independence of the judiciary in Israel.

As legal professionals, we remain committed to upholding the rule of law, defending fundamental rights, and safeguarding the principles that underpin democratic societies. Our thoughts are with our fellow legal practitioners and the people of Israel during this crucial moment for their legal system and democratic institutions.



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