

The Jewish Democratic Initiative Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021, VOLUME 2

# THE SHTICK

South Africa | Israel-Palestine | Democracy

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## Dry Bones HAR HAR HAR

ON HALLOWEEN  
FOLKS DRESS UP  
IN COSTUMES TO  
SCARE EACH OTHER



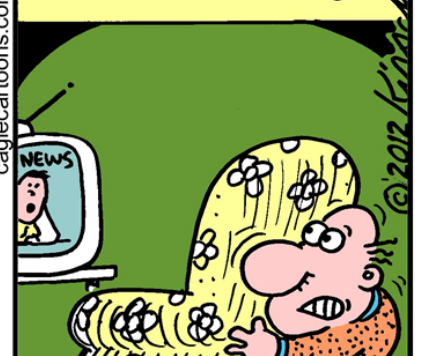
BUT PURIM COSTUMES  
ARE DESIGNED TO  
MAKE US LAUGH.  
NOT TO SCARE US!



THIS IS BECAUSE  
WE HAVE THE  
WHOLE REST OF  
THE YEAR TO  
BE SCARED OUT  
OF OUR WITS



... BY JUST  
WATCHING  
THE NEWS  
EACH EVENING!



Interested in democracy, human rights, civil society or justice? Want to write for our next newsletter? Email us at [info@jdisa.org](mailto:info@jdisa.org)

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## The silence of our leadership is deafening

by Basil Dubb, JDI Chairperson

The Jewish Democratic Initiative stands for upholding civil and human rights as foundational to our support and connection with the State of Israel and the concept of a Jewish Homeland that is A Light Unto the Nations אור לגויים.

Silence can be misconstrued as acquiescence. There must be an ethical and moral basis underpinning our South African communal institutions.

**Click for full text: <https://www.jdisa.org/statements>**

## The Legal Angle: JDI-Yachad Event: The ICC Ruling on Israel-Palestine This Sunday

**Click here to register now! <https://bit.ly/2P9ZX87>**

The recent announcement that the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction in the occupied Palestinian territories, opens the door for investigations into the conduct of both Israelis and Palestinians. The landmark ruling comes six years after the office of the court's chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, began a preliminary investigation of Israeli actions in the territories, including during the Israel- Gaza war of 2014.

We'll be joined by Professor Philippe Sands QC, world renowned lawyer and author, who will discuss what the ICC ruling means. He'll outline what role the ICC plays in the international arena, and what actions could be taken at the court against both Israelis and Palestinians as a result of this announcement. There will be time for Q+A as part of the discussion.

**ICC Ruling on Israel-Palestine**

**In conversation with**  
**Professor Philippe Sands QC**

**Sunday, 28 February**  
**8pm, South African time**

**JDI**  
Defending Democracy

**יחד**  
**Yachad**  
Together for Israel  
Together for Peace

**Cour Pénale Internationale**  
**International Criminal Court**

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## The Israeli Election: The Parties

A brief overview of the 2021 contending parties

FYI: ISRAELI PARTIES

NAME AND LOGO	CURRENT MKS	POLITICAL ORIENTATION	STRATEGY / ISSUES	CURRENT LEADER
Likud	36	Right-wing secular Zionist nationalism.	Security, Nationalism, Bibi's trial, Settlement expansion	Benjamin Netanyahu
Yesh Atid	17	Centre, secular liberalism	Civil issues, Religious pluralism, Two-state solution, Equality	Yair Lapid
New Hope	0 (Split from Likud)	Centre-right (Split from Likud)	Replace Bibi, decentralize gov't, mixed economy, term limits	Gideon Sa'ar
Labor	3	Centre-left social democracy	Social welfare, Peace, Mixed economy, democracy	Merav Michaeli
Yamina	5	Right-wing conservative nationalism	Jewish identity, Annexation, Nation State Law, Economics	Naftali Bennett
Joint List	15	Big tent minority rights.	Israeli-Arab Interests, Two-state solution, Socialism, Secularism	Aymen Odeh
Ra'am (United Arab List)	0 (Split from Joint List)	Right-wing, conservative Arab minority rights	Islamist conservatism, anti-LGBT, Two-state solution	Mansour Abbas
Shas	9	Right-wing Sephardic ultra-Orthodoxy	Halachik law in gov't, anti-LGBT, Religious, Fundamentalism	Arye Dery
United Torah Judaism	7	Right-wing Ashkenazi ultra-orthodoxy	Halachik law in gov't, anti-reform Judaism, Fundamentalism	Moshe Gafni
Yisrael Beiteinu	7	Right-wing secular nationalism	Secularism, Draft equality, Security, Aliyah, Replace Bibi	Avigdor Lieberman
Blue and White	14	Centre social liberalism	Liberal economics, Religious pluralism, Replace Bibi	Benny Gantz
Meretz	3	Left-wing social democracy	Social democracy, Peace, Socialism, Security, Workers	Nitzan Horowitz
Religious Zionism	0 (New Alliance)	Far-right religious Zionist nationalism	Ultra-nationalism, Annexation, Anti-Palestinian, Anti-LGBT+	Bezael Smotrich

## JDI Statement Denouncing Likud Political Agreement with Extremist Parties

Published 16 February 2021

The Jewish Democratic Initiative views this as a fundamental step in further degrading Israel's democracy. Legitimising extremist beliefs serves to emphasise the schism between Diaspora Jews, whose rights are mostly protected by their governments, and Israeli's whose civil rights are being eroded. Equal rights for every citizen is the bedrock of any Democracy. The Religious Zionism bloc advocates for a reduction of these rights. JDI calls on all our communal organizations, institutions and bodies to publicly denounce this agreement. As a community we must make the distinction between the distorted values of this extremist political grouping - that has no place in any decent society - and our own.

**Click for full text: <https://www.jdisa.org/statements>**

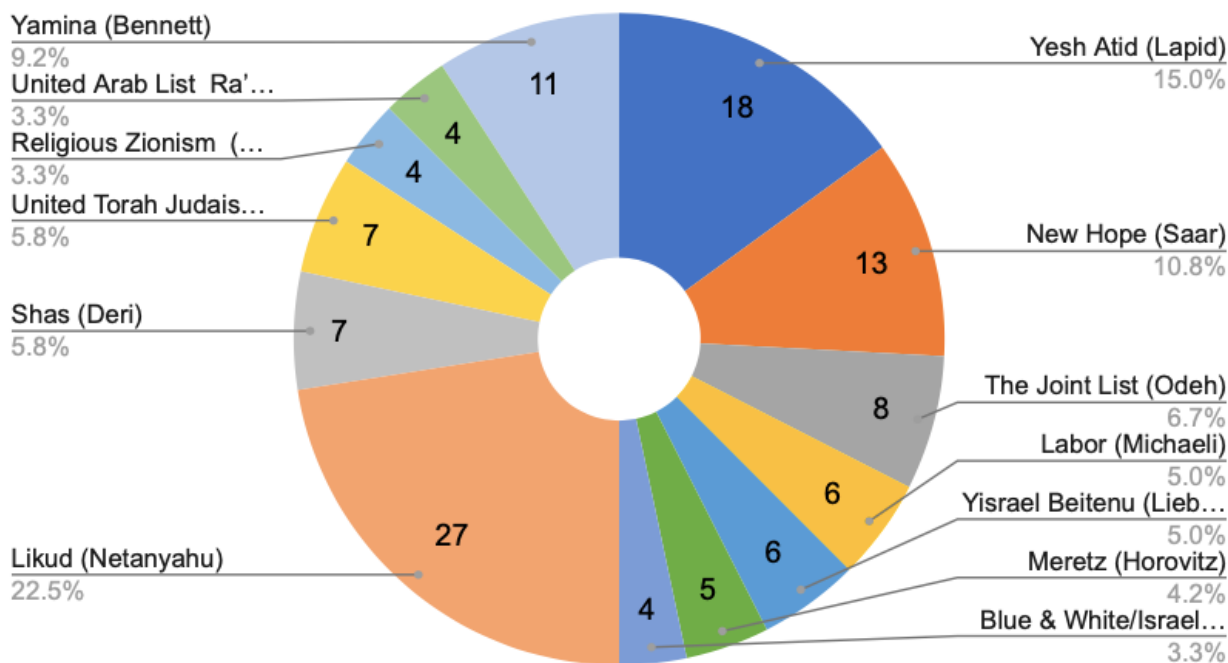
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## The Israeli Election: The Polls

Updated Israeli Election Polls as per Channel 13 on 25/02/2021

Channel 13 Polls (25/02/2021)



## Partner Organizations' Updates

J-Link Network ([www.jlinknetwork.org](http://www.jlinknetwork.org))

**Webinar! The Coming Palestinian Election**

The last Palestinian election was held in 2006. Since then, Palestinians, Israelis and the international community have been calling for elections in order to develop Palestinian democracy, strengthen its representative institutions, and reinforce the legitimacy and effectiveness of direct negotiations to end the decades long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestinians have announced both legislative and presidential elections in May and July, 2021 respectively. This webinar is an introduction to these scheduled elections, the issues and practicalities, and the process moving forward.

This program is educational in nature and is not aimed at endorsing or condoning any political party, faction or individual.

**Click to register: <https://bit.ly/3qS57DN>**

J-LINK NETWORK PRESENTS

## THE COMING PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

Sunday 7 March

13:00 EST / 19:00 CET / 20:00 JERUSALEM

More information or to register: [www.jlinknetwork.org](http://www.jlinknetwork.org)

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PANELISTS:



Dr Dalal Iriqat



Dr Sufian Abu Zaida



Ghazi Hamad



Ashraf Al-Ajrami

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