



## New Israeli Military Chief Aviv Kochavi

Kochavi was promoted from deputy chief of staff by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a ceremony at the Israeli army headquarters in Tel Aviv, also attended by Eisenkot.

Kochavi, born in 1964, grew up in Kiryat Bialik in northern Israel. Kochavi studied Philosophy at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Public Administration at Harvard and International Relations at Johns Hopkins. He's the first vegetarian chief of staff.

Departing Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot also made an address in which he spoke about the Israeli military's preparedness: "During my service I saw it as a duty to fill out many tasks and to make every effort to return my soldiers home safely. Out of this responsibility I placed my goals as chief of staff and in light of this, I am looking at the army I leave behind me and see that it is a fit, prepared and powerful military that has grown stronger in wisdom and determination, an army that initiated and struck on four different arenas and has proved that victory is a significant value."



## Disabled Druze IDF Soldiers Protest Against Nation-State Law

Druze-Israelis and their supporters protested in front of the home of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday morning against the Nation-State Law.

IDF Brig. Gen. (res.) Amal As'ad and IDF Maj. Gen. (res.) Amiram Levin led the march claiming that the law was unfair to non-Jewish minorities. The Nation-State Law, passed in July, officially declares Israel to be the historic homeland of the Jewish people and among other issues, makes Hebrew the official state language, with Arabic being given "special status."

The rally was attended by former IDF soldiers of Druze descent who held posters and waved Israeli flags and the flag of the Druze community.



"We have no argument against the law of nationality and against a Jewish state . We simply want the state to belong to all of us, Jews and non-Jews alike," As'ad said. "We are not guests here. We were born here and we will die here," he added.



## **GANTZ, IN FIRST PUBLIC POLITICAL STATEMENT, VOWS TO FIX NATION-STATE LAW**

Former IDF chief of staff Benny Gantz faced an onslaught from the Right on Monday, after issuing his first political statement in which he pledged to get the controversial Jewish Nation-State Law changed.

“I will do everything in my power to fix the Nation-State Law,” he said.

The Nation-State Law was passed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s governing coalition in July. It will be challenged in the Supreme Court in two weeks.

Druze leaders are leading a campaign against the law that brought them to Gantz’s home in Rosh Ha’ayin on Monday, and they intend to visit more party leaders this week.

Gantz’s first comments since he formed his Israel Resilience Party on December 27 – when he promised a group of Druze leaders that he would fight the Nation-State Law – unleashed a fury of responses from parties on both ends of the political spectrum.

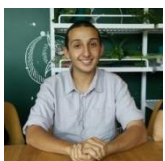
## **Israeli teen charged with terror in rock attack that killed Palestinian woman**

Manslaughter indictment against 16-year-old says he was motivated by ideology of ‘racism and hostility toward Arabs everywhere’; other suspects will apparently not face charges.

The Central District Attorney’s Office filed an indictment Thursday against the Israeli teen suspected of killing a Palestinian woman three months ago, in the most serious incident of suspected Jewish terror since the 2015 firebombing of a Palestinian home in Duma.



The 16-year-old from the central West Bank was charged with manslaughter, aggravated stone throwing at a moving vehicle, and intentional sabotage of a vehicle. Each of the charges connected to the killing of Aisha Rabi, a 47-year-old Palestinian mother of eight, was qualified as having been carried out “in the context of a terrorist act.”



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