

May 12, 2026

## **By a majority of 93 MKs, Prosecution for the October 7 Massacre Events Bill approved in final readings**

In its sitting on Monday, the Knesset Plenum voted to approve in final readings the Prosecution for the October 7 Massacre Events Bill, 2026, sponsored by MKs Simcha Rothman (Religious Zionism) and Yulia Malinovsky (Yisrael Beitenu). In the vote, 93 Members of Knesset supported the bill, without opposing votes.

It is proposed to regulate the prosecution of those who perpetrated offenses during the events of the October 7, 2023 massacre, in a military court seated in Jerusalem, which will be authorized to adjudicate offenses by law, including offenses under the Prevention of Genocide Law, the Penal Law and the Counter-Terrorism Law.

It is further proposed to establish specific arrangements for appointment of judges to the first instance and to the instance of appeal (including sitting judges and retired judges, as well as judges who will be chosen for the purpose of the proceedings), [as well as arrangements] for the judicial panels, for the public nature of the proceedings, for video and audio documentation of the hearings and for broadcasting parts of them to the public.

Additionally, it is proposed to apply to the proceedings the rules of criminal procedure and the rules of evidence employed by courts, subject to a number of unique provisions, and to grant the court general power to deviate from the rules of procedure and evidence for reasons that will be recorded, if this is necessary for the purpose of clarifying the truth and doing justice, and does not significantly impair the fairness of the proceeding.

It is further proposed to establish special arrangements with regard to the rights of victims of crimes, representation of defendants, holding hearings by videoconference, detention after an indictment is filed, forming a guard unit for the military court, administrative preparations for holding the proceedings, periodic reporting to the Knesset and enacting regulations for executing a sentence that imposes a death penalty.

Finally, it is proposed that a person suspected, charged or convicted for an offense committed within the events of the October 7 massacre will not be included in prisoner release deals.

Minister of Justice MK Yariv Levin (Likud): “This law ensures not only the doing of justice, but also historical documentation. This is not an ordinary night, and this is certainly not an ordinary bill. This is one of the most important moments of the current Knesset. It can be felt that we are

doing something correct by the fact that in these moments we have found a way to unite, despite the fact that we are in a pre-election period and despite all the differences of opinion that exist."

MK Rothman: "This is a historic plan that is designed to do justice and to bring to trial the terrorists who perpetrated the most terrible massacre in Israel's history. The ability of the Government to advance this proposal was limited, for understandable reasons. When the Knesset knows what it wants and rallies around a shared mission—all the government bodies are glad for this involvement and fall in line with the position established by the public representatives in the Knesset. There was a partnership of coalition and opposition here, and I hope that we will succeed in leading many other issues through unity and joint work."

MK Malinovsky: "The State of Israel is a state of law. These terrorists will be brought to trial in court, according to all the rules, and the judges will pronounce their sentence. It will be an orderly legal proceeding that is filmed and broadcast. These will be the trials of the modern-day Nazis, and it will be recorded in the history books. I dedicate this bill to all the murder victims, the hostages and the families. In the end, our spirit and our ability to cope and to face the immense pain—that is what makes us great."

The explanatory notes to the bill state: "The unique scope and severity of the atrocities pose an unprecedented challenge to the Israeli justice system. The investigation of the events is complex and irregular in volume, among other things due to the multitude of crime scenes, the large number of suspects and the large number of victims, and the method of evidence collection, particularly during warfare.

"This bill is designed to regulate the prosecution procedure of the participants of the October 7 massacre events, in such a way that will enable conducting an efficient and proper criminal proceeding, while protecting the interests of the victims and the public as a whole, and while ensuring that a proper and fair legal proceeding is conducted."

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