

IS ISRAEL A TRUE DEMOCRACY ?

1. **LEGISLATURE DOMINATES THE GOVERNMENT** - Zionists dominate the Knesset, and the Knesset dominates the Government – the result historically – Zionist parties have been able to dominate government without allowing significant opposition.
 - i. **WEAKENED EXECUTIVE BRANCH** - Prime Minister chosen by the Knesset, must be a Knesset member.
 - ii. Prime Minister creates government headed by Ministers answerable to the Knesset.
 - iii. **WEAKENED JUDICIAL BRANCH** – Judges chosen mostly by Knesset. Then Supreme Court weakens itself (upto 1995) by repeatedly ruling against its own ability to pass judicial judgment over Knesset law-making abilities (ex. cannot use Israeli Declaration of Independence or most Basic Laws, never agrees to rule on equal rights cases)
 - iv. **LEGISLATURE GRANTED EMERGENCY POWERS** - Knesset granted itself powers to pass Emergency Regulations which are allowed to violate judicial principles, and have thus declared a state of emergency continuously since 1948.
 - v. **POLITICAL FREEDOM OF SPEECH INHIBITED** – Knesset passed law that Knesset Elections Committee can forbade a politician from running for Knesset membership if he/she advocates equal rights for all Israelis.

2. **ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS** given special role in Government Agencies - in budgeting, land development and management, and control over major industries (especially agriculture).

3. **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS** inhibited Freedom of Speech & Association by Defense (Emergency) Regulations (1945) and then Amutot Law (1980) – for example -- list of all members and their contact info must be made available to all other members (which includes covert government agents posing as members)

4. **INHUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT** – Israeli government has kept in place the Defense (Emergency) Regulations (1945) which originated with the British Mandate Government, which legalizes but regulates (on individual or collective levels) arrest without charges or trial, deportation, home demolition, censorship and banning of newspapers and political organizations, etc., in ways that violate international human rights laws. These regulations were used in Israel until 1966, and currently are in use in the Occupied Territories (with extensive updating and amendments).

* To Help In Your Area, Please Contact : _____

** For More Info on the Laws in the State of Israel: www.israelicivilrights.org