



Amsterdam, July, 13, 2023

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

On behalf of the Union for Progressive Judaism in the Netherlands and the Rabbinic Assembly of the Progressive Jewish Movement in the Netherlands, representing the overwhelming majority of the progressive Jewish congregations in our country, we would like to express our concern about the current developments in Israel. We feel a strong connection to the democratic Jewish state, which serves as the inspiring focal point of our Judaism, and we are proud of its countless accomplishments over the past 75 years for all its citizens.

However, the developments since the formation of your coalition with extreme nationalist parties have given rise to significant worries and divisions, including among the Jewish community in the Netherlands. The potential enactment of laws that curtail the role of the Supreme Court does not align with the principles of a democracy. In a country without a constitution, a senate, and without a Council of State, the Supreme Court is the only body that ensures the necessary balance between legislative, executive, and judicial powers. A rule of law cannot exist without legal checks and balances. We support the concerns of the hundreds of thousands of Israelis who reject the government's plans. Our apprehension is further amplified by the way in which extremist settlers, encouraged by members of your government, believe they can act in Palestinian villages in Judea and Samaria. The abhorrent acts of Palestinian terrorism should never be a justification for retaliations against innocent individuals. The Talmud teaches us that the destruction of one life is equivalent to the destruction of an entire world, and saving one life is equivalent to saving an entire world.

We appeal to you to retract the current plans for judicial reforms and to prosecute perpetrators of crimes, regardless of their origin, as befits a rule of



law. Above all, we implore you, as the Prime Minister of all Israelis, to ensure that our Israel continues to uphold the diverse Jewish and democratic values, that we have always been so proud of.

We hope that you will take our concerns seriously and take action to uphold the fundamental principles of justice, (religious) pluralism, and democracy in Israel.

Your Sincerely,

Yvonne Walvisch-Stokvis,

Chair Union for Progressive Judaism in the Netherlands

Rabbijn Menno ten Brink,

Chair Rabbinic Assembly of the Progressive Jewish Movement in the Netherlands

**Cc: Ambassador of Israel, H.E. Modi Ephraim**

**MK Rabbi Gilad Kariv**