

# Israeli Protest Case Studies

## CASE STUDY #1, PEACE PROTEST

### PROTESTS FOR AND AGAINST THE OSLO ACCORDS (MID-1990S)

#### Background: The Oslo Accords

In 1993, Israel signed the first of several agreements with the Palestinians, known as the Oslo Accords. The process began with the sharing of Letters of Mutual Recognition, in which the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) recognized the State of Israel and Israel recognized the PLO (later the Palestinian Authority) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Oslo process was meant to culminate in a final status arrangement between Israelis and Palestinians, but was ultimately unsuccessful in achieving this goal.

#### Protests in Support of the Oslo Accords

Proponents saw the Oslo Accords as a pivotal milestone in Israeli-Palestinian relations, aimed at propelling the peace process forward. The biggest pro-Oslo rally, involving over 100,000 Israelis, took place on November 4, 1995, in a central area of Tel Aviv. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated while leaving the rally. At once, this “protest” movement sought to convey its support both for the government and the prospects of peace, believing the two to be politically synonymous.

#### Protests Against the Oslo Accords

Opponents of the Oslo Accords saw the process as a series of terrible errors in which the Israeli government was making political, security, and religious concessions to an untrustworthy partner (the Palestinians). Thousands of Israelis protested against Israeli concessions to the Palestinians, particularly in Jerusalem and in areas of the West Bank. At once, this protest movement sought to convey its opposition both to the government and the prospects of peace, believing the two to be politically synonymous.



## CASE STUDY #2

### PROTEST BY ULTRA-ORTHODOX AGAINST IDF DRAFT (2014)

#### What Led to the Protests?

In 2023, there were 233 homicides in the Arab-Israeli community, more than double the previous year and quadruple the number in the Jewish community in the same time frame. Complaints about inadequate police presence and security resources in Arab-Israeli communities have been common in the past.<sup>1</sup>

#### The Protest

On August 7, 2023, 20,000 Arab and Jewish protesters from across Israel demonstrated in Tel Aviv in what became known by various names: the “[March of the Dead](#),” the “Silent March,” or simply “We Want to Live.” The protest focused attention on the grief of the community, inadequate security and law enforcement in Arab society, and the call for urgent collective action against violence.



<sup>1</sup> [Homicide Rates in Israel: Recent Trends and a Crossnational Comparison](#). The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.

## CASE STUDY #3

### PROTEST AGAINST CRIME AND GOVERNMENT INACTION IN ARAB ISRAELI COMMUNITIES (2023)

#### What Led to the Protests?

The Knesset proposed a new law that would require more Haredi men between the ages of 18-25 to join the army, ending a decades-long status quo exemption of all Haredim studying in yeshiva.

#### The Protest

Dubbed by organizers as the “million-man protest,” hundreds of thousands of Haredi men gathered on a Sunday in Jerusalem to protest the proposed legislation. Main roads, including the entrance to the capital, were blocked and public transportation was diverted or shut down in certain areas as a result. The protest remained largely peaceful. The protesters claimed that the state was imposing unfair and anti-religious regulations on the ultra-Orthodox population.

