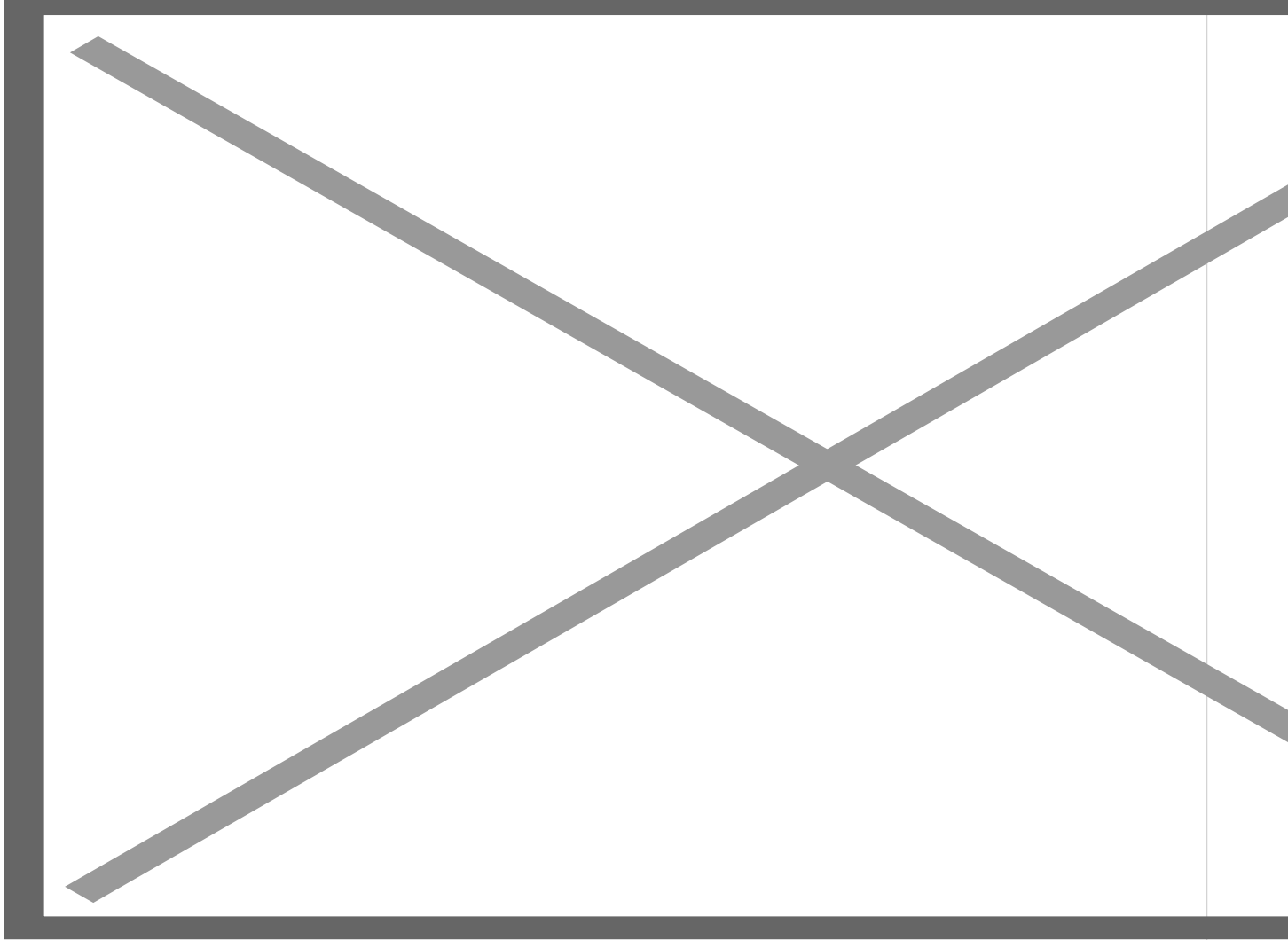


Anti-Netanyahu protesters celebrate outside prime minister's residence

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Anti-Netanyahu protesters celebrate 'victory' outside PM's residence on eve of coalition vote to remove him from power

Jerusalem, June 13 (RHC)-- Hundreds of protesters gathered in Jerusalem “one last time” to celebrate their “victory,” ahead of a crucial vote in the Knesset that removed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power.

Some 2,000 people marched through Jerusalem to rally and cheer outside PM’s residence on Saturday, making a victory lap in their anti-Netanyahu crusade. Over the past year, protests in Israel have been taking place on a near-weekly basis, sometimes in breach of coronavirus restrictions on mass gatherings, and often ending with arrests and scuffles with police.

“After spending this year of blood, sweat, and tears, going out in the streets, not knowing if this will change anything... We can definitely allow us to celebrate right now,” one of the protesters, Or Biron, told RT’s Ruptly.

This is how we felt, we guarded Israel from becoming a dictatorship, from becoming something we didn't want it to become, from becoming something dark and dangerous. “The protest is the main cause that Netanyahu government collapsed and now we are going to have tomorrow a new government, and yes, the chances are 99%,” said Mossi Raz, a member of the Knesset for the left-wing social-democratic Meretz party.

After 12 years in power, Netanyahu was replaced on Sunday by a “change” coalition government, led by former aide Naftali Bennett and opposition politician Yair Lapid, with support of an Arab religious party.

“We need to see tomorrow what is going on, but we can have a true, consistent hope that tomorrow we'll have a different Israel here, or at least a chance for a brighter, better Israel,” said a Pink Front protester, Yaniv Segal.

Netanyahu tried to block the new coalition on a technicality, but was overruled by President Rivlin, who himself will step down on July 9, when his term ends, to be replaced on his ceremonial post by former Labor party head Isaac Herzog.

In a last-ditch attempt to cling to power, Netanyahu and his allies tried to sow discord among their opponents, emphasizing how the unstable unity government would put Israeli security in danger.

“Whoever is right does not vote for a left-wing government, and whoever is for a left-wing government is not right,” the incumbent tweeted earlier this week.

In Israel's 120-seat Knesset, the Bennett-Lapid coalition has a razor-thin majority with 61 seats, and even a single detractor could derail their plans.

<https://www.radiohc.cu/index.php/en/noticias/internacionales/260573-anti-netanyahu-protesters-celebrate-outside-prime-ministers-residence>



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