The State of Israel--Censorship for Print & Media

List of subjects which oblige you to present [material] for prior-approval to the Censor

General Directive

This list is an aid for your use and includes chapter headings only. The full detailed list which is attached is the one to be used in determining what material to present [to the Censor]

For the sake of removing any doubts, it should be noted that:

A. The obligation to present material for prior review applies both to the written format, which may include maps, diagrams/charts, photographs and other publications.
B. Along with photocopies of the materials, you must provide any accompanying explanation, headlines or notes which accompany the photographs or maps.
C. You must provide for review materials which had previously been approved [for publication], including photographs approved at an earlier time, with the Censor’s signature imprinted [on them]
D. The source of a news item does not automatically satisfy us from the Censor’s perspective. Also foreign sources which are quoted or material provided [to you] by official or military sources, to the extent that they touch on the subjects listed here, require prior review.
E. The Censor will treat news which is presented as a quotation of a foreign source (news agency or world press) as a quotation which is considered intrinsically correct. Such news will be approved for publication, but if subsequently it turns out that the quotation is not precise or even non-existent, responsibility for security damage caused as a result of such publication will be upon the editor.
F. [You] may not leave blank spaces or any other signs that testify to the deletion of censored material.

List of Censored Topics:

IDF and Security Forces
1. The structure or identity of units
2. States of readiness and calling up of reserve units
3. Preparations for [military] operations
4. Locations of [military] bases
5. Military exercises and work projects
6. Special units [Special Forces, Intelligence units, etc.]
7. War Materiel:: Development, production of weapons, experiments
8. Cooperation with foreign militaries
9. Manpower: appointments, resignations, firings, rumors about activities of IDF and its commanders
10. Announcements concerning casualties from operations, training, accidents, and illnesses
11. Letters to the editor on military or security matters

The Enemy: Arab Armies and Terror Groups

1. News about what is happening within enemy armies and terror groups like: weapons, methods of operation, and preparedness.

Ministry of Defense and Military Industries: Rafael, Elbit, Israel Aircraft Industries, civilian research institutes working on behalf of the defense/security apparatus:

1. Security budget
2. Development, experimentation, production and maintenance of war materiel within civilian and military companies..
3. Contacts with foreign countries including agreements to import gasoline.
4. Anything connected with nuclear [issue]
5. Location of operations of the defense ministry and civilian operations and identification of secret employees.
6. The means of transportation by civilian [bus] companies when drafted in time of emergency [war].

Security Arrangements:

1. Security of ministry employees within Israel and abroad
2. Official delegations abroad
3. The movements and residences of VIPs
4. Security of strategic facilities: oil, electricity, water, ports, railways, buses, ministry facilities, and structures considered likely targets for attack
5. Information security within the security apparatus
6. Aerial reconnaissance photos and maps.
The Intelligence Communities: AMAN, Shabak, Mossad, MALMAB, Research Department of Foreign Ministry

1. The structure of operations inside Israel and abroad
2. Location of bases
3. Identities and photos of employees, agents, work methods.
4. The detention of those suspected of security offenses.

Captives and the Missing:

1. Personal details
2. Details concerning negotiations for their return
3. Any material whose publication constitutes a danger to peoples’ lives

Courts

1. Deliberations about security matters

Government Decrees

1. Deliberations of the ministerial committee for security.
2. Immigration from endangered nations
3. Eilat-Ashkelon Oil Pipeline
4. Movement of gas to and from Israel
5. Loans from external sources to Israel and Israeli institutions.

Censorship: the Freedom to Speak Responsibly!

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