

Netanyahu's War on Press Freedom

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [Police State](#)
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A free press and right to dissent are endangered. Western media operate as virtual press agents for power, reliable independent media called fake news.

In America, digital democracy is threatened, truth-telling assaulted. Trump's FCC chairman Ajit Pai calls Net Neutrality's days "numbered," wanting an online level playing field for everyone abolished.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu shuttered Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) with less than two hours notice, ending a near half century of public broadcasting, a staple on Israeli television, its first news program – IBA to be replaced by Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation (IPBC).

On its final night, anchors openly wept. Journalists blasted the shutdown on air. The final broadcast ended with staff singing Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem, sounding more like a dirge because of grief felt by all.

Anchor Haim Yavin on air called closure of IBA and its Mabat news program

"stupidity, idiocy, a crime...the whim of one man who happens to be the prime minister."

Journalist Yaakov Ahimeir asked

"(w)hat is this notice, two hours in advance? What are we, criminals?"

The way it was done is a "stain" on Netanyahu's already deplorable legacy.

Hundreds of newsmen and staff are out of work. As communications minister, as well as foreign minister and prime minister, Netanyahu oversaw enactment of a new broadcasting entity, government having more control over its editorial content, able to censor and suppress criticism of his hardline rule.

What'll he shut down next – maybe any print or electronic news source criticizing his rogue governance!

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His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

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<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

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