

Israel's Supreme Court strikes down controversial judicial overhaul

Jan. 1 (UPI) — Israel's Supreme Court has struck down a controversial amendment to the country's so-called "reasonableness" law, which would have limited judiciary oversight amid Israel's ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza.

The court ruled against the amendment by a nearly split vote of eight to seven, calling it a "severe and unprecedented blow to the core characteristics of the State of Israel as a democratic state."

Israeli lawmakers in the Knesset passed the "reasonableness" law, which would have prevented courts from weighing in on the reasonableness of government and ministerial decisions, in July of 2023. The new law drew celebrations from supporters and massive protests from those who said it "seriously damaged" the "system of checks and balances in the state of Israel," as U.S. President Joe Biden called the vote "unfortunate."

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