

Netanyahu: Israel Expects All Nations to Help Protect the Truth About the Holocaust - Including Poland

'We must always study the truth about the Holocaust, we must always remember it, prime minister says.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chairs the weekly cabinet meeting at his Jerusalem office on February 4, 2018. AFP / POOL /JIM HOLLANDER

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel expected its allies, including Poland, to help it protect “the truth” about the Holocaust. Netanyahu was speaking at a Foreign Ministry event as Education Minister Naftali Bennett announced his plans to visit Poland amid a diplomatic crisis between both countries over the Holocaust bill.

“We must always study the truth about the Holocaust, we must always remember it,” Netanyahu said at an event honoring 36 foreign diplomats whom the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial center has recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, non-Jewish rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust.

“Israel works closely with its partners around the world to protect and expose the truth about the Holocaust, and we expect to do so with every country, including Poland,” Netanyahu added.

“Six million of our brothers and sisters were slaughtered in the greatest horror in history, and that is what makes the people in whose honor we convene today so extraordinary,” Netanyahu said. “They lit a candle of mercy in the greatest darkness the Earth has ever known.”

The Polish legislation would criminalize accusations leveled against the Polish people of complicity with Nazi crimes. The bill was approved by Polish parliament last week and has been sent to Polish President Andrzej Duda for a final signature.

Earlier on Wednesday, Bennett announced that he will be visiting Poland later this week and meet with the deputy prime minister and other Polish ministers about the Holocaust bill. The meeting was not coordinated with the Foreign Ministry, Haaretz has learned.

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