



State of Israel
Ministry of Justice
The Legal Counseling and Legislation Department (International Law)

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"Shaming Attacks" against Public Officials Working in the Sphere of Family

Law

General

The issue of divorce proceedings, including child custody, has been subject to great tension in Israel in recent years, also effected by recent developments impacting this issue, some relating to the balance between ~~both~~the parents following separation and divorce.

The shaming attacks

Regrettably, and in the margins of the above phenomena, illegal actions were taken by several small groups of ~~parentsmen and women~~in Israel, who claim that the State "kidnaps" children for monetary gain and discriminates against men in divorce and custody proceedings.

These unlawful actions include personal threatening harassment, libel and vicious slander on social media sites on the internet but also physically – at private homes of public officials and children protection institutions. These are directly aimed against public officials in attempt to deter them from fulfilling their lawful obligations to protect children such as social workers, judges, state attorneys representing the welfare authorities, police officers, high ranking officials in the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs and Justice, and the Courts Administration, physiologists who serve as expert witnesses in court proceedings ~~ete~~etc., as well as towards non-profit organizations who provide services to the social service authorities.

An inter-ministerial team was formed by the Director General of the Ministry of Justice, to deal with this severe phenomena and new procedures and tools were implemented successfully, in a multidisciplinary manner. For example, inter-ministerial work procedures were formed to remove libelous content from the social

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media sites; the State petitioned the courts for protection orders in suitable cases and submitted lawsuits that included tort claims for damages against the perpetrators.

Any illegal conduct is also handled by the law enforcement agencies, to the fullest extent of the criminal law. For instance, on the April 6, 2017, the ~~state~~ State filed several indictments in this context against the key offenders.

According to the indictments, the defendants conspired to commit various criminal offences against Israeli officials. These include, among others, social workers, judges, police officers and prosecutors, who dealt with issues relating to the removal of children from their parent's custody and child custody disputes.

These offenders were arrested in February 2017, and later charged with the following offences: violation of the right to privacy, sexual harassment, extortion by threat, forgery under aggravating circumstances, impersonation, insulting a public servant, defamation and more.

~~Note that the defendants remain in detention until the conclusion of the proceedings in their regard.~~