

Investigations into October 7 Knowledge: Systemic Failures and Political Blame

While no single investigation exclusively targets Netanyahu's foreknowledge of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, several probes and inquiries address his role indirectly, exposing systemic corruption and failures in decision-making.

- **Shin Bet Internal Investigation:** Completed in March 2025, this probe revealed that Shin Bet had Hamas's "Jericho Wall" battle plan but dismissed it as aspirational. Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar claimed he issued "countless warnings" to Netanyahu, including a July 2023 alert of an impending war due to Israel's perceived weakness from judicial reform protests. The report criticized Netanyahu's policy of allowing Qatari funds to Gaza, which strengthened Hamas. Netanyahu countered that Bar failed to wake him on October 7, despite knowing an attack was likely by 4:30 a.m.
- **IDF Internal Investigation:** Released in February 2025, this probe confirmed the IDF had the "Jericho Wall" plan but misjudged Hamas's capabilities. A memo noting suspicious activity was sent to Netanyahu's intelligence officer three hours before the attack but was not escalated due to its "non-urgent" framing. The investigation focused on military failures, not Netanyahu's actions.
- **Civil Commission of Inquiry:** A non-governmental inquiry by survivors and victims' families, published in November 2024, blamed Netanyahu for undermining decision-making forums and pursuing policies that empowered Hamas, such as Qatari funding. It criticized reduced border security and overreliance on signal intelligence.

Status: The Shin Bet and IDF investigations are complete, with no charges against Netanyahu, but their findings have intensified calls for a state commission of inquiry, which he has resisted, citing bias. The leaks and document alteration scandal remains active, directly probing efforts to manipulate narratives around his October 7 response.

Broader Context: Political and Public Implications

These investigations paint a picture of entrenched corruption, from alleged personal enrichment to manipulation of national security narratives. Netanyahu's legal battles have polarized Israel, with critics arguing his 2023 judicial reform push was an attempt to shield himself from prosecution, sparking mass protests. His refusal to establish a state inquiry into October 7 has drawn international scrutiny, including International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants issued in November 2024 against him and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes.

Public sentiment, reflected in media and posts on X, is divided. Some view Netanyahu as a victim of a politically driven "coup" by the judiciary and media, while others accuse him of systemic corruption and negligence, with unverified claims of deliberate inaction on October 7 circulating as conspiracy theories. The Qatargate probe and allegations of Qatari influence have further eroded trust, raising questions about foreign interference in Israel's governance.

Conclusion

Corruption in Israel, as exemplified by the ongoing trials and investigations surrounding Benjamin Netanyahu, reveals a complex web of personal, political, and national security issues. From the high-stakes corruption trial to probes into foreign influence and October 7 failures, these cases highlight systemic vulnerabilities and the challenges of holding powerful leaders accountable. As of June 17, 2025, the legal proceedings continue to unfold, with gag orders and political tensions limiting full transparency.

The outcomes of these investigations will likely shape Israel's political future, testing the resilience of its democratic institutions.