



**Israel Police
Investigations and Intelligence Department
Coordination and Operations Division**

Preparations of the Israel Police with the Outbreak of COVID-19

A. General

1. The Corona virus pandemic, spreading globally during these last weeks, has not passed over Israel, which has been dealing with its effects on the public's morbidity.
2. The dimension of the spreading of the pandemic in Israel, at this time, and the need for its restraint, demands action to limit the movement of citizens in the public sphere, ensuring those who are in home quarantine, and the possibility of confinement of all citizens in the country in the case of a nationwide lockdown.

B. Possible Scenarios

1. Widening of morbidity of families/communities/entire regions
2. Multiple violators of "home quarantine" – finding people on the street when they supposed to be at home
3. Businesses which are opened without permits
4. Multiple incidents of spousal abuse, quarrels between neighbors
5. Public order incidents near food/medication/medical supply centers
6. Planning of a terrorist incident

C. Working Theories

1. In a situation of a nationwide lockdown, all movement of the public will be prohibited and mostly all will be staying within their homes only.
2. In this situation, because of the limitations the pandemic imposes (the distances between people, prohibition of assembly, prohibition of presence of people in shared location, etc.), police forces cannot work from one place, out of one station. Forces will have to be decentralized within the towns and neighborhoods and cover smaller areas.
3. Command and supervision will be done remotely, to avoid unnecessary movement on the street and unnecessary gathering.
4. In the case of nationwide lockdown, police forces may be reduced to 30% (due to illness, home quarantine, etc.).

5. Police forces will mainly handle "response" work; a smaller portion of its tasks will be routine activity and the majority of its tasks will be related to the new situation.

D. Assignment

The Israel Police, in cooperation with the municipalities and regional councils and with the emergency services, will be tasked with the supervision, prevention and enforcement of movement restriction, with public order, with providing response to incidents, with blocking roads in accordance with the government decision and judicial declaration, starting from declaration until decided otherwise, for the purpose of reducing the spreading the Corona virus pandemic in Israel.

E. Deployment

1. Planning and administrating of police forces – preparedness for continuity of functionality on a long term basis, among the operational, administrative, and the reinforcement personnel.
2. Work procedure in the units – according to the needs of preventing morbidity: Safe distancing between personnel, amount of officers permitted in office and patrol car, interrogation in police station, avoiding of contact between shifts, "remote" court visits.
3. Continuous territorial functionality – preparedness for the situation that an entire police station or an entire unit has to be in home quarantine.
4. Mental preparation for the police officer – a lockdown is based on civil obedience and not enforcement, and as such, good judgment in supervision and enforcement is needed as is patience and temperance with citizens.
5. Flow of information – passing on the operational planning: briefings, reporting, shift summary, etc.
6. Advocacy tasks in the communities – emphasis on special communities, which will continue even more so during a lockdown.

F. Tasks of the Israel Police

1. Tasks on a national level
 - a. Command and control of the national operational effort to supervise and enforce the governmental guidelines regarding the restrictions of movement and assembly in the country.
 - b. Leading the "Crisis Management Team" – a decision on the policy of the organization regarding the building of the forces and providing guidelines for units and HQ departments.
 - c. Compile, coordinate and synchronize police activity on a national level, also with relevant non-police authorities.
 - d. Adjust allocations of forces and resources on a national level.

- e. Holding regular situation assessments, according to developments and in coordination with partnering authorities.
- f. Opening of a national control center, with representatives of cooperating authorities and governmental offices, for the benefit of synchronization and coordination – if needed.
- g. Consolidating an overall status report and transmitting messages through the spokesperson's office in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MOH).

2. Operations Department

- a. Enforcing full lockdown: Confinement of towns and neighborhoods and prevention of movement on roads/areas which are designated
- b. Supervision and enforcement of MOH decrees – supervision and enforcement of restriction of movement in public sphere
- c. Preventing access to places of mass assembly
- d. Response to incidents of public order, violence and vandalism
- e. Activity in public and industrial areas to prevent property crime
- f. Assistance to MOH in carrying out its tasks, including distribution of medication
- g. Assistance to hospitals
- h. Closure – enforcement against persons illegally entering/infiltrating into Israel, preventing their entry on the borders
- i. Readiness in moving police stations to alternate sites which have not yet been infected with the virus
- j. Providing responses to citizens' questions

3. Traffic Department

- a. Opening of roads for security and emergency forces
- b. Providing assistance in evacuating citizens, in accordance with decisions
- c. Wide deployment of the roads for the benefit of movement to strategic sites/critical facilities and for the prevention of movement to quarantined areas
- d. Escorting of provision convoys – in accordance with decisions/need
- e. Directing and regulating traffic near shopping areas located on inter-city roads to keep them flowing for the public good
- f. Providing assistance to districts in blocking entry to cities and towns along inter-city roads

4. Intelligence Branch

- a. Gathering, processing, and analyzing intelligence information and distributing it to all relevant bodies in real time.
- b. Identifying "fake news" which causes fear and panic among the public; identifying the source of the fake news and providing this

information to the Investigations Branch for the opening of an investigation.

5. Investigations Branch

- a. Formulating an enforcement policy in coordination and under the guidance of the Ministry of Justice and the State Attorney's Office
- b. Formulating policy for administration of the Branch, according to the situation assessment, operational needs, and organizational policy.
- c. Distribution of guidelines concerning investigation of extreme violations – infection, on a wide scale

6. Logistics Branch

- a. Providing logistics response according to the operational needs and deployment of forces
- b. Preparation of protective kits, distribution
- c. Medical Array: Distribution of professional guidelines and carrying out training among the units

7. Spokesperson's Office

- a. Documentation of all police activity; "hasbara" advocacy work
- b. Publicizing the work of the police in the media
- c. Monitoring the media and formulating recommendations

With Regards

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