**The Use of Emergency Regulations in Israel during the Covid-19 Pandemic and in a Historical Perspective, 1948-2020**

Nir Kosti and Yoav Mehozay

**Abstract:** The COVID-19 pandemic has rekindled the debate over the inherent link between exception and routine in Israel. In response to the pandemic, more than 100 countries declared a state of emergency as a mean to combat the pandemic. But unlike other countries, the state of Israel did not declare a state of emergency because it has been formally under such state since its inception in 1948. As such, Israeli governments have the authority to issue emergency regulations, and they have. Yet in the last three decades, emergency regulations have rarely been used. This situation changed significantly on March 15, 2020, with the outbreak of the corona pandemic. In the following months, the Israeli government issued an unprecedented number of emergency regulations. Surprisingly, the literature on emergency regulations in Israel, including other emergency policies, is rather limited and, for the most part, not updated. Little is written about emergency regulations and their impact on the rule of law and democracy in Israel. The widespread use of emergency regulations during the coronavirus crisis emphasizes the need for such a body of work. To meet this challenge, this article presents unique data on the use of emergency regulations in Israel between 1948-2020, specifically, the policy areas they covered and compares Israel’s emergency response during the coronavirus crisis to other countries. In doing so, this article seeks to contribute to the public, academic, and legal discourse in Israel.