Livni to Head New Knesset Subcommittee on Lawfare

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A new Knesset subcommittee, led by MK Tzipi Livni (Zionist Union), will deal with international legal warfare.

The panel is Livni’s initiative and a part of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and will discuss international law in connection to war, legitimacy of military actions and defending Israel and IDF soldiers in those areas, the ICC and universal jurisdiction laws’ impact on Israeli military and civilian officials.

The area does not get enough attention and is a war front like any other, Livni said Monday, calling for immediate and intensive legal preparation.

“As foreign minister and justice minister, I acted to defend Israel and IDF soldiers in the international arena, where Israel is exposed to aggressive activities,” she stated. “The most recent report by the UN Human Rights Commission and legal action in The Hague are dangerous and require immediate, professional and focused care to protect the IDF’s freedom of action in its war of terror.”

Livni said the committee will also work to ensure that IDF soldiers and commanders “have freedom of movement without being compared to terrorists, a comparison that I cannot accept.”

Livni and other senior Israeli officials like former defense ministers Ehud Barak and Shaul Mofaz used to avoid travelling to the UK because of universal jurisdiction laws, which allowed private citizens to lodge war crime complaints against people who are not British citizens even if the alleged crimes took place outside of Britain. In 2011 the law was changed so that only in cases in which there is solid evidence of responsibility for heinous war crimes will be subject to universal jurisdiction laws.