

# *Twenty-four Senior Israeli Officials Arrested Over Graft Case*

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Tel Aviv, December 26 (RHC)-- Israel has announced the arrest of two dozen high-ranking officials for involvement in an unprecedented graft case. Israeli police announced Thursday that it has detained 24 senior officials in a corruption probe which has mostly hit Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party.

The case has been described by local media as one of the most important anti-graft operations in the history of the Zionist regime. The officials are accused of transferring millions of shekels from public funds to an institution close to the party.

The arrests include a current deputy interior minister and a former tourism minister. Four other senior officials are ordered to remain under house arrest. The scandal is expected to hit hard Lieberman's party three months ahead of general elections in Israel.

Lieberman, known as one of the most extremist politicians in the history of the Zionist regime, has seen a sharp fall in popular support ahead of the elections which are slated for March 17, 2015. He has been trying to persuade the Israeli settlers about the rising threat of the Palestinian resistance as a tool to win

the future election.

Lieberman was forced to step down as foreign minister in December 2012 after he admitted to be involved in a corruption case. However, he assumed the post again after being acquitted in November 2013.

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