Gov't may weigh sanctions on PA leaders over ICC case

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By Lahav Harkov

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The government may consider sanctions on [Palestinian Authority](https://www.jpost.com/tags/palestinian-authority) leaders following last week’s International Criminal Court ruling that it has the jurisdiction to investigate allegations of Israeli war crimes.

The ruling came after the Palestinian Authority acceded to the Rome Statute and became a member of the ICC in 2015. It then lodged a complaint about alleged war crimes in “occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem.”

Israeli officials have argued that unilaterally joining international organizations as if the PA is a state, and opening a war crimes suit are violations of the Oslo Accords.

As a result of the court’s ruling, the Interministerial Task Force for the International Criminal Court under the leadership of former minister Ze’ev Elkin recommended sanctions against the leadership of the Palestinian Authority in response to their lawfare efforts at the ICC, Makor Rishon reported.

Elkin led the Interministerial Task Force from May to December of last year before he resigned from the government to run with the New Hope party in next month’s election.

Among the recommended sanctions would be to deny senior Palestinian officials access to travel abroad via Ben-Gurion Airport or the Allenby Crossing into Jordan, arguing that they are threatening to limit Israeli officials’ and military officers’ freedom of movement via possible warrants for their arrest.

Another recommendation was to indict Palestinian officials for incitement to terrorism and that for every Israeli officer who would be arrested on alleged war crimes charges, a PA official would be charged.