

Druze Knesset pol says discrimination up

by UPI

JERUSALEM -- Results from the National Resilience Survey said patriotism among the Druze population in Israel is waning amid widening discrimination and prejudice. The survey asked Druze residents to rate their "love for" and "pride in" Israel on a scale of 1 to 6 and found the results declined notably since the last survey year in 2007, Ynetnews said Friday. Knesset Member Said Naffaa, a Druze, said discrimination and prejudice targeting the Druze community is a cause for the declining nationalism and points to riots in Druze communities in late October as evidence of this perception. Naffaa also cited declining numbers of Druze in the Israeli military as further evidence. He said 26 percent of Druze high school graduates took their military entrance exams compared to 59 percent of Jews and 43 percent of Arabs. Israeli police recently questioned Naffaa on his return from a visit to Syria. "Israeli authorities are wary of our efforts to renew historical ties to our families for a variety of political reasons. They had assumed that they had 'domesticated' the Druze, but now this docile bear is fighting back," he said in the Ynetnews report.

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