

**“Who are you to come to Israel and arrest me?”
On the Effect of a Police Officer’s Ethnonational Affiliation on
Acceptance of his Authority**

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In recent years, police around the world increasingly have tried to recruit candidates from minority groups to the ranks of the police to improve the groups’ tense relations with the police. A similar trend has emerged in Israel since the early 1990s, with an attempt being made to recruit candidates belonging to the Arab population and the immigrant population from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. In this article, we examine the issue of recruitment through the question of how the ethno-cultural and national affiliation of a policeman in Israel affects the acceptance of his authority among the citizens, by reviewing dozens of verdicts in which citizens uttered stereotypical curses concerning the origin, religion, skin color or nationality of a policeman belonging to those minority groups mentioned above.