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Corona Enforcement: Between Criminal and Administrative Enforcement

Towards the end of 2019, countries around the world, Israel included, were challenged with a global health emergency: COVID-19. One of the main tools selected by the State of Israel in the fight against the domestic spread of the virus was primary and secondary legislation. Some of the legislation imposed new criminal prohibitions which restricted certain activities, movement, travel etc.

This article discusses the limits of the deployment and enforcement of criminal law. Specifically, it discusses when it is appropriate to utilize criminal law and when it is appropriate to use alternative methods to encourage or discourage certain actions during times of emergency.

This article examines the legitimacy of criminalization, taking into account the desired limits of the criminal law's deployment. We argue that, contrary to the conventional approach in literature, which emphasises the limits of criminal *law*, the limits of criminal *enforcement* must also be established. Just as criminal law must be kept from expanding beyond its desired limits, so too must limits be placed on criminal enforcement, especially in times of emergency.