

Israel's judicial reform crisis could be solved by referendum - opinion

While it is likely that the coalition will try to pass a softened version of the reform, it would be appropriate to consider the possibility of holding a referendum as an exit strategy.

By Kobi Michael, Ori Wertman / Published: March 20, 2023

President Isaac Herzog's outline that was presented last week is indeed a brave attempt to reach a compromise between the two sides and especially to put an end to the deep rift in the people of Israel in the last two months. The tumultuous demonstrations, the calls for refusal to serve and the continued polarization causes our enemies to rub their hands with pleasure. As we saw last week in the security incident in which a terrorist from Lebanon was caught and killed, to show boldness is to attempt to harm Israel's soft underbelly while thinking that the Zionist vision is crumbling.

In Tehran, Damascus and Beirut, they only hope that Israel will deteriorate into a constitutional crisis that will further disintegrate Israeli society and hope even more that a fratricidal war that will lead to the absolute end of Israel will break out.

True, the president's outline does not meet the wishes and aspirations of all parties. The coalition can rightly claim that the original outline proposed by Justice Minister Yariv Levin constitutes a real correction of the relationship between the authorities. In fact, the coalition wants to return to a time when the Supreme Court did not intervene excessively, a tradition that was preserved until the judicial activism led by former president Prof. Aharon Barak began.

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