

Hi all,

Well, we are about to cross another unthinkable barrier in this conflict. Yesterday our 'negotiations' with VERA broke down and today at 10 we start the deliberations in the national labor court concerning 'tsavei menia'. Let me briefly describe the events of the last two days.

We (Zvi HaCohen, Danni Hershkovits, and myself) met on Friday with VERA (the presidents of BG, BI, Technion, and HU). In this meeting Kave suggested an offer for the conflict resolution that was significantly lower than our last proposal to the national labor court, but was in our eyes a reasonable offer. We had minor reservations about this proposal but we made it clear that we are now in a common 'playground', and that it would be possible to reach an agreement. Then, on Saturday evening this VERA's proposal disappeared into thin air. Instead, they proposed an alternative that is lower by anywhere between 11.5 to 16.5 percent from their own (one day old) Friday proposal. Aside from the fact that this chain of events is against any normal procedure in negotiations, this last offer is simply unacceptable. It provides a compensation of anywhere between 4 (our interpretation) to 6.5 (the kindest interpretation) percent on past erosion, and the proposed future mechanism is not good and would add to the wage erosion.

We are very much aware of the gravity of the situation. Yet, we have no intention to succumb to bullying tactics by the treasury officials that unfortunately are mediated (even if unwillingly) by VERA.

Best, Asher