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“I think we have a distorted system that no other country in the world has, in which the judges themselves participate in their own selection,” coalition chief MK Yariv Levin, who is leading the effort to get the bills passed, told Israel Radio on Sunday. “It is done in a system of cronyism....I think there is no place for this. The change is positive because a foundation of democracy is that no branch should be able to choose itself, so it cannot be that judges will control the system of selecting themselves.”

Levin argued that the court was controlled by a far-left faction that imposes its agenda on the Israeli public.

These measures, he said, are being pushed in order “to end the court’s intervention, in which it relies on its own judgment in place of the legislative and executive branch in matters that have to do with one’s worldview. The same minority that controls the judiciary tries to use its strength in order to impose its values on the entire society.”

He described the court as “sometimes even radical,” accused them of regularly siding with non-Israelis over Israelis on the basis of the litigants’ identities.

Speaking on the same radio program, Yoram Rabin, dean of the Haim Striks School of Law at the College of Management, called Levin’s characterization “nonsense.”

“As always, only what is right-wing is Zionist, and if it’s not right-wing, it’s anti-democratic. This is obviously incorrect. The correct understanding is that this should be a ‘liberal’ court that has a worldview about democracy and protecting minorities, with no connection to right or left.”

