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## This month at Kav LaOved: Hundreds of millions of Shekels are stolen from asylum seekers, fatalities in the construction sector reach record-high

What we had this month: a hearing in the High Court of Justice about the Deposit law that continues to allow daily theft from asylum seekers, 7 deadly work accidents in the construction sector in May, whilst policy changes are at a standstill, and during the fighting in the South an agriculture worker was injured because he was sent to work in the fields.

And last but not least: an invitation to Kav LaOved's General Assembly.

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### Robbery in broad daylight - a new report reveals the damage caused by the deposit law to the asylum seekers' community

"Theft in Broad Daylight, The Deposit Law: Implementation and Impact" is the name of [the report](#) we published in partnership with the "Hotline for Refugees and Migrants", which reviews the Deposit Law that deducts 20% of the salaries of most asylum seekers, leaving half of them with salaries below minimum wage. The report reveals that many employers deduct funds from employees' salaries but do not deposit them in the specified account.

An article about the report in 'Calcalist' entitled "Failure of the asylum seekers law" published prior to the hearing, estimated that [700 million NIS](#) of the workers' money, mysteriously evaporated. The relevant government bodies, as the report clearly states, do not enforce the law. And what did the judges of High Court of Justice have to say? [That the state prefers to abuse workers rather than adopt any other alternative.](#)

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**May In the construction sector - 7 construction workers were killed, most of the agreements with the Histadrut have not been implemented.**

May was a deadly month in the construction industry - seven construction workers were killed. 21 construction workers in 2019 thus far. All this while the upcoming elections do not hold a promise of improvement, rather a continued stagnation. New policies aimed at improved protection for construction workers, will not be promoted. [An article](#) published this month in Ha'aretz, based on Kav LaOved's findings, examined the implementation of the agreements signed between the Histadrut and the Ministry of Finance, which were signed in November 2018. Only two days later took place a fatal accident in Yavneh, which took the lives of four people during the dismantling of a crane. This tragic event shed light on the disturbingly low standards concerning the secure operation of cranes, and to the fact that the necessary amendments in legislation regarding maintenance and standardization of operating cranes have not been adopted. At an emergency conference held in the Knesset, we presented a document detailing the main steps that must be taken immediately.

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**During the escalated fighting in the South an agricultural worker was injured in the field -and no one takes responsibility**

Remember the escalation in the South in early May? Just before the Eurovision Song Contest? So imagine that you are an agricultural worker who goes out to the field. That's what happened on May 5, 2019 to Chaiya Mahakhot, an agricultural worker from Thailand, who went to work in a greenhouse (located in the fields) in Moshav Ohad. The instructions of the "Home Front Command", regarding Moshav Ohad allowed work only if there is a shelter in a 15 seconds running distance. There was no such shelter, Chaiya said, and he was wounded by shrapnel. Last week, Miriam and Ning, from our Agriculture Department, visited his hospital bed. There is a long rehabilitation process before him.

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**The general assembly of Kav LaOved will be held on the 25th of July - all are invited**

The general assembly of Kav LaOved will be held on Thursday the 25.7.2019, 19:00 at the offices of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, 11 Rothschild Blvd. Tel Aviv. During the

assembly we will elect the board of directors and an audit committee. Members who wish to submit their candidacy or who wish to submit a proposal for discussion at the assembly or a change in Kav LaOved's articles of association are kindly requested to inform us by July 7, 2019 at [adi.m@kavlaoved.org.il](mailto:adi.m@kavlaoved.org.il) . If you wish to be a member of Kav LaOved (and have voting rights at the general assembly) you need to fill the membership form and pay a membership fee by June 24th. For [further information](#).

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Help us show workers they are not alone in their fight for just employment! A monthly donation to Kav LaOved will assist workers in standing up for their rights. Any new donation of at least **300 NIS** (approx. \$85.00 USD total) - or donations that triple previous ones - will be matched by one of our funding partners.

**To securely donate via "Israel Gives":**

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All donations will allow "Kav LaOved" to help workers get their rights at work and the money taken from them by their employers. Even a fixed contribution of 10 NIS per month. To donate by direct debit bank or credit card deposit contribution [click here](#). Association account: Bank Hapoalim branch 781 Account 431095 in the name "Kav LaOved".

To send a check to the offices of the association via mail: Kav LaOved PO Box 2319 Tel Aviv 61022  
Donations to Kav LaOved within Israel are income tax deductible under Section 46. Tax-deductible donations from abroad, by New Israel Fund. For more info: [hagar@kavlaoved.org.il](mailto:hagar@kavlaoved.org.il)

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