Israel-Saudi Normalization: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities

written by Asher Fredman | 24.02.2026
Asher Fredman expresses optimism regarding Israel-Saudi integration, despite recent Saudi rhetoric, viewing it as part of an evolving regional corridor of innovation, peace and prosperity.

He highlights the resilience of the Israel-UAE partnership, where trade has grown despite conflict. The Emirati model demonstrates the key role that a culture of tolerance plays in regional economic success – a model that Saudi Arabia can emulate.

The full interview took place on I24 Channel on February 24, 2026.

https://youtu.be/iuBbaKYul4E

The idea of a trustworthy police force in Gaza is nearly impossible

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 24.02.2026
Meir Ben-Shabbat: There is no way to ensure that problematic people, from an Israeli perspective, will not serve in the Gazan Police.

There are very high support rates for Hamas in Gaza, as well as relatively high support for the Oct. 7 attack. More than half of the population was born into Hamas rule, educated in Hamas institutions, prayed in Hamas mosques and consumed Hamas media.

The full interview was published in JNS, on February 24, 2026.



Drones smuggling weapons, drugs from Egypt pose serious risk to Israeli security

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 24.02.2026

Ruth Wasserman Lande:The drone threat far outweighed security issues posed by anti-Israel radicalization in Egypt and the release of Palestinian terrorists into the neighboring territory.

If it [the drone smuggling] were reversed, if our Bedouins were simply allowed or not stopped [from] passing weapons to the Egyptians, an uproar would arise, and rightfully so. I mean, it’s unimaginable that this could even happen.

Terrorists released into Egypt as part of the final ceasefire-hostage deal would create new cells on Israel’s border, similar to those seen in Lebanon.

Published in The Jerusalem Post, February 23 2026.



The Futility of Negotiations with the Islamic Republic

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 24.02.2026

Ruth Wasserman Lande argues that the Iranian regime is fundamentally unwilling to negotiate in good faith, as its existence depends on destabilizing the region through proxies like Hamas and the Houthis. She emphasizes that any action to topple the regime must be a decisive strike followed by a strategic plan for stability to prevent a power vacuum that could be exploited by actors like Turkey and Qatar.

The full interview took place on Channel I24, on February 19, 2026.

Security Realities and the “Board of Peace”

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 24.02.2026
Ruth Wasserman Lande expresses deep skepticism regarding the “board of peace” and the reliability of a Palestinian security force, arguing that Hamas remains a persistent threat that has failed to disarm,. She stresses that a further withdrawal of Israeli forces would leave civilians vulnerable to future attacks, as Hamas openly declares its intent to maintain its violent ideology.

The full interview took place on BBC World Radio on February 19, 2026.

US Strategy Is To Confuse the Iranians

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 24.02.2026
Prof. Kobi Michael: The Iranians are under huge pressure with the regime at its lowest point, and this is good because it may push them to make substantial concessions through negotiation, which is preferable for President Trump.

Israel must be ready for a scenario in which diplomacy collapses but Washington hesitates. If negotiations fail and the Americans decide not to strike, Israel will have to attack on its own. But Israel will need both international and domestic legitimacy.

If diplomacy fails, it will not be only a kinetic strike. It will be a combination of kinetic strike, cyber strike, cognitive warfare, and special operations.

Published in The Media Line, February 17, 2026.



How Trump’s extravagant plan for ‘NewGaza’ is doomed to fail

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 24.02.2026
Prof. Kobi Michael: I believe an offensive is likely with no other forces willing or able to disarm Hamas, a key component of Trump’s 20-point plan, albeit one tied to further negotiations.

This would not seek to disarm every gunman in Gaza, but aim for “full destruction of Hamas’ tunnel network, all of their heavy weapons, rockets and missiles, all of their manufacturing and weapons industry”, as well as the expulsion of Hamas commanders.

Published in inews, February 12, 2026.



Future Security Strategies for Iran and Gaza

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 24.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael discusses the strategic challenges regarding Iran's nuclear and ballistic threats, suggesting that the U.S. and Israel may need to employ military, cyber, and cognitive operations if negotiations fail. He also emphasizes that dismantling Hamas in Gaza may require a full IDF mission if President Trump's diplomatic plans are undermined by the "creative" disarmament proposals of regional actors like Turkey and Qatar.

The full interview took place on ILTV on February 15, 2026.

Beyond Diplomacy: The IDF’s Mission to Dismantle Hamas

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 24.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael discusses how Hamas continues to reconstitute itself by using civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and UNRWA facilities for military purposes, indicating a complete lack of intent to disarm. He further argues that Hamas’s disarmament will not occur quickly through diplomatic pressure alone and maintains that the IDF must be allowed to complete its mission to dismantle the organization by force.

The full interview took place on Channel I24, on February 15, 2026.

Gaza Security and the New Sunni Coalition

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 24.02.2026

Ruth Wasserman Lande warns of a worrying situation in the Gaza Strip involving the continued presence of armed groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad, alongside Egyptian-trained Fatah security forces. She highlights a “disturbing” emerging coalition between Sunni extremist forces and countries like Egypt, Turkey, and Qatar, which she believes poses a significant threat to regional stability.

The full interview took place on Channel I24 on February 12, 2026.