The problematic reopening of the Rafah border crossing

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 11.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: Under the current constraints, the reopening of the crossing is unlikely to have a major impact on Gaza.

There are many layers of control between the various security oversight mechanisms, and as of now, only pedestrians are crossing, and even that at very small numbers. In the beginning, this process will proceed very slowly and very cautiously, and won't significantly influence the internal politics of Gaza.

Even without a significant practical impact, the reopening of the crossing is likely to be used for political messaging. This is Gaza's exit to the world. From their perspective, it symbolizes sovereignty and Independence.

Published in JNS, February 09, 2026.



Israel wants out of America’s military embrace

written by Dr. Raphael BenLevi | 11.02.2026

Dr. Raphael BenLevi: I believe Israel should end its dependence on US aid, moving from a relationship based on patronage to a true partnership. It is eminently possible to move munitions production onshore; unfortunately, successive MoUs caused our domestic defense industrial base to wither because it was simply easier to buy from ‘Uncle Sam.

The added cost to our military budget of forgoing this aid would be manageable. By some calculations, it would add around 10 percent. However, it is better to calculate the cost of doing without American aid as a percentage of Israel’s GDP—currently 0.7 percent—a proportion that will only get smaller as our economy grows as forecast.

Published in The Telegraph, February 11, 2026.



Trump, Iran and Israel: The perils of a narrow nuclear deal

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 11.02.2026

Meir Ben-Shabbat: from Iran’s perspective, the very existence of negotiations already constitutes a strategic gain. From the standpoint of the Iranian regime, the very fact that talks are taking place already provides it with a series of benefits.

Talks blunt international pressure, weaken the morale of regime opponents, and gradually erode the credibility of military action. Time is Tehran’s most valuable asset. By dragging out negotiations, Iran seeks to turn diplomacy into a containing and wearing mechanism” that exhausts its adversaries while preserving its own freedom of action.

From Israel’s perspective, the worst outcome is not war but a bad agreement, because it would give the regime oxygen to breathe at its most difficult moment.

A narrow deal would enable continued military buildup, strengthen Iran’s regional posture, and institutionalize future crises. A situation in which there is no agreement at all is preferable to a bad agreement, since sanctions would remain in place and continue to undermine the regime’s survivability.

The challenge for the United States and Israel alike is ensuring that the display of American power near Iran does not become a substitute for strategic rigor. Lasting security will not come from managing Iran’s ambitions, but from ending them. Until then, even the largest armada offshore cannot compensate for a deal that trades long-term stability for short-term convenience.

Published in JNS, February 11, 2026.



How Hamas Shapes Gaza's Technocratic Government

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 11.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: Hamas continued reconstitution as the decisive factor. Despite the war, the organization is rebuilding its military capabilities, maintaining command structures, and issuing internal directives. He cited instructions circulated within Hamas regulating how members should interact with representatives of the technocratic committee as evidence that the group is preparing to manage the process rather than surrender authority. Of course, Hamas will control who controls who.

They are not going to bring people from India to be doctors or engineers. They are going to use the same people that are already there. As a result, all of these systems in the Gaza Strip will be operated by people who are affiliated or influenced or controlled by Hamas.

Published in The Media Line, February 07, 2026.



Egypt’s Sinai Buildup: A Strategic Threat to Peace

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 11.02.2026

Ruth Wasserman Lande warns of an inexplicable and massive Egyptian military buildup in the Sinai Peninsula, which she believes is strategically aimed toward a potential conflict with Israel rather than counterterrorism. Furthermore, she highlights a concerning shift in Egypt’s alliances toward actors like Qatar, Turkey, and Iran, suggesting this divergence from US reliance poses a significant threat to the long-standing peace agreement.

The full interview took place on Channel I24 on February 5, 2026.

The Military Necessity Against Iran and Hamas

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 11.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael discusses Iran’s efforts to isolate nuclear negotiations from its regional proxy and ballistic missile activities, concluding that a military operation may be inevitable because the Iranian regime is unlikely to meet American diplomatic demands.

He also contends that the IDF will eventually need to dismantle Hamas in the Gaza Strip, as the group remains a fundamental “spoiler” to any peace plan and only the Israeli military has the capability and will to demilitarize the area.

The full interview took place on ILTV on February 4, 2026.

Reconstructing the Narrative: From Ideological Change to Regional Stability

written by Dr. Adi Schwartz | 11.02.2026

Dr. Adi Schwartz argues that Gaza's reconstruction must involve a complete overhaul of the Palestinian national narrative to end the long-standing ideological rejection of a sovereign Jewish state.,, He further emphasizes that the dissolution of UNRWA and the dismantling of the Iranian regime's influence are critical for establishing long-term regional stability and prosperity.,,

The full briefing was made to the FDD on February 4, 2026.

Political games and a message to the West

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 11.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: The Palestinian National Council's planned November elections are little more than political games and an attempt to project an image of legitimacy to the United States and the West.

Abbas's advanced age at 90, if he is alive in November or close to November, and if he will be sure enough that Fatah can gain the election, then he will enable the election, but if he will have some good indications that he's going to lose the election, then he will find very good excuses why they have to postpone the election.

The full interview was published in The Jerusalem Post on February 4, 2025.



Hamas emerges as ‘ultimate spoiler’ in Gaza plan as Trump insists terror group will disarm

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 11.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: Hamas “doesn’t intend to disarm itself and never intended to.Hamas will do all the possible and creative maneuvers and manipulations in order to keep its power and influence in the Gaza Strip.

The Israel Defense Forces are the only entity that can disarm Hamas. No one besides Turkey is willing to send its troops to the International Stabilization Force in order to fight Hamas,” referring to the planned force authorized by the United

Nations to oversee security and demilitarization in Gaza.

Published in Fox News, January 29, 2026.



National Resilience and the Strategic Necessity of Disarming Hamas

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 11.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael highlights the return of hostages as a monumental achievement for Israeli resilience and the fulfillment of the national ethos that ensures “no soldier is left behind”,. He also emphasizes that the complete disarmament of Hamas by the IDF is a strategic necessity to prevent the group’s reconstitution and to enable any future reconstruction plan for Gaza.

The full interview took place on ILTV on January 26, 2026.