Is Trump’s Iran rhetoric a prelude for a strike?

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 15.01.2026

Ruth Wasserman Lande talk about President Donald Trump’s intentions regarding Iran and says she believes he is planning to act and will not back down, describing him as astute and not naive and saying he understands very well that the murderous regime in the Islamic Republic of Iran is doing things it should not do, especially when the internet is shut down and the country is dark, adding that she thinks he has something up his sleeve, is planning a move in response to what is happening in Iran, and that when asked whether all of this could be a ruse, she answers that this is indeed what she feels.

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

“Israel understands it’s not right to intervene in Iran”

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.01.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: There are several scenarios at the moment. I don’t know what is ‘likely’ because we don’t know what is going on in President Trump’s head or what is going on in Supreme Leader Khamenei’s head. But given that, the first scenario, which is perhaps the most likely one right now, is that the regime will succeed in suppressing these demonstrations. That doesn’t mean that it will succeed in suppressing the motivation or will succeed in eliminating the infrastructure for a renewed outbreak of protests because the situation in Iran is very difficult and there doesn’t seem to be a positive horizon. But as we see things right now, with the level of violence and murder by which they are handling the protest, and there was probably a decrease in the scale of the protests yesterday, it is a likely scenario that they will succeed in suppressing it.

Published in Globes, January 14, 2026.



US launching second phase of Gaza peace plan, expects Hamas to 'fully comply'

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.01.2026
Prof. Kobi Michael: The main problem, which actually overlaps all the dimensions – political, security – is the idea that Hamas must be disarmed, dismantled and the Gaza Strip must be demilitarized. If these things will not happen, then nothing will happen.

Published in The Hill, January 14, 2026.



US Action on Iran Could Backfire by Unifying the Regime’s Base

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.01.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: Israel expects Washington to lead any operation, while preparing for escalation if Iran responds with strikes on Israeli territory. I think that the Israeli perception is that the United States will remain in the lead. But Israel prepares itself to be involved if the Iranians retaliate by attacking Israel. Israel will not contain it and will for sure pursue the beginning of the end of the regime.

If Trump wants to keep deterrence vis-à-vis all American adversaries, then he has to do something. Otherwise, if it will be only empty words, it will be a very problematic situation and can escalate to something way bigger.

Published in The Media Line, January 14, 2026.



New IDF initiative offers fast-track reserve duty for immigrants to Israel

written by Col. (res.) Dr. Hanan Shai | 15.01.2026
Col. (res.) Dr. Hanan Shai: The initiative addresses a fundamental reality: the IDF needs more people. The army must carefully manage the integration process to maximize benefits for all involved.

First of all, this confirms what we know… that we need every available person. From the perspective of the IDF, it is clear that this is a most important addition. One needs to see that they are not concentrated [in one place] but dispersed, so

that there is a matching [to roles] as there should be.

The full interview was published in JNS on January 13, 2026.



Why Israel Should Fund Its Own War-Fighting Executive Summary

written by Dr. Raphael BenLevi | 15.01.2026

Dr. Raphael BenLevi argues for transitioning the Israel-U.S. relationship from “patronage to partnership” by phasing out the military grant model that has existed since the 1970s. He contends that this shift would incentivize Israel to rebuild its independent munitions manufacturing base, thereby reducing strategic dependency and earning greater respect from Washington as a self-reliant ally.

The full interview took place on Channel I24 on January 11, 2026.

https://youtu.be/ptw5k9R0B0U

Iran’s “Ring of Fire”: An Existential Threat to Israel

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.01.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael characterizes the events surrounding October 7 as a “clash of civilizations” and a global conflict, explaining that Iran utilizes a “fire ring” strategy of regional proxies to threaten the existence of the state of Israel. He argues that the war cannot conclude without the complete dismantling of Hamas’s military and governing power, warning that a failure to achieve a decisive victory will allow radical Islam to eventually conquer Western democracies.

The briefing was held as part of Abraham Presentations on January 9, 2026.

The Crisis in South Yemen and the Saudi-UAE Rivalry

written by Noa Lazimi | 15.01.2026

Noa Lazimi details how the UAE-backed STC’s territorial gains in South Yemen provide a strategic opportunity to weaken the Houthis and disrupt Iranian smuggling, despite ongoing friction between Saudi and Emirati interests. Simultaneously, Israel’s recognition of Somaliland secures a critical vantage point for intelligence and UAV operations near the Bab el-Mandeb strait. She recommends pragmatic cooperation with these regional actors to counter Houthi threats while carefully safeguarding normalization efforts with Saudi Arabia.

The briefing was held as part of IDSF – Israel's Defense and Security Forum on January 6, 2026.

Expert Panel on 2026

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.01.2026
Prof. Kobi Michael: The region is caught up in competition that is defining new power relationships, involving Israel, Turkey, Iran, and leading Gulf states, above all Saudi Arabia. So, it's in a highly unstable transition.

Turkey that seeks to renew its Ottoman hegemony, backed, supported and admired by president Trump and broadly deployed in the broader Middle East and East Africa.

Published in Alhurra, January 05, 2026.



Mar-a-Lago Through Arab Eyes: Power, Turkey, Iran, and the Cost of Trump’s Diplomacy

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.01.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: What Trump eventually did was to flatter Netanyahu in a very grotesque manner—sometimes even embarrassing. But at the end of the day, this was camouflage. The real message was not the praise. The real message was about expectations. Those expectations, center on Turkey.

One of the main outcomes of this meeting is that Turkey, at the end of the day, will be part of the story. This is very important for President Trump. Netanyahu may be willing to make compromises in this regard, but not because Israel wants Turkey there—certainly not in Gaza.

Nobody in Israel believes that Turkey will dismantle Hamas or confront it militarily. On the contrary, there is deep concern that Turkish involvement could legitimize Hamas politically and allow it to survive in a different form.

Published in The Media Line, January 04, 2026.

