Yoram Halevi appointed next head of COGAT

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 12.09.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: I see no problem with Yoram Halevi's appointment to the position. I think he has the background and the skills that can be suitable, certainly no less than another general in the army or a brigadier general who would be promoted to the rank of major general.

The problem is not in the appointment, but in the decision to place him in an IDF uniform with the rank of major general. I did not understand this move, as there have already been civilian heads of COGAT. COGAT is part of the Ministry of Defense and is subordinate to the Minister of Defense. Why could he not have been appointed to the position as a civilian?

The larger problem is the evolution of COGAT into an integral part of the IDF General Staff. The fact that COGAT has over the years become an inseparable part of the army, and the head of COGAT a part of the General Staff, is the problematic issue in my view. The essence of COGAT is civilian, and its entire reason for existence is in the connection and cooperation with the PA on a very wide range of civilian issues.

Security coordination can be separated from COGAT as was the case until 2001, leaving that part in the military, while the whole of COGAT can become a civilian body.

Published in JNS, September 12, 2025.



Strike on Qatar shows limits of Israel’s elusive quest to vanquish Hamas

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 12.09.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: Hamas may only control around a quarter of Gaza, but that’s where most of the population is. As long as the people of Gaza believe that Hamas is an option for a future governance … they will not support any other alternative.

Hamas doesn’t play games.

Published in AP & Independent, September 24, 2025.



Qatar: The Engine Behind Hamas’ Power

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 12.09.2025
Prof. Kobi Michael:I think the strike is very successful, regardless of the final outcomes. Even if not all the senior officials of Hamas’s external leadership were eventually killed, it is still a very clear signal from the Israeli side that they are no longer immune. They will be targeted anywhere, at any time.

What we saw today is something that should have been done two years ago, on October 8th, because Qatar is an enemy. Qatar is the biggest provider and

supporter of Hamas.

The full interview takes place on Channel I24, on September 9, 2025.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4B-iq3gjac

Western nations push for ‘Palestine’ at UN, Israeli experts urge strong response

written by Arsen Ostrovsky | 12.09.2025
Arsen Ostrovsky: Israel must make clear to other countries, as they have already, that they will not sit idly by in the face of unilateral recognitions of a Palestinian state. Israel did well to reject French President Emmanuel Macron’s recent request to visit Israel, and to revoke visas for Australian representatives in Ramallah.

The full interview was published in JNS on September 8, 2025.

It is imperative to stress that under international law, primarily the Montevideo Convention of 1933, statehood requires a permanent population, defined territory, effective governance, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states.

The Palestinians meet none of these criteria. Hamas are still the de-facto rulers in Gaza, while Abbas has not held elections in 20 years. Final borders have not been negotiated.



Israel cannot accept even a single demand of Hamas

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 12.09.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: I think that what actually they say is something that Israel can never accept… Israel cannot accept even a single demand of Hamas. Israel cannot end the war as long as Hamas remains on its feet as even a weaker sovereign power in the Gaza Strip.

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The interview took place on ILTV on September 4, 2025.

Qatar’s Alarming Influence in the West

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 12.09.2025

Ruth Wasserman Lande on I24 discusses Qatar’s deep and sophisticated infiltration into decision-making systems in the United States, the UK, and Europe. She highlights how this influence, orchestrated by Sheamosa (the mother of the Amir of Qatar), targets various institutions including schools, colleges, soccer clubs, think tanks, and politicians. She contrasts Qatar’s open exercise of influence with the allegations sometimes made against Israel regarding its political sway, expressing that Qatar’s methods are mind-bogglingand very very scary.

The full interview took place on Channel I24, on September 1, 2025.

Gaza Protests Urge International Intervention as Israel Prepares Assault

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 12.09.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: Israel’s strategy is to empty Gaza City of civilians before moving in. The idea is to evacuate the city entirely from citizens, and then to occupy the city and to give Hamas militants the chance to surrender or to be killed.

The war is unlike any other, with Hamas embedded in a densely populated city fortified by hundreds of miles of tunnels. He suggested that Israel might

temporarily administer the Strip before handing governance to an Arab-led mission force.

Published in The Media Line, August 31, 2025.



Hamas's Unacceptable Existence and Gaza's Future

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 12.09.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael argues that Israel cannot accept the continued existence of Hamas in the Gaza Strip because the organization refuses to disarm and intends to persist in its activities, an intolerable situation along Israel's borders. He describes Gaza as "totally destructed" and proposes a future model involving local governance supported by a regional Arab mission force, emphasizing that Hamas was elected and supported by the Gazans themselves, bringing about this

“catastrophe”.

The interview took place on Swedish Radio on August 30, 2025.

https://youtu.be/sjTWNUAMM1M

‘Hamas is very popular in Judea and Samaria’

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 12.09.2025

Meir Ben Shabbat: A political rivalry exists between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, and there is a competition for public support. According to various polls, Hamas is currently very popular among the residents of Judea and Samaria, while Abu Mazen [Mahmoud Abbas] and the Palestinian Authority lag behind and are viewed negatively by a considerable part of the public

From time to time, criticism is heard from senior PA officials against Hamas, mainly about the suffering caused to the population because of it. There is no real impact from these statements. It is clear to everyone that they are said to bash Hamas and to create a distinction between it and the PA.

Published in JNS, August 27, 2025.



UN’s own data shows most of its aid is looted

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 12.09.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: Not only did human rights organizations and many media outlets base their faulty reports on information published by Gaza’s Ministry of Health, which is run by Hamas, they also did not “take the nature of Hamas seriously.

Hamas is not the most reliable source in the world. he international media and other sources do not consider the interests of Hamas, or its strategy, and they do not seem to acknowledge that Hamas wants a chaotic situation in the Gaza Strip. Hamas wants there to be many casualties among Palestinian civilians, because it serves their interests.

Just to listen to what Hamas leaders have been saying since October 7. They have promised to repeat October 7 again and again, they have called on the Arab world to join the armed resistance against Israel and on the Arab public to pressure their regimes.

They have also said publicly, and loudly, that they have no problem sacrificing another 100,000 Palestinian civilians for the sake of the victory.

Published in Nation 509, August 24, 2025.

