Long overdue and urgent

written by David M. Weinberg | 15.06.2025
David M. Weinberg: In a short briefing for MIFF, the Scandinavian pro-Israel lobby: Elimination of the Iranian threat to Israel was long overdue and urgent.

Long overdue – given Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthi assaults on Israel; Iran's two massive missile assaults on Israel over the past year; and Iran's three-decade long ballistic missile and nuclear buildups and its explicit intent to use them to destroy Israel.

Urgent – because over the past year and especially in recent months Iran moved to near nuclear breakout including enrichment of uranium to military bomb levels and actual weaponization. (In this latter regard, note the unprecedented IAEA denouncement of Iran just four days ago.)

Key targets are:

1. Degrading Iran's nuclear weapons program
2. Dismantling Iran's ballistic missile arsenal
3. Eliminating Iran's ground assault capabilities against Israel
4. Establishing conditions for a diplomatic arrangement that prevents Iran from ever developing a military nuclear capability.

A short briefing for MIFF, the Scandanavian pro-Israel lobby. 14 June, 2025.

https://youtu.be/mfYMOYuF5wk

Is Saudi-Israel normalization still on track?

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 15.06.2025
Meir Ben Shabbat: Saudi Arabia's fundamental interest in establishing relations

with Israel has not changed. It will be difficult for it to do so while a war is ongoing, but that doesn't mean it has backed away from this goal.

Saudi Arabia's strategic calculus is shaped not only by its national interests but also by a shared desire to see Hamas, and by extension the Muslim Brotherhood, eliminated as a regional force. Even if it does not declare it publicly, Saudi Arabia certainly wants Israel to defeat Hamas.

Published in JNS, June 15, 2025.



Iran's Strategic Fragility Revealed

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.06.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: Iran is in a very problematic strategic position very

vulnerable, very fragile country. for decades they tried to to shape their image as the hegemonic power here in the Middle East and they u dared to threaten not only Israel but even superpowers like the United States of America. I think that now Everybody finds out that there is a very embarrassing gap between Iran that we thought it is and the Iran that we see now. They will continue making their efforts in order to retaliate. They prepare themselves for a long war or at least of some weeks forward and therefore they want to to keep their capacities to retiliate in each day otherwise they will be in a reimbursing situation.

The interview took place on Channel I24 on June 15, 2025.

https://youtu.be/-BGQk0HOIao

Between Airstrikes and Red Lines

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.06.2025
Prof. Kobi Michael: The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) operation is ongoing and continuous, involving more than just the Israeli Air Force, with other capabilities on the ground in Iranian soil and beyond. The IDF has a bank of targets and clear objectives to accomplish. The operation is described as being at “the beginning of the beginning,” with many targets yet to be hit, after “cleaning and opening the sky above Iran”.

Iran has experienced humiliation in the past, raising a white flag in the 1988 war against Iraq, a moment described as the supreme leader “drinking from the cup of the poison”. It is not “absurd” to assume Iran would raise the white flag again under specific conditions if continuing the war severely threatened the survival of the regime or the country. The decision for Iran to end conflict is viewed as a “strategic calculation” rather than a question of humiliation.

The interview took place on Channel I24, 15 June, 2025.

https://youtu.be/RHgM6i6Yxrk

How Iranian retaliation could draw in US forces and set the Middle East on fire

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.06.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: Depending on the Iranian retaliation, the conflict could become a war of regime change that could involve a joint US-Israeli invasion of Iran.

If the Iranians will do the mistake of attacking civilian or infrastructure facilities in Israel, then Israel will attack all of the oil facilities and some other national infrastructures in Iran, and it will be a disaster for the Iranians.

And if the Iranians will do the second mistake and attack American assets or American bases or American military compounds in the broader Middle East, then they will find the Americans on the Iranian soil together with the Israelis. And we are in the beginning of the end of the Iranian regime.

Published in MSN, June 13, 2025.



Israel vs. Radical Islam: A Fight for the Free World

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 15.06.2025

Ruth Wasserman Lande: Iran, in fact, not Iran, the Islamic regime of Iran has made very very clear over years that it wants to destroy the state of Israel. That it has an antagonistic and a very challenging view about what should become of the state of Israel. And that is because it wants hegemony over the Islamic world.

In terms of capability, it's been building its nuclear arsenal for years. We've been warning this the AEI, in other words, the roof organization or the body that has been supervising in inverted commas the capabilities of Iran in the nuclear sphere has only recently come out and unprecedentedly said that Iran has been hiding. We've been saying this for years.

The interview took place on Fox News, on June 13, 2025.

Iran’s Rhetoric vs. Reality

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 15.06.2025
Ruth Wasserman Lande: There is at least one pleasant aspect about the current speech by the leader of the Iranian regime — and it’s not the content. The only appealing part is the language he uses. Persian is undeniably a beautiful language. As for the substance of what he’s saying — it’s utterly absurd.

Interestingly, in this round of talks, Iran has made things unusually easy, which is surprising. They outright rejected the offer made by President Trump — something he certainly didn’t appreciate. In fact, their response almost embarrassed him on the international stage.

The interview took place on Channel I24 on June 9, 2025.

With increasing pressure from the West, can Israel resist a China charm offensive?

written by Ruth Pines-Feldman | 15.06.2025
Ruth Pines-Feldman: The Trump and Biden administrations both viewed China as the main threat. U.S. President Donald Trump’s recent visit to the Middle East was meant to push back against China’s growing ties with American allies in the region, and as such, we may see the Trump administration pressure Israel to stop

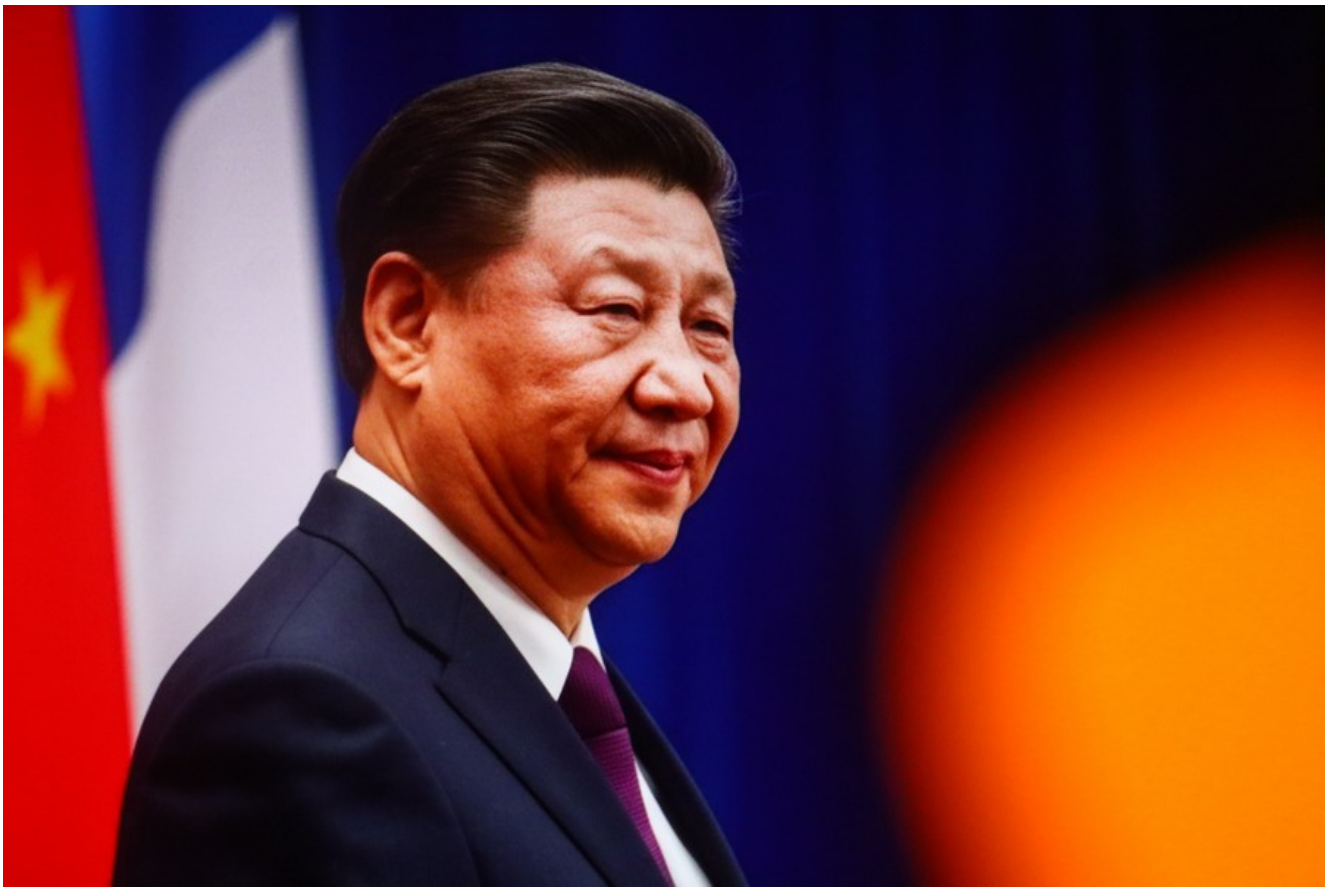
cooperation with China.

They clearly don’t like cooperation between Israel and China, but Israel, as a small and threatened country, did the right thing to keep up relations not only with the U.S. but with the other rising power in the world. The U.S. was right not to pressure Israel to cancel its contract with CRRC.

Israel needs to continue with its system of extra oversight for foreign companies working in major infrastructure projects in order to ensure that Israeli interests, including relations with the U.S., aren’t harmed. She also pointed to concerns about China’s close relations with Russia and Iran as a reason to be cautious.

We need to be careful about this and continue our special supervision mechanism, but it would not be good to cut off ties. We need to find a balance. Israel has to know how to handle both powers and use the competition between them for our own good. That’s the political game.

Published in Jewish Insider, June 6, 2025.



‘Hamas can no longer operate as an organized military framework’

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.06.2025

Professor Kobi Michael: Hamas is definitely in real strategic distress. Its entire command and control mechanism has been destroyed. Other than the Gaza Brigade commander, Ezzidin al-Haddad, there is no senior figure left capable of managing the organization as an organized military framework.

Published in JNS, June 04, 2025.



Who is Mohammed Sinwar, the Hamas military figure Israel says it killed?

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 15.06.2025

Prof. Kobi Michael: Sinwar was a key figure in Hamas's military wing and took over his brother's role in negotiations. Even when his brother was leading the talks, Mohammed was the harder-line, more rejectionist and more rigid figure.

Killing Hamas's Gaza-based leaders strengthens its leadership overseas, which tends to be more open to negotiating with Israel. While not yet accepting Israel's terms, it is more flexible than the leadership in Gaza.

Published in The Washington Post, May 31, 2025.

