What is needed for for Saudi Arabi to be involved in Gaza?

written by Asher Fredman | 16.09.2024

Asher Fredman: The leadership in the United Arab Emirates and Morocco prepared the ground for a warm peace between their nations and Israel. They ensured that Israelis could not only walk around safely in their countries, but would also be welcomed with open arms. We sell water and gas to Jordan and Egypt, and there is some tourism, but there is antisemitic incitement in the public sphere, in the media and in the education system there, and there was never a connection between the peoples, resulting in the fact that when the pressure increased a little, the public pressure was also very stifling. Even though the governments did not cut ties, the very hostile atmosphere affected the leaders' ability to maneuver moves, which did not happen in the countries of the Abraham Accords, where public opinion has been damaged and we no longer see festivals and large public conferences like before the war. But on the other hand, the leaders said that we are maintaining with ties with Israel, and we will not allow extremists, like Iran's Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, to burn these ties.

Published in Arutz 7, September 16, 2024.



Israeli Strategy in Question as War with Iranian Proxies Expands

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 16.09.2024
Prof. Kobi Michael: Without a major breakthrough in Gaza, there will be no breakthrough in the other arenas.

As long as Hamas has the responsibility and control over the supply of humanitarian aid to the civilian population, this creates the impression that Hamas is still the governing power and will remain so after the war, This can only be changed with a permanent Israeli military presence, making it responsible for the distribution of aid while preventing Hamas from regrouping.

Published in The Media Line and Ynet, September 15, 2024.



Trump – Harris debate

written by Prof. Zaki Shalom | 16.09.2024

Prof. Zaki Shalom: Most of the Jewish community in the United States still supports the Democratic Party, almost 70% of them, until now, are supportive of the Democratic Party. Maybe now, because of Trump's campaign, things will change. But when Kamala Harris says she is supporting an immediate ceasefire – what does she mean? She means that Israel needs to stop the war without achieving its goals, that Hamas will remain in power in Gaza and the attack of Oct. 7 might be repeated again from Gaza. It's nice words to say we're supporting a ceasefire, but for Israel right now this is actually labelling it as a defeated state.

The other component of her speech was the support for the two-state solution. She knows very well that this Israeli government is totally rejecting this position, and she knows that even the Knesset has been rejecting it. We see what's going on now in Judea and Samaria, which is very close to the Israeli central populated

areas. If God forbids, what happened on October 7 might start from Kalkilya or Tulkarem, it’s going to be in Tel-Aviv, Natanya or other places. So she knows it, and these views of hers are not really pleasant to Israeli ears.

Published on ILTV, September 11, 2024.

Iran exploiting Jordanian border ‘blind spot’

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 16.09.2024
Prof. Kobi Michael: Smuggling on that border always existed and it involved terrorist elements of arms smuggling, including shootings, but the scope was much smaller. The Jordanians are trying to curb the phenomenon, but just as Israel face challenges in doing so, so does the Hashemite Kingdom.

Published in JNS, September 10, 2024.



Philadelphi issue strains Israel-Egypt bilateral relations

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 16.09.2024

Reporter Mark Weiss spoke with Ruth Wasserman Lande about the question over the security arrangements for the Philadelphi corridor , the 14-kilometer route along the Egypt-Gaza border, has increased tension between Israel and Egypt. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued a strongly-worded response to PM Netanyahu's accusation implying Egypt had helped smuggle weapons across the Philadelphi Corridor.

Cairo is demanding the IDF's immediate withdrawal from the Rafah terminal and

from the Philadelphi Corridor.

September 8, 2024.

https://youtu.be/aAVYpqnH7qw

Has Hamas partially restored capabilities in northern Gaza?

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 16.09.2024
Prof. Kobi Michael: While Hamas was rebuilding its forces to some extent, it was “certainly” not replacing what it had lost. It still cannot function in an organized military formation. It is making efforts to recruit youths to fill the ranks, but it does not have the ability to train them, so this is a limited achievement. They are mainly turning into cannon fodder.

However there is no doubt that it will continue to make an effort to recover [in northern Gaza], including militarily, and its achievements will be more significant if Israel is not there in the form of a fixed military presence, a military administration. A general siege on the area until the remainder of Hamas’s remaining organized forces is destroyed is also needed.

Published in JNS, September 5, 2024.



The Philadelphi conundrum

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 16.09.2024

Meir Ben Shabbat: There are those who believe that we can temporarily relinquish control—for 42 days—until the first phase of the deal is completed, and then, if the deal does not progress, return and regain control of the area.

Of course, the IDF has the ability, operationally, [to] reoccupy this corridor even after 42 days, but it’s not just a matter of military capability. Everyone understands that once we leave, Israel will face immense diplomatic pressure from the U.S. and other countries not to return.

Published in JNS, September 5, 2024.



Why Is the UK Halting Some Arms Sales to Israel?

written by Col. (res.) Dr. Hanan Shai | 16.09.2024

Col. (res.) Dr. Hanan Shai in Media Line: Israel has historically benefited from past embargoes by shifting to local manufacturing and developing systems tailored precisely to its needs. This process, even when interrupted, has expanded Israel's knowledge base and led to the development of additional systems that enhance its overall capabilities.

This was the case with the Israeli-manufactured Lavi fighter jet, developed after France's post-1967 embargo, which blocked the delivery of Mirage 5 fighter-bombers to the Israeli Air Force. Concerns over future disruptions in weapons and military systems led to the project, which was later canceled due to high costs, though the expertise gained was invaluable.

Israel has gained from weapons embargos in the past. On the basis of the Lavi, Israel produced many systems that are used until today.

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UK’s move to bar some arms from Israel is symbolic, but that matters

written by Col. (res.) Dr. Hanan Shai | 16.09.2024

Col. (res.) Dr. Hanan Shai: It marks a policy change from the previous government and says a lot about the relations of the new government with the current government of Israel. This decision to partially suspend arms exports to Israel is followed by the decision to resume the funding of UNRWA and to drop the predecessor’s query of the International Criminal Court’s (ICC) jurisdiction to issue an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. The implementation will be more diplomatic and less about Israel's security.

Published in Breaking defense, September 3, 2024.



US Prefers a Dependent Israel Over a Self-Sustaining Ally

written by Prof. Zaki Shalom | 16.09.2024

Prof. Zaki Shalom: Netanyahu will never accept to give up the corridor completely. There could be minor changes, mainly in the number of troops and their deployment, but there will still be an Israeli military presence. If Israel withdraws from Gaza, it won't be able to enter back afterward.

America is not able to exert significant pressure on Israel right now. Biden's

biased approach in the past months has damaged America’s reliability in the region and has shown his moderate response to American citizens’ deaths. So, if the States try to push for a change of the agreement, this will lead to the final loss of its credibility as an ally all over the world, plus democrats will lose Jewish voters at the elections, which may favor Trump.

Published in The Media Line, September 04, 2024.

