

# Ep. 14: What Happens Next in Gaza?

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

On this week's episode of Mideast Horizons, Lahav and Asher speak with Prof. Kobi Michael, one of the world's top experts on Israeli-Palestinian relations, who served as a founding Commander of the Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation apparatus. Prof. Michael, who today serves as a Senior Fellow at the Misgav Institute for National Security, argues that Hamas' DNA will not allow it to truly change, and that the terror group has no intention of demilitarizing. He presents a plan for establishing an alternative to Hamas in parts of Gaza, and for working with President Trump to ensure continued close U.S.-Israel cooperation even in the face of renewed terror activity in the Strip.

Prof. Michael also draws on his vast experience to analyze the challenges and threats likely to arise from the Palestinian Authority in Judea and Samaria (West Bank) in the near future. He suggests potential paths forward toward realizing Palestinian national aspirations in a way that does not endanger the security of the State of Israel.

In the first segment, Lahav and Asher discuss overlooked aspects of President Trump's speech to the Israeli Knesset, and of the "Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity" signed by the U.S., Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey at Sharm el-Sheikh. They analyze the current prospects for expanding the Abraham Accords and regional cooperation, including with Indonesia. They also explore the key issues and complexities that will arise in the upcoming stage of negotiations on Phase 2 of President Trump's 20-point plan.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0gNfCcZvCLp43dXMSrqfp5?si=A9nQTVn3ScCGxEhaWMmKeA&nd=1&dlsi=cb3d6e6bc17c4565>



**Apple:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/countdown-to-snapback-sanctions-on-iran/i>

# Ep. 13: Trump's Peace Plan and the Future of U.S.-Israel Relations

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

In this episode, Lahav and Asher speak with Dr. Victoria Coates, former Deputy National Security Advisor under President Trump and now Vice President of The Heritage Foundation, about the Trump peace plan's chances for success and its impact on the future of U.S.-Israel relations. Dr. Coates explains why the U.S.-Israel alliance is vital to American national security, how to counter antisemitism on college campuses, and what role Israel should play in America's strategy vis-à-vis China. In the first segment, Lahav and Asher delve into Hamas' response to Trump's peace plan and its implications for the next stage of negotiations. They also analyze Israel's successes and failures in handling the PR challenge posed by the latest Gaza flotilla, led by Greta Thunberg, and discuss the potential timeline for upcoming Israeli elections.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0gNfCcZvCLp43dXMSrqfp5?si=A9nQTVn3ScCGxEhaWMmKeA&nd=1&dlsi=cb3d6e6bc17c4565>



**Apple:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/countdown-to-snapback-sanctions-on-iran/i-d1822734204?i=1000727151332>

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# Ep. 12: Live Episode - What Does the Trump Deal Mean for Israel?

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

<https://youtu.be/0pO0BLqQnnI>

In this week's episode of *Mideast Horizons*, Asher and Lahav go live after U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's press conference presenting the 20-point plan to end the war in Gaza. The co-hosts discuss the likelihood of Hamas agreeing to release all of the hostages, the contradictions in the statements about what will happen if Hamas rejects the deal, a possible role for the Palestinian Authority, and the nature of a future international force in Gaza.

While hopeful that the deal will lead to the rapid return of all the hostages, they also express skepticism about the plan's ability to achieve lasting peace, citing Hamas's determination to maintain its power on the ground and the political implications for Israel's government.

This week's guest is Dr. Adi Schwartz, a leading expert on the Israeli-Palestinian arena and co-author (with Dr. Einat Wilf) of the book *The War of Return*. Dr. Schwartz argues that the Palestinian refugee issue, perpetuated by UNRWA, is a core obstacle to peace and that any plan to end the war in Gaza will not be effective without addressing this issue.

Schwartz emphasizes UNRWA's artificial inflation of the number of Palestinian refugees to over six million, compared to fewer than 10,000 actual Palestinian refugees under international refugee-status criteria. He contends that this status fuels the Palestinian narrative of a "right of return" to Israel, preventing acceptance of Israel's existence as a Jewish state. Schwartz argues that without ideological change, reconstruction efforts will only lead to further conflict.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0gNfCcZvCLp43dXMSrqfp5?si=A9nQTVn3ScCGxEhaWMmKeA&nd=1&dlsi=cb3d6e6bc17c4565>



**Apple:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/countdown-to-snapback-sanctions-on-iran/id1822734204?i=1000727151332>

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# Ep. 11 - Countdown to snapback sanctions on Iran

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

<https://youtu.be/pL9nM4svvHE>

This week's episode features sanctions expert Richard Goldberg, who recently left the Trump administration, discussing the upcoming snapback sanctions on Iran. Rich explains the process that is set to take place later this month, and the significance of restoring international sanctions on Iran's nuclear and missile programs. The conversation delves into the strategic and economic impact of sanctions on Iran, stripping Iran of international legitimacy for its nuclear and missile activities and weakening its economy. The episode also explores the importance of US-Israel missile defense cooperation, and why the U.S. can't seem to quit cooperation with Qatar.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0gNfCcZvCLp43dXMSrqfp5?si=A9nQTVn3ScCGxEhaWMmKeA&nd=1&dlsi=cb3d6e6bc17c4565>



**Apple:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/countdown-to-snapback-sanctions-on-iran/id1822734204?i=1000727151332>

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# Ep. 10: How Can Israel Prevent Another October 7?

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

On this week's episode, Lahav and Asher interview Israeli-American journalist Yaakov Katz, co-author of the new book *While Israel Slept: How Hamas Surprised the Most Powerful Military in the Middle East*. Yaakov exposes in detail the intelligence and strategic failures that enabled the Hamas attack, and just as importantly- the lessons that Israel must learn in order to avoid another October 7-scale disaster.

Yaakov also discusses his work as co-founder of the Middle East-America Dialogue (MEAD) policy forum, a unique platform bringing together leaders from the U.S., Israel and across the Middle East, including from countries with which Israel has no formal ties.

In the first part of the episode, Lahav and Asher discuss the implications of the latest terror attacks in Jerusalem, the debate over applying Israeli sovereignty to parts of Judea and Samaria (West Bank), and the proposal put forward by President Trump to end the war in Gaza.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4s6N4ia7yJNGcyN0O3uxx8?si=AldsvnKgT-eHHvOdNaDO9Q&nd=1&dlsi=e6041f9e34a84d4c>



**Apple:**<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/michael-eisenberg-on-ai-abraham-ac-cords-and-why-hes/id1822734204?i=1000721766817>

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# Ep. 9: Ambassador Leiter - Democrats, Republicans, and the Future of U.S.-Israel Relations

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

In this episode, Lahav and Asher speak with Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Yechiel Leiter, about his efforts to engage both Democrats and Republicans, the future of U.S.-Israel cooperation, and the deep civilizational struggle shaping the Middle East. He explains why France's and other European countries' intent to recognize a Palestinian state would be destabilizing and destructive for the region, and discusses ongoing planning for the future of Gaza without Hamas.

Ambassador Leiter also shares deeply personal reflections on how he draws strength and inspiration from the memory of his son, Major Moshe Leiter—a father of six, physician, and elite IDF officer—who fell while leading troops into battle in Gaza on November 10, 2023.

In the opening segment, Lahav and Asher examine the dramatic challenges and dilemmas facing Israel this September in Gaza and at the UN, the consequences of renewed sanctions on Iran following the activation of the Snapback mechanism, and the upcoming five-year anniversary of the Abraham Accords.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4s6N4ia7yJNGcyN0O3uxx8?si=AldsvnKgT-eHHvOdNaDO9Q&nd=1&dlsi=e6041f9e34a84d4c>



**Apple:**<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/michael-eisenberg-on-ai-abraham-accords-and-why-hes/id1822734204?i=1000721766817>

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# Ep. 8: Michael Eisenberg on AI, Abraham Accords and Why He's Bullish about Israel's Future

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

In this episode, Michael Eisenberg — Co-Founder of Aleph and one of Israel's leading venture capitalists and public thinkers — dives deep into the future of AI and national security, repairing Israel's economy and politics, and how Israel and its Abraham Accords partners can help transform the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. He shares strategies for improving Israel's narrative in the West, and explains why leaders like Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron should take lessons from the Israeli model — or risk disaster.

Despite the challenges and tragedies Israel faces, Eisenberg explains why he remains optimistic about its future — and why he's betting on a new generation of Israeli leaders.

In the first segment, Lahav and Asher discuss Israel's plans for an expanded operation in Gaza, the drop in American public opinion and its implications for Israel's war strategy, and avenues for advancing the Abraham Accords five years after UAE-Israel normalization.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4s6N4ia7yJNGcyN0O3uxx8?si=AldsvnKgT-eHHvOdNaDO9Q&nd=1&dlsi=e6041f9e34a84d4c>



**Apple:**<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/michael-eisenberg-on-ai-abraham-accords-and-why-hes/id1822734204?i=1000721766817>

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# Ep. 7: What's next in Gaza?

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

In this episode, Lahav and Asher speak with Brigadier General (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, former Head of Research in IDF Intelligence, and former Director-General of the Strategic Affairs Ministry, about Israel's options in Gaza, lessons from the 2005 Disengagement, and what Israel can do to counter international delegitimization. Kuperwasser explains the logic behind plans for taking over all of Gaza, shares insights from his conversations with Ariel Sharon regarding leaving the Philadelphi Corridor, and responds to the former senior military and security officials who are calling to end the war and leave Hamas in power.

Kuperwasser, who served as a Senior Fellow at the Misgav Institute for National Security and today directs the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, also shares his insights into the future of the Palestinian arena in the post -Abbas era.

In the first segment of this episode, Lahav and Asher analyze the upcoming decisions regarding the Gaza operation, the true implications of the demands being made of Israel to ensure the provision of sufficient food to every Gazan, despite efforts by Hamas and criminal gangs to divert aid, and the recent votes in the U.S. Senate regarding military sales to Israel.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4s6N4ia7yJNGcyN0O3uxx8?si=AldsvnKgT-eHHvOdNaDO9Q&nd=1&dlsi=e6041f9e34a84d4c>



**Apple:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/should-haredim-be-drafted-into-the-idf/id1822734204?i=1000719791015>



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# Ep. 6: Should Haredim be Drafted into the IDF?

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

In this episode, Lahav and Asher discuss the contentious issue of drafting Haredim (the Ultra-Orthodox) into the IDF with two parliamentarians on opposing sides of the debate - Members of Knesset Moshe (Kinley) Tur-Paz, of the Yesh Atid party, and Moshe Roth, of the United Torah Judaism party. They dive into topics such as the true needs of the IDF following October 7, whether sanctions and penalties will lead more Haredi youth to serve, the deep changes taking place in the Haredi community - and whether the Israeli Government will fall apart over this issue.

In the first part of the episode, Lahav and Asher explore the acrimonious debate over the entrance of food to Gaza, the claims of starvation made by the media, and Israel's response (or lack thereof). They also discuss the fast-approaching deadlines to reapply sanctions to Iran via the Snapback mechanism, and potential clashes between Israel and Europe over negotiations with Tehran.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4s6N4ia7yJNGcyN0O3uxx8?si=AldsvnKgT-eHHvOdNaDO9Q&nd=1&dlsi=e6041f9e34a84d4c>



**Apple:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/should-haredim-be-drafted-into-the-idf/id1822734204?i=1000719791015>

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# Ep. 5: What is really happening between Israel and Christians?

written by Misgav Institute | 16.10.2025

In this episode, Lahav and Asher tackle recent headlines involving Israel's relations with the Christian world, both addressing misinformation and exploring ways for Israel to enhance ties with local and international Christian communities. Plus, they delve into the latest Israeli political developments, including how the contentious issue of drafting ultra-Orthodox Israelis is weakening the governing coalition in the Knesset.

This week's guest is Middle East expert Ruth Wasserman Lande, former Deputy Ambassador to Egypt, Advisor to President Shimon Peres, and Member of Knesset. Ruth, currently a Senior Fellow at the Misgav Institute for National Security, discusses the various threats facing Israel on multiple fronts—both those making headlines and those quietly simmering beneath the surface. They explore the evolving realities in Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, examining how Israel can effectively address the growing challenges on its borders to the south, north and east.



**Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6CgxNEMxSgupBZCFzlxVat?si=fPqKusw6QF2aFzykDOgInA&nd=1&dlsi=662e204fcbd64118>



**Apple:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-is-really-happening-between-israel-and-christians/id1822734204?i=1000718649809>