

Abbas faces pressure over whether to postpone long-delayed Palestinian elections

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 03.09.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: Abbas had “a good reason” to want to postpone, given the recent developments with Dahlan and Hamas. Fatah is very unpopular among the Palestinian constituency, and Hamas is too, but a third political force might be much more popular.

Abu Mazen [Abbas] understands that losing the general election means losing the presidential election and he will prefer not to take the risk.

I have good reason to believe that if the national party is established and decides to participate in the election, Israel will find a way to help Abu Mazen postpone the election because it poses a real and substantial threat and risk of legitimizing Hamas as a political actor.

It would weaken the PA and enable Hamas to hold both ends of the rope: to continue to lead the armed resistance against Israel and at the very same time to become a legitimate influential political actor.

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