Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip lacks significant incentive for substantial concessions

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 27.04.2024

Prof. Kobi Michael: Unfortunately, I am skeptical about the possibility of a breakthrough in negotiations with Hamas regarding the hostages. In my opinion, Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip lacks significant incentive for substantial concessions. They feel that time is working in their favor, not only time but also the United States and the international community, exerting pressure on Israel and criticizing its actions. In my view, only a combination of three efforts: military effort, American pressure on Qatar to exert significant pressure on Hamas, and the establishment of an immediate alternative to Hamas in the northern Gaza Strip, could increase the likelihood of a breakthrough in negotiations. It's important to understand that even in the event of a deal, Hamas will not release all the hostages, as they serve as the ultimate insurance policy for them to ensure their survival in Gaza. Their survival is their ultimate victory in their eyes.

The interview took place on the BBC News, 27.4.2024.

https://youtu.be/06hNbn47WA8