

Mar-a-Lago Through Arab Eyes: Power, Turkey, Iran, and the Cost of Trump's Diplomacy

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 04.01.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: What Trump eventually did was to flatter Netanyahu in a very grotesque manner—sometimes even embarrassing. But at the end of the day, this was camouflage. The real message was not the praise. The real message was about expectations. Those expectations, center on Turkey.

One of the main outcomes of this meeting is that Turkey, at the end of the day, will be part of the story. This is very important for President Trump. Netanyahu may be willing to make compromises in this regard, but not because Israel wants Turkey there—certainly not in Gaza.

Nobody in Israel believes that Turkey will dismantle Hamas or confront it militarily. On the contrary, there is deep concern that Turkish involvement could legitimize Hamas politically and allow it to survive in a different form.

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