

The problematic reopening of the Rafah border crossing

written by Prof. Kobi Michael | 11.02.2026

Prof. Kobi Michael: Under the current constraints, the reopening of the crossing is unlikely to have a major impact on Gaza.

There are many layers of control between the various security oversight mechanisms, and as of now, only pedestrians are crossing, and even that at very small numbers. In the beginning, this process will proceed very slowly and very cautiously, and won't significantly influence the internal politics of Gaza.

Even without a significant practical impact, the reopening of the crossing is likely to be used for political messaging. This is Gaza's exit to the world. From their perspective, it symbolizes sovereignty and Independence.

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