



## **Media Advisory** **February 1, 2024**

The American Middle East Press Association (AMEPA), a new, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to providing American journalists and media professionals with in-depth, nuanced insights into the complexities of the Middle East, held its first press briefing with three distinguished and influential thought leaders from Israel.

The briefing covered a wide range of topics including:

- US government stance on arms shipments to Israel
- Involvement of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) workers in the events of October 7
- Potential for a ceasefire in Gaza

Our three distinguished speakers were:

- Major General (retired) Giora Eiland: retired Major General of the Israel Defense Forces and a former head of the Israeli National Security Council
- Professor Kobi Michael, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Securities Studies (INSS) and the Institute for Zionist Strategies (IZS)
- Dr. Michal Hatuel-Radoshitzky, a lecturer at Tel Aviv University

Here are the key takeaways and highlights from the briefing:

- **Israel's Need for Decisive Victory:** The speakers highlighted the importance of Israel achieving a decisive victory to maintain deterrence capabilities.
- **Iranian and Hamas Strategies:** Detailed discussions on multi-front war strategies aimed at exhausting Israel, with the ultimate goal of ending the Zionist project.
- **Impact on Israeli Citizens:** Personal experiences shared, including the evacuation of thousands from northern Israel due to conflicts.
- **UNRWA Funding and Reforms:** Focus on the frozen UNRWA funding by 15 countries and the urgent need for reforms and eventual dismantling of the organization.
- **Complexities of the Middle East Conflict:** The briefing underscored the need for a clear political plan and understanding of the ideological dimensions of movements like Hamas.

- Role of State Actors like Hezbollah and Hamas: Discussion on treating these groups as semi-state or state actors and their implications for regional stability.
- Gaza's De Facto Statehood and War Nature: Contrasting Gaza's situation with Mosul and ISIS, emphasizing Gaza's advanced fortification and weaponry.

Here are key quotes from the speakers:

- Eiland: Unfortunately, we accepted the wrong narrative that were presented to us by the American administration, as if what happened in Gaza is similar to what happened in Iraq when the American forces and others had to fight ISIS and Mosul and other places. Now, there is no similarity, as I said, because Gaza is a state. And contrary to what President Biden said, that most of the people in Gaza hate Hamas, most of the people of Gaza, certainly until the 7th of October, were strongly supportive of Hamas.
- Michael: It is my opinion that the Palestinian Authority is totally irrelevant with regard to any future or Procedure in the Gaza Strip At least until it will go through a very significant reform process. First of all the personal authority is not capable to deal with each issues in the West Bank, so how it will be able to deal with the difficulties of the Gaza Strip.
- Hatuel-Radoshitzky: In general, the fact that we have such an organization such as UNRWA is that it perpetuates the status of the refugees, and that has become one of the core issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. UNRWA started out in 1949, we had about 700,000 refugees, and we are now with 5.9 million refugees, Palestinian refugees, many of whom are within the territories that will become a Palestinian state... So over one million refugees, so-called Palestinian refugees, are in the Gaza Strip, yet they are not catered for by the sovereign in Gaza.

Missed the Briefing?

We regret your absence at this critical briefing. However, we have compiled a detailed summary and a recording of our Zoom meeting, which you can access [HERE](#).

AMEPA is committed to fostering ongoing dialogue and understanding about these complex issues. We eagerly anticipate your participation in our future briefings, where we will continue to explore the dynamic and pivotal developments in the Middle East.

For more information: [info@AMEPress.org](mailto:info@AMEPress.org)

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