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Bring UAE into Gaza today, the Saudis later

Opinion: Abu Dhabi shares Israel's interest in removing Hamas from power in Gaza, weakening its ideology and cutting its ties to the Iranian axis, but to maintain relations with the Gulf nation, Israel will be made to pay a price

Yoel Guzansky / 19.3.24

As part of the preparations for the day after the war in Gaza, the United States is working toward a normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel and an active involvement of Riyadh in the Gaza Strip.

In Israel there is a similar expectation that moderate Arab states – the code name for the UAE and Saudi Arabia – would be more involved in Gaza and lead the financing of its rebuilding.

Resuming normalization efforts is a clear Israeli interest, spanning both sides of the political divide, although there is disagreement over the price that would be paid. Normalization with the Saudis would now require a heavier price than was discussed before the war, especially since anti-Israel sentiments have grown in the region.

The motive for the Gulf nation's involvement in Gaza stems from American incentives that would strengthen their stability and security, improve their public image on the international stage and yield financial gains. All those can be achieved through participation in the humanitarian efforts underway now, and later, in the reconstruction of large parts of the Strip.

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