

Blinken's Vows to Box Out Hamas on Aid 'Extremely Impractical'

Uri Cohen / May 26, 2021

Rebuilding Gaza likely to follow familiar path, expert says

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday continued his Middle East tour, meeting with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi and Jordanian King Abdullah after Tuesday's separate sit-downs with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

[...]

Kobi Michael, a senior researcher at the **Institute for National Security Studies**, believes these statements will be "extremely difficult to translate into practical terms."

"Even if you determine that the body in charge of administering the money is the Palestinian Authority, they'll still be in charge of, at best, the border crossings into Gaza, not the actual territory itself," he told The Media Line.

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Once these donations enter the Hamas-ruled coastal enclave, Michael explains, Ramallah no longer has control over them.

"Hamas isn't going to allow PA officials to oversee infrastructure projects in Gaza. But what you can do is complement the money transfers with robust mechanisms, put in place by Egypt and other international players, that will receive the money and manage the rebuilding efforts."

"Even then, the sovereign at the end of the day is Hamas and I don't see anyone confronting them. There may be minor improvements, but Hamas will likely still misuse a large proportion of these funds."

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