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# Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה  
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A weekly sample of news and opinions on current events from around the Middle East collected and brought to you by the Dayan Center.

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## [As Khamenei Takes Control He Loses Legitimacy / Editorial](#)

When Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, gave his unconditional endorsement to the overwhelming if hotly contested electoral win of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Friday, the question on everyone's mind was: is this the end of the mass movement that has shaken the Islamic Republic for a week? Or is this just the beginning of a more intense, perhaps more violent phase in an existential struggle between the two camps?

Source: **The National (Abu Dhabi), June 20, 2009**

## [Iran... What Should President Obama Do? / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



Voices in Washington criticizing the US President's silence over what is happening in Iran have begun to grow louder, calling upon President Obama to take action against what the Iranian regime is doing to its defenseless citizens. What should President Obama do? The answer is nothing! That's right, nothing, because the Iranian regime is eager for any US interference.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), June 21, 2009**

## [The Leader Who Committed Suicide / Nooshabeh Amiri](#)

In 1979 what moved us most was the zeal. Today however, while people are full of zeal, they are richer in wisdom. They have come out to say what they did not finish saying in 1979, which is: We are standing together and this is based on a principle. We have come here through our experience that the homework of democracy has to be done.

Source: **Rooz Online (Paris), June 16, 2009**

## [Iranian Election Results for Turkey / Lale Saribrahimoglu](#)

The official Turkish view on the outcome of Iran's controversial elections held last Friday, which resulted in hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's election for the second time, defeating a relatively moderate candidate, Mir Hossein Mousavi, is that this neighboring nation is Turkey's friend and it is ready to work with whoever takes office. As a matter of fact, Turkey learned a long time ago how to deal with this neighbor regardless of who comes to power.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), June 16, 2009**

## [Voices Behind Obama / Margot Badran](#)

In 1909 Egyptian women were refused admission as regular students to the newly founded Egyptian University. Twenty years later, in 1929, a group of women determined to get a higher education simply showed up at the university where they remained until their graduation four years later, where on 4 June 2009 President Obama delivered his words on women's rights, freedom and democracy that echoed those of Egyptian women 100 years before

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 952, 18 - 24 May 2009**

## [Confronting the Enemy Within / Aijaz Zaka Syed](#)

Hundreds of villagers in Pakistan's Northwest Province turned on Taliban fighters after a suicide attack on a mosque, showing that ordinary Muslims are sick and tired of this endless bloodshed and proving that what a tiny, lunatic fringe is doing in the name of Islam is nothing but a grave injustice to the great faith. It's time to confront the enemy within. This is what we badly need. We need more and more people across the Islamic world to follow in their footsteps.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 952, 18 - 24 May 2009**

## [Israel: Road Map to Nowhere / Aijaz Zaka Syed](#)

Israel is nothing if not consistent. Netanyahu did unveil a "road map" in his much-hyped speech but you do not know what to make of it. Having refused to acknowledge the existence of Palestinians all these years, Netanyahu has finally agreed to "peace" and a Palestinian state, if it can be called one. However, his one hand takes back what the other professes.

Source: **Arab News (Jeddah/KSA), June 19, 2009**