



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

# Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה  
The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies  
مركز موشيه ديان لدراسات الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا

Editor: **Bruce Maddy-Weitzman**  
Editorial Board: **Shoshana Shmulovitz, Michael Barak**

**No 087**

January 6, 2011

A weekly sample of news and opinions on current events from around the Middle East collected and brought to you by the Dayan Center.

To see full article, click on title.

## [Rami G. Khouri / 62 Years on, Peace is not Impossible](#)

The Arab-Israeli conflict is difficult to resolve, but not impossible. Israelis must come to grips with a “meaningful refugee choice on return and restitution” for Palestinian refugees everywhere, while Palestinians and Arabs must acknowledge that the state of Israel they say they are prepared to live with is a legitimate home and haven for Jews everywhere. The details of an agreement will be easier to work out once these principles are acknowledged and formally accepted.

Source: **Jordan Times (Amman), December 31, 2010**

## [Adel Safty / Defining Moment for Obama](#)

The Obama administration faces a defining moment. The Palestinians and the Arab bloc at the UN will present a draft resolution to the UN Security Council that declares colonies in the occupied territories to be illegal and to represent a major obstacle to peace. For Washington to veto the resolution will undoubtedly mean loss of credibility with the Palestinians and with much of the international community. To abstain or support it will send a message to Israel and breathe new life into the moribund peace process.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), January 3, 2011**

## [Husein Ibish / The Pros and Cons of Recognizing Palestine](#)

The diplomatic effort to secure bilateral recognition of a Palestinian state, especially in Latin America, or upgrades to the diplomatic status of Palestinian missions in the West is a net positive, as long as it does not undercut Palestinian relations with the United States. The American consensus in favor of ending the occupation and establishing a Palestinian state is the only real political leverage the Palestinians have that can actually achieve the goal of independence.

Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), December 28, 2010**

## [Tariq Alhomayed / A Lesson from a US Cable and the Egyptian Army](#)

A WikiLeaks document reveals American frustration with the Egyptian army’s conduct in fighting terror and guarding the border with Israel. But why has the US focused its criticism on the Egyptian army rather than the Israeli, as both receive American aid? Rationalism, internal cohesion, and guaranteeing the people a livelihood—these are what have ensured that regional countries were safe from the whims of an aggressive America during the George W. Bush era, as well as the whims of a peaceful America during President Obama’s presidency today.

Source: **Asharq Alawsat (London), January 1, 2011**

## [Fawaz Gerges / Lebanon Stares into the Abyss](#)

Once again, Lebanon is on the brink of major social and political upheaval. Identity politics and over-reliance on foreign intervention have made country a tinderbox that could be set off by the Hariri tribunal indictments. The country’s dilemma is structural; as long as Lebanon’s political class substitutes identity-politics for formal institutions, it will continue to be politically unstable. As long as Lebanon’s leaders rely on foreign intervention to tip the internal balance of power in their favor, they will remain passive bystanders in determining their country’s future.

Source: **Guardian (London), December 31, 2010**

## [Hani Raslan / How to Live with Two Sudans](#)

Never since 1956, when the country gained independence, has Sudan faced such a momentous time. On 9 January, a referendum is likely to break the country in half. Egypt worries that secession may not be the end of the road, for the rivalries that follow may leave the country utterly dismembered. Thus, Egypt is encouraging both the north and the south to avoid war at all cost. Secession, if appropriately handled, is something Egypt can live with. But a country slipping into chaos on its southern flank—another Somalia but on a much bigger scale—is nothing short of a nightmare.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), 30 December 2010**

## [Mümtazer Türkön / As the President Sings a Kurdish Song](#)

President Abdullah Gül sang along to a Kurdish song in Diyarbakır last Thursday. Its symbolic meaning is obvious to those who monitor developments in the Kurdish issue: not very long ago Kurdish music was forbidden in Turkey. The president is trying to ease the tension that was raised when the Democratic Society Congress announced its draft model for “democratic autonomy.” The president’s sincere effort is observed by all parties involved. But will he be successful?

Source: **Today’s Zaman (Istanbul), January 1, 2011**

All Rights Reserved © Moshe Dayan Center, 2011

Content excerpted in *Middle East News & Views* may contain copyrighted material, the use of which may not have been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. Such material is made available on a non-profit basis for educational and discussion purposes only. The “fair use” of such copyrighted material is provided for under U.S. Copyright Law (17 USC § 107). For more information, see: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes that go beyond “fair use,” you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.