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אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

Middle East News & Views

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

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No 088
January 13, 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.

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[Daoud Kuttab / Peace, not Process](#)

Public opinion polls consistently show that the majority of Israelis and Palestinians want actual peace. The people are tired of what has turned into a never-ending peace process. Peace between the conflicting parties east of the Mediterranean and west of the Jordan River can and must be achieved through negotiations. However, both parties will need to show equal interest in actual peace, or face an indeterminable future locked in process.

Source: **Maan News Agency (Bethlehem), January 6, 2011**

[Ghada Karmi / Just Arab Wishful Thinking?](#)

The current Palestinian proposal to ask the UN Security Council for recognition of a Palestinian state, that is independent and sovereign, has revived heated debate on the nature of such a state. While the need for a Palestinian state is a concept that is widely acknowledged both within Israel and the international community, true acceptance of this idea has yet to be absorbed by Israeli officials, and the Israeli public itself.

Source: **bitterlemons-api.org, January 5, 2011**

[George S. Hishmeh / Obama Needs to Twist Israeli Arms](#)

After two years in office, US President Barack Obama has yet to achieve any of his policy goals in the Middle East. Although the region is fraught with tension and conflict, Obama and his Administration must focus its efforts on an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Only the settlement of the Palestinian issue, honorably and fairly, will give the US President the moral authority to stabilize an increasingly volatile Middle East.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), January 6, 2011**

[Tariq Alhomayed / Sudan...Tears Begin to Flow](#)

The January 11 Southern Sudan independence referendum is the culmination of decades' long discontent with a government apparatus that failed to foster a united Sudanese state. Yet, the Arab world is concerned that the events in Sudan foreshadow a similar fate for the rest of the region. Indubitably, today there is much division within and among the Arab states. In order to prevent the possibility of further schisms, it is time for these countries to honestly reflect on their current state of affairs and to find remedies to the problems they face.

Source: **Asharq Alawsat (London), January 10, 2011**

[Editorial / Al Maliki Has to Stand Firm for Iraq's Sake](#)

Radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Al Sadr's return to Iraq illuminated the arguable stability of Prime Minister Nouri Al Maliki's new government. In a speech given by Al Sadr, whose party is an active coalition member of Al Maliki's government, the cleric's words focused on a message of immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and the need for active resistance to accomplish this objective. The fact that Al Maliki considers the US to be an ally forebodes future problems for the fragile Iraqi coalition. Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), January 10, 2011**

[Hussein Ibish / Stop Assuming Christians are the Enemy](#)

Recent and ongoing attacks against Christians in Iraq and Egypt reveal a disturbing new campaign on the part of the most extreme Islamists in the Arab world to drive out Christian communities. Anti-Christian violence comes in the context of increasing rhetoric throughout the Arab world that identifies the heterogeneity of religious minorities as dangerous to the Muslim majority. Though there remains a large segment of Muslim society in Iraq and Egypt, and elsewhere in the Arab world, that clings to a more inclusive sensibility, the days in which Arab identity could trump sectarian animosities are waning fast.

Source: **NOW Lebanon (Beirut), January 4, 2011**

[Abdullah Bozkurt / Turkey's Delicate Game with Iran and the West](#)

When it comes to the sanctions imposed on Tehran over its controversial nuclear program, the challenge for Turkey is to maintain good economic relations with its neighbor and, simultaneously, not to violate the terms of the UN, US, and EU-sanctioned lists of materials. Hoping not to be the scapegoat of the region, Turkey is playing a very delicate and dangerous game to balance out the conflicting interests of its major ally, the United States, and its most important neighbor after Russia, Iran.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), January 8, 2011**

