



June 2, 2011

Tel Aviv University

Middle East News Brief

The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies

No. 13-2011

Editors: Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, Shoshana Shmulovitz

Editorial board: Alona Ferber, Brian Albert, Duygu Atlas, Hay Eytan Cohen Yanarocak

A weekly sample of news and opinions on current events from around the Middle East collected and brought to you by the Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University. [To see full article, click on title.](#)

Palestine – Joseph Massad: Are Palestinian Children Less Worthy?

What is it about Jewish and Arab children that privileges the first and spurns the second in the speeches of President Obama, let alone in the Western media more generally? Are Jewish children deserving of sympathy, denied to Arab children, because they are innocent and unsullied by the guilt of their parents, themselves often referred to as "the children of Israel"? Or, is it that Arab children are dangerous, threatening, guilty, even dark and ugly, a situation that can only lead to Arabophobia – the Western fear of Arab children? Obama's Arabophobic views, are motivated by his love for the "children of Israel," which can only be realized through continued hatred and containment of all Arabs, children and adults alike.

Source: *Al-Jazeera (Doha)*, May 30, 2011

Yemen – Salman Aldossari: When the President Bombed His Own Tribe

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has turned against all Yemeni tribes, including his own, the Hashid tribe, which he bombed. Saleh's removal from power was sealed when he attacked Gulf initiative mediators and Joint Meetings Party leaders. Yemenis have described such behavior as a "black shame." Is Saleh aware of the punishment for committing a "black shame" in Yemen? He must be, for he is a member of the Hashid tribe, and is fully aware of the punishment for attacking tribal chiefs whilst they are acting as mediators.

Source: *Asharq Alawsat (London)*, May 25, 2011

Saudi Arabia – Mshari Al-Zaydi: The Issue of Women Driving Returns!

The issue of women's right to drive has become a slinging match between one side viewing this as a matter of life and death, and another viewing the ban as a violation of women's natural rights, particularly as all other Muslim women enjoy this right. This issue, which is given far more weight than it deserves, is used by the international media to criticize the humanitarian record of the country as a whole. It's time to settle this issue for good. Saudi women are part of the fabric of society and culture. Women driving will not change their culture or morals.

Source: *Asharq Alawsat (London)*, May 29, 2011

Regional – David Ignatius: Arab Revolutions Can Only Be Poisoned By Revenge

Revolutions can go off the rails for many reasons. But history shows that one of the most dangerous (if also understandable) mistakes is the desire to settle scores with the deposed regime. That toxic whiff of revenge has been in the air lately in Egypt, and it poses a danger for the Tahrir Revolution and the other movements that emulate it. As the Arab Spring rolls forward, the new revolutionaries must build pathways to a stable and tolerant future, even as they take proper account of the past. Otherwise, as the movie title had it, "there will be blood."

Source: *Daily Star (Beirut)* May 30, 2011

Regional – Soumaya Ghannoushi: Arab Nations: New Governments, Same Story

Slow to react to the Arab Spring, US diplomats are now working to keep the region under their hegemony. To Arabs, the US is a force of occupation draped in a thin cloak of democracy and human rights. This is evident in Obama's recent Middle East speech, which he began with eulogies to freedom and the equality of all men, and ended with talk of the "Jewishness of Israel." In vain, the US tries to reconcile the irreconcilable and preach democracy, while occupying and aiding in occupation. But in a region that forms one interconnected geographic, cultural, and political sphere, you cannot liberate Egyptians, Syrians, or Tunisians without liberating Palestinians.

Source: *Al-Jazeera (Doha)*, May 29, 2011

Turkey – Mehmet Ali Birand: Will PM Regain the Kurdish Flag from the CHP?

The Republican People's Party (CHP) was the first party to address the Kurdish issue, but it adopted a strict neo-nationalistic discourse unsuitable for a social democrat party—and so it let the flag fall to the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). The PM demonstrated courage and raised hopes with the Kurdish Initiative, but as elections neared, his discourse became more anti-Kurdish. Now that Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu has renewed the CHP's approach to the Kurdish issue, the opposition party is making headway. The PM will give his most important election campaign speech in Diyarbakır. The ruling party needs to be careful as the flag of the Kurdish issue has passed to the main opposition.

Source: *Hürriyet (Istanbul)*, May 30, 2011

Turkey – Yavuz Baydar: An Orderly Demilitarization of Politics

For the first time in the republic's history a four-star general, the commander of the War Academies, is now in jail for allegedly "attempting to overthrow the government by force." This dramatic development has several consequences and profound political undertones. The structure of the once untouchable military is shattering. It is becoming clear that the grip of the judiciary over the alleged "rogue activity" within the military will continue, and may even tighten.

Source: *Today's Zaman (Istanbul)*, May 31, 2011

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY, RAMAT AVIV, TEL AVIV 69978, ISRAEL. Tel.: +972-3-6409100, Fax.: +972-3-6415802

E-mail: dayancen@post.tau.ac.il WEB-site: www.dayan.org

All Rights Reserved © Moshe Dayan Center

Content excerpted in *Middle East News Brief* 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.