



December 15, 2011

Tel Aviv University

Middle East News Brief

The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies

No. 37-2011

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.**

Region – Hassan A. Barari: Avoiding the Regional Ramifications of Stalemate

For Jordan, the impasse of the Israeli-Palestinian track could not be more threatening. Time and time again, King Abdullah II has stressed that the failure of a two-state solution would be detrimental to Jordanian national security. Jordan seeks a solution that can strengthen its stability and national identity. The official thinking in Amman is that rapprochement with Hamas, coordination with the PA, and intensifying relations with Israelis help serve Jordan in its bid to avoid the regional ramifications of stalemate in the peace process.

Source: bitterlemons-international.org, December 8, 2011

Tunisia – Editorial: One Step Forward

Mass protests, horrific violence, and out-of-touch statements by the authorities have been a feature of 2011 in the Arab world, where analysts and observers have lined up to pronounce whether developments on the ground have turned an Arab Spring into an Arab winter of disappointment. But while the bad news grabs most of the headlines and media coverage, one Arab country and the rest of the world could celebrate, with a clear conscience, Tuesday's swearing-in of a president in Tunisia.

Source: [Daily Star \(Beirut\)](http://www.dailystar.com.lb), December 14, 2011

Israel/Palestine – Osama al Sharif: Gingrich Folly, Arab Apathy

Supporting Israel has become an obligatory gateway to garner political support in internal US politics. But Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich's remark that the Palestinians are an "invented people" went beyond the usual manifestations of loyalty to the Jewish state. He has now taken the Palestinians completely out of the equation; something that even inflexible Israeli leaders have been reluctant to do. Aside from an angry denunciation from the Palestinian Authority (PA), Arab reaction was muted.

Source: [Arab News \(Jeddah\)](http://www.arabnews.com), December 14, 2011

Yemen – Abubakr Al-Shamahi: Will a United Government Lead Yemen to Peace?

Yemenis need to move away from thoughts of revenge and instead focus on the country's unity and work on issues like corruption, poverty and the water crisis. If a new government focuses on these issues, then Yemen could be well on the way to achieving the results that the Yemeni people have been calling for in protests the past 11 months.

Source: [Common Ground News Service \(Jerusalem\)](http://www.commongroundnews.com), December 13, 2011

Egypt – Amani Massoud: We're Civil Society, Hear Us Roar

Hardly a day goes by without news coverage of state investigations into the malicious role of civil society. The tendency of officials to blame civil society for all things gone wrong is not new in either pre- or post-revolution Egypt, and for good reason. First, repressive regimes, understandably, are not fond of the idea of a third sector standing in the way of their repression of the people. Second, it is easy to pin the blame on a body that nobody knows much about. Civil society, much like "foreign elements" and "invisible hands," is an elusive term, and for that, civil society is partly to blame.

Source: [Al-Masry Al-Youm \(Cairo\)](http://www.al-masry.com), December 12, 2011

Turkey – Nuray Mert: 'Ideal Family' of New Turkey

Patriarchal family norms are making a comeback in Turkey. While politically active young men and women are portrayed as 'troublemakers,' the parents are considered as 'concerned parents.' The concept of the Turkish family, headed by a strong father figure as the source of discipline, is being boosted. A new proposal suggests that Kurdish children under 18, who were caught at demonstrations, be put into 'Love Houses' to be brought up with discipline. How can this happen in a "model democracy"?

Source: [Hürriyet \(Istanbul\)](http://www.hurriyet.com.tr), December 12, 2011

Turkey – Semih İdiz: Hot Air from Iran

Although Tehran's threat that in the event of any strike against Iran, NATO's missile defense assets in Turkey will be the first to be attacked sounds empty, it nevertheless prompts Turkey to prepare itself militarily. However, it is highly unlikely that Turkey will give approval for the use of NATO assets to help Israel in case of an Israeli strike against Iran. Helping Israel would risk Turkey's own security and regional interests.

Source: [Hürriyet \(Istanbul\)](http://www.hurriyet.com.tr), December 13, 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.