



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

# Middle East News & Views

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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.

To see full article, click on title.

## [Anatomy of Dialogue/ Abdel-Moneim Said](#)

The inter-Palestinian dialogue can come up with results though this is hardly reassuring, and soon enough another dialogue will have to be arranged by the hapless mediators, in the wake of another tragedy. The day when we no longer need this kind of dialogue will be the day Palestinian history has finally moved on.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue № 937, 5–11 March 2009**

## [To Rebuild Gaza, We Must Learn the Lessons of Nahr el-Bared/ Khalil Makkawi](#)

The international donor conference today at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, which is expected to raise some \$2 billion for the ailing Palestinian economy, is crucial to the future of the Middle East. Nevertheless, it would be a mistake if donors were to focus exclusively on Gaza.

Source: **The National (Abu Dhabi), March 2, 2009**

## [Winner Takes All in Lebanon? No Thanks! / Habib C. Malik](#)

If political centrism, or the proverbial "third way," has any chance of coalescing in Lebanon, it will happen gradually and only after repeatedly frustrating experiments with equilibriums that produce gridlock. But for now such equilibriums, despite their infuriating inconclusiveness, are far safer for Lebanon.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), March 6, 2009**

## [Iran, Bahrain, and the Arabs/ Ali Younes](#)

Facing their new reality, Arab States led by Saudi Arabia and Egypt are scrambling to form a response to Iran's emerging regional power, but given the new U.S. policy and in absence of a collective Arab strategy and a vision for the future, that takes into account economic development and democratic change, Arab leaders might find it very hard to contain Iran's increasing influence.

Source: **Al-Arabiya News Channel (Dubai), March 3, 2009**

## [What Do Netanyahu and Iran Have In Common? / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



What do Israeli Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu and Iran have in common? The answer is simple: both Netanyahu and Iran do not want to see an independent Palestinian state. Iran, as stated by its Supreme Guide, rejects the two-state solution. Netanyahu also shares this view and prefers an economic solution to the [Israeli-Palestinian] crisis

Source: **A-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), March 3, 2009**

## [How does Darfur differ from Gaza? / Abdulhamit Bilici](#)

Ankara's stance toward the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is regarded by some as a double standard. Having always tended to label the Turkish government's sensitivity toward Gaza as a pro-Hamas policy, some circles are trying to exploit the Darfur case, believing they have detected a weak point in the government's policies.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), March 7, 2009**

## ["Tunisian Women Ready to Contribute to the Pluralist Process", Says President Ben Ali](#)

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali sent a message to Mrs. Aziza Htira, the chairwoman of the National Union of Tunisian Women extolling the amelioration in the status of women in his country.

Source: **Tunisia Online News (Tunis), March 7, 2009**