



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  
מركز موشيه ديان لدراسات الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا

Editor: Bruce Maddy-Weitzman  
Editorial Board: Amir Kulik, Michael Barak and Idan Barir

**No 017**

June 4, 2009

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.

## Ten Tips for Obama Before His Visit to Cairo / AbdulRahman Mansour

Dear President Barack Hussein Obama, Your choice of Cairo as the place from which to deliver a speech to the Arab and Islamic world came as shocking news to the majority of Middle East affairs observers. As Egypt suffers from a political system that uses systematic repression to suppress political opposition, this was considered as a reward.

Source: **Al-Arabiya News Channel (Dubai), May 30, 2009**

## Yes You Can, Mr. President / Iyad Madani

Welcome to Saudi Arabia, the country that has kept its friendship with the United States of America over the decades since that historic meeting between President Roosevelt and founder of modern Saudi Arabia, King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, spanning twelve American Presidents and four Saudi Kings. Welcome to an Arab world full of hope in your Presidency; and welcome to the world of Islam where hearts and minds expect a better understanding of "them", Mr. President.

Source: **Khaleej Times Online (UAE), June 3, 2009**

## Not Worth an Answer / Editorial

Jordanians need not really get all that bothered every time Israelis or their Knesset members, or even their government, make a statement that is seen as infringing on the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity. There is international legitimacy, a peace treaty Jordan and Israel signed, clearly delineated borders and, as such, notions like this do not deserve to be dignified with an answer, let alone with a national debate.

Source: **The Jordan Times (Amman), June 1, 2009**

## Iranian Noise and Syrian Quiet / Tariq Alhomayed



There is a paradox in our region that deserves careful study. Iran is attacking the American administration on all levels, accusing it of being behind the [recent] suicide bombing that targeted a mosque in the city of Zahedan [in south-east Iran], while at the same time the Syrians have been remarkably quiet with regards to the Americans.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), June 1, 2009**

## Swat Operation / Zafar Hilaly

It is important for the sake of the Army's own morale that the present operation in Swat ends in a decisive victory, because the Taliban have been crowing about how they worsted the Army during the skirmishes that took place in February. The Taliban were no less boastful of the manner in which they had forced the provincial government and the federal parliament to accept peace on their terms and withdrawing the Army.

Source: **The News (Islamabad), May 30, 2009**

## Oil: Blessing Or Curse for Iraqi Kurds? / Ömer Taspinar

The Kurdish mythology of victimhood sees the mountains as their only friend. This largest nation without a state in the Middle East has a deeply rooted sense of solitude and sorrow. Although Iraqi Kurds see vast oil fields as their ticket to wealth and prosperity, the reality may save some room for disappointment.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), June 1, 2009**

## The Death Sentence / Salama A. Salama

Death sentences have become common in Egypt of late, no doubt because of the incredible rise in violence. One has to ask if these death sentences will curb the rising wave of crime in Egypt. In countries such as China, the state never hesitates to use the death sentence against top officials within the party and the government. It seems that so far the death sentence is the best deterrent many societies have against corruption and crime.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 949, 28 May - 3 June 2009**