



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY תל אביב 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 033**  
October 1, 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.

## [Promoting Democracy, Out of Fashion in Washington? / Anouar Boukhars](#)

Is US President Barack Obama's Administration providing less support for human rights and political reform in the broader Middle East—or is it merely adopting a different tone about promoting democracy? A number of recent reports and studies demonstrate that there is a perception in the United States that the administration is dissociating itself from democracy promotion in the Middle East.

Source: **Common Ground News Service (Washington), September 22, 2009**

## [A Palestinian Mini-State Linked to Iran Strike / Nasser Lahham](#)

Israel has been holding secret meetings with Arab leaders over the past several months with the aim of establishing a miniaturized Palestinian state and in hopes of gaining Arab acquiescence in a first strike on Iran. Israeli President Shimon Peres has been the “godfather” of these meetings. Their aim is to “resolve” the Palestinian issue which has dogged Israel for decades and clear the agenda for an attack on Iran.

Source: **Ma'an News Agency (Bethlehem), September 27, 2009**

## [Afghanistan Is Also Arab / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



As usual, us Arabs are sitting by and watching what is happening in Afghanistan. We believe that what is happening there is America's problem, and we believe that only painful memories link us to Afghanistan. However, the opposite is more accurate. A stable Afghanistan is in the Arabs' interest and reports indicate that the funds that are pouring into Afghanistan come from our region.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), September 23, 2009**

## [A Hard Triangle / Oraib Al Rantawi](#)

The relationship between Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan is a high priority issue for the Islamic movement in Jordan and Palestine as well as for the Jordanian authorities. This is due to the large public space and high position the two movements occupy in both countries. In fact, the Islamic movement in Jordan and Palestine is the object of controversy, questions and inquiries related to the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Source: **bitterlemons-international, Edition 36 Volume 8 - September 17, 2009**

## [Personal Politics Are Defeating Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia/ Bernard Haykel](#)

Although Al-Qaeda's leadership, beliefs, and ideology are rooted in Saudi Arabia, the organization has been all but crushed in the kingdom by a government policy that has combined a big carrot and an even bigger stick. The attempted assassination in Jeddah last month of Prince Mohammad bin Nayef, the deputy interior minister for security affairs, demonstrated both elements of the Saudi strategy, and how a bold attempt by Al-Qaeda to revive its fortunes has failed.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), September 30, 2009**

## [When Will the World Learn? / Hussain Abdul-Hussain](#)

What does it take for the world to understand that no amount of engagement with the Syrian regime will ever yield positive results? History teaches us that Syria cooperates little during times of engagement and much more when facing boycotts and international pressure, a lesson, we must hope, is not lost on the administration of Barack Obama.

Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), September 26, 2009**

## [Why Oppose the Democratization Initiative? / Fatma Dişli Zıbak](#)

Since being introduced by the government in August, the democratization initiative aimed at solving Turkey's long-standing Kurdish problem has received both criticism and praise. While the supporters of the initiative applaud the government for showing the courage to solve Turkey's most important problem, its opponents criticize the government for attempting to divide the country with this initiative

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), September 25, 2009**