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Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה
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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.

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[Defending Egypt II / Abdel-Moneim Said](#)

Surprisingly, there is a new brand of Egyptians who want to cast historical wisdom to the winds. Their vehement arguments and strident voices reverberate in the Arab press and across satellite channels, clamoring for Egypt to bow to this Arab brother's whim and surrender to that Arab brother's demands, regardless of the attitudes and actions of those brothers towards Egypt and the Egyptian people.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 981, 14 - 20 January 2010**

[Welcome a More Activist EU on Palestine / Rami G. Khouri](#)

Just as the US apparently is gearing up for phase two of its foray into Arab-Israeli peacemaking, some Europeans seem to be waking up from their long slumber on the issue. Several symbolic or rhetorical gestures in recent weeks indicate that the EU wants at least to raise its voice and profile on Arab-Israeli peacemaking. Their approach is intriguing, given Europe's potential to play a more activist role in promoting the rule of law as the basis for a negotiated agreement.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), January 16, 2010**

[The Political Activist Yusuf al Qaradawi / Tariq Alhomayed](#)



Once again we are facing the equation of religious figure plus politician with Dr. Yusuf al Qaradawi at the center stage. This isn't about his religious edict in which he called for stoning the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas; it is about what was said in his most recent interview in the Egyptian Al Shorouk newspaper in which he appeared to be more like a political activist than a religious figure.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), January 21, 2010**

[The Curse of Muslim Lands / Aijaz Zaka Syed](#)

Terrorism, they say, is the weapon of the weak. But in our case it has become the weapon against the weak. The use of suicide is not something invented by Muslims. It's perhaps as old as homicide. Japan's *harakiri* comes to mind. But perhaps no people have suffered from it, and because of it, as much as Muslims have in recent years. Too much innocent blood has been spilled in the name of Islam. It is time the madness came to an end.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 981, 14 - 20 January 2010**

[Let Us First Debate Amongst Ourselves / Rami Mehdawi](#)

Ever since the Palestinian Nakba, through decades of affliction to the present day, Palestinian society more often than not didn't know what it wanted, and when it did, it didn't know how to achieve it. Achieving what we want will come first and foremost with self-knowledge. The problem is that who we are and what we want is not one thing, but many. Our approaches to our struggle are numerous, depending on geographic location or generational perspective.

Source: **Common Ground News Service (Washington), January 14, 2010**

[European Turkey in the Middle East / Cagil M. Kasapoglu](#)

Since 1923, when Kemal Ataturk swept away the "sick man of Europe" and turned it into the Turkish Republic, the Middle East has not been so actively interested in Turkey's political agenda. Now, with Ankara's recent attempts to heal relations between regional actors, Middle Eastern and European powers have turned their attention back toward the far western edge of Asia.

Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), January 18, 2010**

[Israel-Turkey: Lessons of a Crisis / Beril Dedeoğlu](#)

This week's crisis will help draw a new road map for the future of bilateral relations between Turkey and Israel. Maybe Turkey will take steps to avoid being perceived as an anti-Israel country; maybe Israel will prefer to discuss its problems in multilateral international arenas. In a time when the world is changing, when countries with mutual historical antagonism are seeking ways to work together, the relations between Turkey and Israel can't be pursued with an extremist mentality.