



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה  
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# 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.

## [Israel Must Be Held Accountable / Ghassan Khatib](#)

The fact that the Dubai authorities have uncovered the many people involved in the assassination of a senior Hamas leader, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, and the fact that the sovereignty of so many states was violated, should encourage all these countries to pursue the case to its end and teach Israel a lesson that will be as useful to Israel as it is to the victims. Not holding Israel accountable for its actions is the direct cause for Israel's lurch to extremism and hooliganism.

Source: [bitterlemons-international.org](http://bitterlemons-international.org), March 1, 2010

## [Iraq's Neighbors All Seem to Have a Piece of Its Future / Safa A. Hussein](#)

After a period of "negative" monitoring of the course of events in Iraq, many Arab countries have decided to act and intervene in the coming elections. They are financially supporting specific political parties and using influential media machines like the Al-Arabiyya and Al-Jazeera satellite channels (as well as Iraqi satellite channels that are financed by Arab states, like Al-Sharqiyya and al-Baghdadiyya) to undermine the dominant Shiite parties.

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), March 6, 2010**

## [Is Iraq's Democracy Contagious? / Abdul Rahman Al-Rashid](#)

No, never, in fact the opposite is true. Autocracy is far more infectious and capable of infiltrating minds and borders, and today dominates the entire region. Nonetheless, there should be no fear for the Iraqi elections, especially as the voter turnout exceeded 60 percent of eligible voters, an extremely high voter turnout rate. People do not usually make long walks on foot to stand in long lines to elect figures if they don't believe that this will have an effect on their lives.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), March 1, 2010**

## [Standing by Sudan / Editorial](#)

The Arab world is increasingly concerned with developments in Sudan. The latest signing in Qatar of a ceasefire agreement between the Sudanese government and the most powerful of the Darfur armed opposition groups, the Justice and Equality Movement, constitutes a breakthrough and it is significant that it was masterminded by the Qatar government in conjunction with other Arab and African states.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 988, 4 - 10 March 2010**

## [Still Not Free / Hanin Ghaddar](#)

Today is International Women's Day. In the rest of the world, it is a time to honor the achievements of women throughout history. In Lebanon, there is merely discontent. Pitiful progress on women's rights is not surprising, because the issue has never been a priority for consecutive Lebanese governments, composed, by and large, of men.

Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), March 8, 2010**

## [Ejected from God's House / Margot Badran](#)

It was a bright winter Saturday in Washington when I made my way to the mosque on Massachusetts Avenue. I entered by the front door and as I was early I sat down to wait on a chair at the back of the main hall. A few men went about saying their prayers in scattered parts of the hall as several women came through the door demanding to pray in the mosque's main hall behind the men where they could see and hear the imam.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 988, 4 - 10 March 2010**

## [Turkey's Coup That Failed / İbrahim Kalın](#)

The exposure of the plan hatched by senior military officials - called the "Sledgehammer" plot - to destabilize Turkey's government, and the subsequent arrest of high-ranking officers, demonstrates the growing strength of Turkey's democracy. Moreover, prosecutors' efforts to uncover the truth are not a campaign to discredit the Turkish army, as some allege, nor has the exposure of "Sledgehammer" led to an emerging showdown between "secularists" and "Islamists."

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), March 7, 2010**