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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.

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[Fayyad Subverts Right of Return / Iqbal Jassat](#)

"Fayyad just gave away the right of return," I read on the Twitter page of Electronic Intifada editor Ali Abunimah yesterday, leading me to access a link and discover that indeed, the Palestinian Authority prime minister has done the unforgivable. In an interview with Akiva Eldar of the Israeli daily Haaretz, Fayyad made the following comment in response to a question about refugees: "Of course, Palestinians would have the right to reside within the State of Palestine."
Source: **Ma'an News Agency (Bethlehem), April 3, 2010**

[Persuade the Stupid or Alert the Intelligent? / Tariq Alhomayed](#)

In an interview Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad said "unfortunately some of us always view everything that we undertake with suspicion, and this has brought us to defeatism in our thinking and [believing] we are not capable of doing something positive." He added "if the Jews acted in this manner they would not have a State." Some might say that there's nothing new in this, and that this has been the state of the Palestinian Cause for decades, and that is the real problem
Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), April 4, 2010**

[Fixing the Brand / Gamal Essam El-Din](#)

Mohamed El-Baradei, who has campaigned for political reform since retiring from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), took a practical step this week to further his public appeal, opting to take to the streets and reach out to as many ordinary citizens as possible. El-Baradei was quoted in independent media sources as saying, "the street tour in Cairo reinforced my conviction that people desperately want change and are aware of our campaign for reform".
Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 992, 1 - 7 April 2010**

[Back to an Old Game with Syria / Michael Young](#)

By most accounts it was a confident Bashar al-Assad who received Walid Jumblatt in Damascus on Wednesday. When it comes to Damascus' regional position, the Syrian president sees the stars aligned in his favor. Which means that, at worst, he can afford to do nothing at all and, at best, negotiate to arrive at nothing at all.
Source: **Now Lebanon (Beirut), April 2, 2010**

[Students Will Oppose Israeli Oppression / Mustafa Barghouthi](#)

That day of student engagement is coming. I have spoken on many American and European campuses and see change in the more diverse audiences I address today as opposed to 20 years ago. These young people, including many progressive Jewish activists, recognize that this is not a conflict between Arabs and Jews, but between universal conceptions of freedom and antiquated notions of racial supremacy and colonization.
Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), April 8, 2010**

[Let an Arab Female Carry the Flag of Gender Equality / Hibaaq Osman](#)

The proposal to unify the UN's many organizations promoting women's equality and rights into a single "gender entity" is a tremendous opportunity for the United Nations to step up funding for global women's issues and to create something greater than the sum of its parts. It's also a once-in-a-generation chance for the UN to turbocharge women's rights in the Middle East by appointing someone from the Arab region to lead the new gender entity.
Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), April 7, 2010**

[Israeli Mismanagement of the Crisis in Turkish-Israeli Relations / Kerim Balci](#)

Israel's foreign minister has the full right to play to his own constituency. But while doing so he has to keep in mind that the Turkish prime minister does not maintain a wall of silence: he replies. The Israelis are masters of conflict management, and they should be managing the current pseudo-crisis in Turkish-Israeli relations not by the lower-chair treatment of the Turkish ambassador to Tel Aviv but by appealing to the souls and hearts of the Turkish public.
Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), April 8, 2010**