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Middle East News & Views

מרכז משה דיין ללימודי המזרח התיכון ואפריקה
The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies
مركز موشيه ديان لدراسات الشرق الأوسط وإفريقيا

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№059
April 22, 2010

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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[Thank You Netanyahu / Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed](#)

I do not know how Binyamin Netanyahu thinks as the Prime Minister of Israel, but from what he has done so far it seems to us that this man is either a secret agent for the Arabs or that he is a megalomaniac who believes that he can do whatever he wishes to do! With his foolish deeds, Netanyahu, already a man of ill reputation, makes it difficult for him and for his allies to justify Israeli policies.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), April 18, 2010**

[Israel is the World's True Rogue State / Marwan Al Kabalan](#)

Gone are the days when Israel was regarded by most of the western world as a victim, trying to survive in a hostile Arab environment. Israel's defiance of the international community and its resistance to US efforts to revive the Middle East peace process have confirmed its status as an outlaw.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), April 16, 2010**

[People's Power / Ayman El-Amir](#)

Compared to Asia, Africa and South America, the Arab Middle East has been stagnant for 50 years. Post-independence military regimes and traditional tribal dynasties have done little to advance institution-building and democratic governance in their countries. Strikes and demonstrations in Egypt reflect increasing disenchantment with the economic and political situation. Mass protests against election fraud in some Arab countries hardly assure the ruling elite of stability.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue № 994, 15 -21 April 2010**

[When Will the Opposition Overcome Its Chronic Weaknesses? / Hassan Nafaa](#)

We all want to see genuine presidential elections in 2011 when, for the first time in the country's history, Egyptians should be able to choose their president from among a list of competent candidates who merit such a position. Still, however, real competition doesn't provide an adequate guarantee for free elections. Guarantees are still needed for the integrity and transparency of the election process itself.

Source: **Al-Masry Al-Youm (Cairo), April 14, 2010**

[Crisis on the Nile / Osman Mirghani](#)

Because water is the source of life, it was not odd to hear Egypt's Minister of Parliamentary Affairs say that "Egypt's water security and its historical rights to the water of the River Nile is a matter of life and death that cannot be ignored." This comment was made when negotiations between the states of the Nile Basin Initiative failed to reach a unanimous agreement during a meeting that was held in Sharm El Sheikh last week and rejected the Sudanese-Egyptian proposal.

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

[Time for Change 20 Years after Lebanon's Civil War / Fadia Kiwan](#)

Since the general elections in Lebanon last June, which kept the Western and Saudi-backed March 14th alliance in power and ushered Saad Hariri to the premiership, there has been an air of appeasement among the country's political leaders. This mood among politicians should be seen as a window of opportunity.

Source: **Common Ground News Service (Washington), April 13, 2010**

[Normalization with Armenian Surrealism? / Abdulhamit Bilici](#)

The likelihood that the protocols signed by Turkey and Armenia in October will go into effect decreases by the day. As the sides deviate from the point of agreement, they become influenced by routine politics. Yet with gangrenous problems like this, thinking outside the box and trying new methods is a must in order to find a solution.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), April 17, 2010**