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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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[Middle East Peace by Any Means Available / Daoud Kuttab](#)

Something is happening with the Middle East conflict, but it is hard to say what. A breakthrough appears to be at hand, though all the parties still seem to be clinging to their traditional positions. Even the usually boisterous Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat has toned down his rhetoric, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas gave an optimistic interview to Israel TV.

Source: **Project Syndicate (New York), May 5, 2010**

[Jordanians Fear Refugee Influx / Osama Al Sharif](#)

In a country where Jordanians of Palestinian origin, both citizens and refugees, make up a sizeable majority, such a possibility, in the view of opponents, will dilute the Jordanian national identity and hand over the country to the Palestinians.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), May 8, 2010**

['We Want To Live' / Azmi Bishara](#)

The former World Bank official and current employee of the "international community" has reduced the concept of statehood to "inhabited areas" that need to be equipped with the wherewithal to survive. How seamlessly this jives with the Israeli notion of a Palestinian state in the densely populated patches of the Palestinian territories. The former World Bank official, who boasts of being pragmatic, is offering day-to-day life solutions instead of a national cause.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 998, 13 - 19 May 2010**

[Syria... Reject and Negotiate / Tariq Alhomayed](#)

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad renewed his country's desire for Turkish mediation in negotiations with Israel, according to Turkish President Abdullah Gul. It is worth noting that Damascus immediately – and for the second time – rejected the Palestinian negotiators initiating US-mediated negotiations with Israel under Arab banner. It seems that Damascus is following the principle of 'reject and negotiate' in order to buy time and strengthen negotiating positions.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), May 10, 2010**

[Biggest Challenge to a Stable Iraq / Musa Keilani](#)

The alliance between the State of Law group led by Prime Minister Nouri Al Maliki and the Iraqi National Alliance, which includes Ahmed Chalabi and firebrand religious leader Moqtada Sadr will deprive the minority Sunnis of what they consider as their rightful share of power in the country after having voted for the secular Iraqiyya coalition led by former prime minister Iyad Allawi. And that could trigger a Sunni revolt and a new wave of violence in Iraq.

Source: **The Jordan Times (Amman), May 9, 2010**

[Serious Threat to Egypt's Water Quota Needs to be Addressed / Hassan Nafaa](#)

I think we should worry about the future of Egypt's water quota, even if the eight Nile source countries are not planning to stab us in the back. Over a period of 30 years, the Egyptian citizen's share of Nile water dropped from 2000 cubic meters to only 600 cubic meters. If the international water poverty line is set at 1000 cubic meters per year, then Egyptians are already well below that line.

Source: **Al-Masry Al-Youm (Cairo), May 8, 2010**

[Where Are Armenian Intellectuals? / Mehmet Kamış](#)

It should be recalled that there are two sides to the Armenian issue, or rather, to the events that took place in 1915. Therefore, Armenians and Turks should both be debating this issue. Unfortunately, however, we only hear about what Turkey did, and we never look at the Armenian side. Armenian intellectuals have not shown the same level of courage as Turkish intellectuals.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), May 8, 2010**