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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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[Proximity Talks Hide a Reality of Failure and Land Theft / Hasan Abu Nimah](#)

Neither the proximity talks nor the PA-Israeli dealings which have been uninterrupted over many years will gain the Palestinians anything. While Palestinian leaders with no legitimacy or mandate maintain the fiction of "negotiations", Israel deepens the reality of colonization and occupation.

Source: **The Jordan Times (Amman), May 26, 2010**

[US Wants Issues, Not Solutions / Sami Moubayed](#)

An old Arabic proverb says, "Do you want the grapes, or just to fight the night watchman?" Clearly from its reactions to the dramatic breakthrough on the Iranian nuclear file, the US is more interested in fighting the night watchman than wrestling grapes out of Iran.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), May 25, 2010**

[Conflict between Religion and State...but Where? / Tariq Alhomayed](#)

The State is in danger...but where? Of course we are not talking about Egypt, or Syria, or Turkey, or Iran, or even Saudi Arabia which the Israeli Foreign Minister is threatening with defamation, but rather Israel. For an Israeli story has come to light, an old and new story, and this is the story of the Orthodox Jews.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), May 23, 2010**

[The Chaos Awaiting Kandahar / Ramzy Baroud](#)

Although Obama and Clinton want us to believe that the Bush era is over, with a new dawn in US foreign policy, they use almost the exact same language, phrased in almost the exact same context that the Bush administration used prior to its major military assaults aimed at "saving the people" from "ruthless extremists", whether in Iraq or Afghanistan. And a major assault there will be, for the Taliban's counter-surge is threatening the US's counterinsurgency operations.

Source: **Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Issue No 999, 20 - 26 May 2010**

[The Plan to Stifle ElBaradei / Mahmoud Khalil](#)

Mohamed ElBaradei's star is fading on the political and media scene, as are several opposition groups that support his calls for change. This regression has coincided with Mubarak's return to his pre-surgery level of activity. The Egyptian regime is still capable of stifling any call for change. Its inexorable desire to stay in power is stronger than the opposition's belief in the necessity of change.

Source: **Al-Masry Al-Youm (Cairo), May 23, 2010**

[Where's the Benefit in Isolating Iran? / Osman Mirghani](#)

The three-way Tehran agreement was formulated based on the proposal that was made by Western states and the IAEA last October to swap nuclear fuel. As a result, there are those who now call for considering it a step that can be built upon in order to deal with this thorny issue, because rejecting it means relying on the harshness of sanctions or on leaving the door open to the possibility of a military strike, which is fraught with risks and repercussions for the region.

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), May 20, 2010**

[Turkey's Persian Puzzle / Ömer Taşpınar](#)

What Turkey and Brazil have going in their favor is the conventional wisdom that sanctions seldom work. Even those arguing that sanctions are the only way to coerce Iran into toeing the UN line do not really believe the measures can work on their own. If Tehran really has decided to build the bomb, a squeeze on the regime will not change its mind. In that sense, engaging Tehran and preparing to live with a nuclear Iran appears to be the only alternative.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), May 24, 2010**