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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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[In the Wake of Flotilla Tragedy, Work for Peace / Dalila Mahdawi](#)

Lifting the blockade on Gaza's 1.8 million residents is a much required step right now, as is a full and independent investigation into what occurred on the flotilla, but both are only part and parcel of the more urgent need to end a 62-year-old conflict. What is required now, just when it seems least likely, is the immediate resumption of peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Source: **Common Ground News Service (Washington), June 8, 2010**

[Israel and Turkey, Post-Flotilla / Mkhaimar Abusada](#)

The Israeli attack on the Turkish-flagged "Freedom Flotilla" that aimed to break the siege and blockade on the Gaza Strip is threatening the once strategic relationship between Israel and Turkey. Turkey considers the incident an attack on its sovereignty and has warned that relations with Israel will never be the same.

Source: bitterlemons-international.org, **June 10, 2010**

[Era of Unconditional Support for Israel Ends / Adel Safty](#)

After the Israeli assault on the aid flotilla, some Jewish-American organizations were critical of the Israeli action. The era when Israel enjoyed the envious position of oppressing the people whose land it occupied and bullying its neighbours while counting on the unconditional support of the West has definitely come to an end. The recent UN Report prepared by the Goldstone Commission found that Israel had committed war crimes in its recent Gaza war.

Source: **Gulf News (Dubai), June 14, 2010**

[Allegiance to Israel / Osman Mirghani](#)

Attacks on Israel made by Rahm Emanuel and Richard Goldstone reflect the important and continuing debate that has been taking place for a long time over not just the allegiance of American Jews, but of all Jews around the world, and whether their allegiance is to the country that they reside in and are nationals of, or to Israel? And also whether they have the right to disagree with Israel's policies and publicly criticize it, or they must blindly support its actions?

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), June 17, 2010**

[Does Obama Really Mean What He Says? / Rami G. Khouri](#)

A few days ago during a meeting at the White House with visiting Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, President Barack Obama made an important statement calling for a new approach to allow Gazans to trade freely with the world while protecting Israel's legitimate security needs. It sounded to many, including myself, like a serious and sensible shift in policy, and a long-needed one. Why, then, did it generate mainly yawns and disbelief?

Source: **The Daily Star (Beirut), June 12, 2010**

[Turkey: Here's Our List of Demands / Tariq Alhomayed](#)

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu put forward his country's viewpoint with regards to the future of our region, stressing that the obstacles preventing Turkish openness to the region have begun to fall and that "history has returned to its normal course." He also confirmed that Turkey "will keep dealing with every kind of problem in the region. We will not remain indifferent to any problem."

Source: **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), June 13, 2010**

[A New Era in Turkish Foreign Policy / Ömer Taspinar](#)

The flotilla incident and Turkey's "no" vote to new sanctions against Iran at the United Nations Security Council once again triggered a familiar debate about Turkey's alleged "Islamic" turn in foreign policy. I believe one of the major mistakes in analyzing Turkish foreign policy is done when analysts speak of a "secular" versus "Islamic" divide in Ankara's strategic choices.

Source: **Today's Zaman (Istanbul), June 14, 2010**