

1-8 March 2012
Newsletter - Issue No. 3

Egypt: The Presidential Election & The US-Egypt Relations is Challenged – Stepped Off the Right Track

Syria: A Year After - A very gloomy vision. Three Scenarios Possible: Loss of Independence/Prolonged Military Conflict/Sectarian Civil War – "Jihadist Magnet"

Saudi Arabia: Unrest. A Declaration of National Reform, Female Students Protest & Qatif is on Fire

Iran: Nuclear File: Will the Economic Sanctions Break the Ideology? Front Lines are always the First to Fall!

Parliament Election: Khamenei's Camp is IN Ahmadinejad's Camp is OUT

Bahrain: Fear. Inside: Everyone is Guilty until Proved otherwise, Outside: Wider Steps Toward Union Federation with Saudi

Egypt



Arabist

- In Translation: Nabil Fahmy on the **US-Egypt NGO crisis**
  http://www.arabist.net/blog/2012/2/29/in-translation-nabil-fahmy-on-the-us-egypt-ngo-crisis.html

Mahmoud Salem



- At the Abu El Fotouh event at Alexandria university. They are starting with an Islamic hymn.
- Dear secular voters who will vote for Abu El Fotouh and say he is not MB; you should see this.
- People are chanting "down with the military rule" and then a minor scuffle started. Also Abu El Fotouh started speaking.
- Abu El Fotouh: "If it wasn't for Muslims & Christians clinging to their faiths, this regime would've ended Egypt."
- Abu El Fotouh: "**the people won't elect anyone who appeases the Zionists, the US, the thieves, or a party**.
- Just an FYI, at Abu El Fotouh's event, they separated the sexes in the seating. That's why the scuffle happened. Friend's wouldn't segregate.

- A New and very interesting Blog Post by Mahmoud Salem: "**On the Presidential elections**" http://www.sandmonkey.org/2012/03/04/on-the-presidential-elections/
- A New Blog Post by Hany Ghoraba: "**Dark Comedy of Egyptian Presidential Race**" http://www.wespeaknews.com/world/dark-comedy-of-egyptian-presidential-race-33527.html



Syria



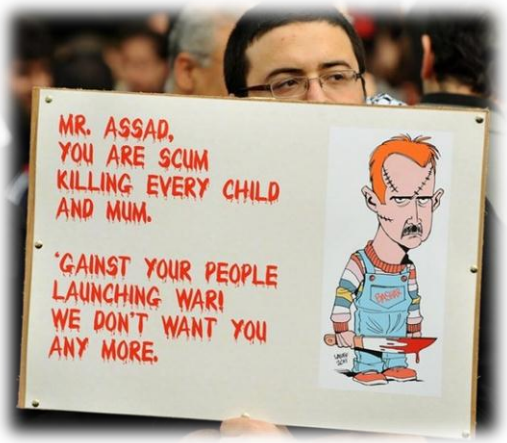
Colum Lynch

- **Security Council press statement on Syria** http://columlynch.tumblr.com/post/18531434447/security-council-press-statement-on-syria-feb-29



Andy Carvin

- Syrian Activist: **'It's Snowing And We're Shaking Here'** http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2012/03/01/147730155/syrian-activist-its-snowing-and-were-shaking-here?sc=tw&cc=share





Lccsyria

- **LCC posted photos of Friday protests across Syria** http://www.photoblog.com/lccsyria/2012/03/02/march-2nd-2012.html

- Must Read! **A year to the revolution of freedom and dignity** https://www.facebook.com/notes/%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7/a-year-to-the-revolution-of-freedom-and-dignity/402370519790090



Tim Lister

- **Meet Syria's wealthiest and most elusive man** By Tim Lister and Jamie Crawford

  "It's a question of the Assad-Makhlouf mafia that has basically hijacked the entire state of Syria for four decades in order to enrich itself and protect itself against the Syrian people."

  http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/03/07/meet-syrias-wealthiest-and-most-elusive-man/



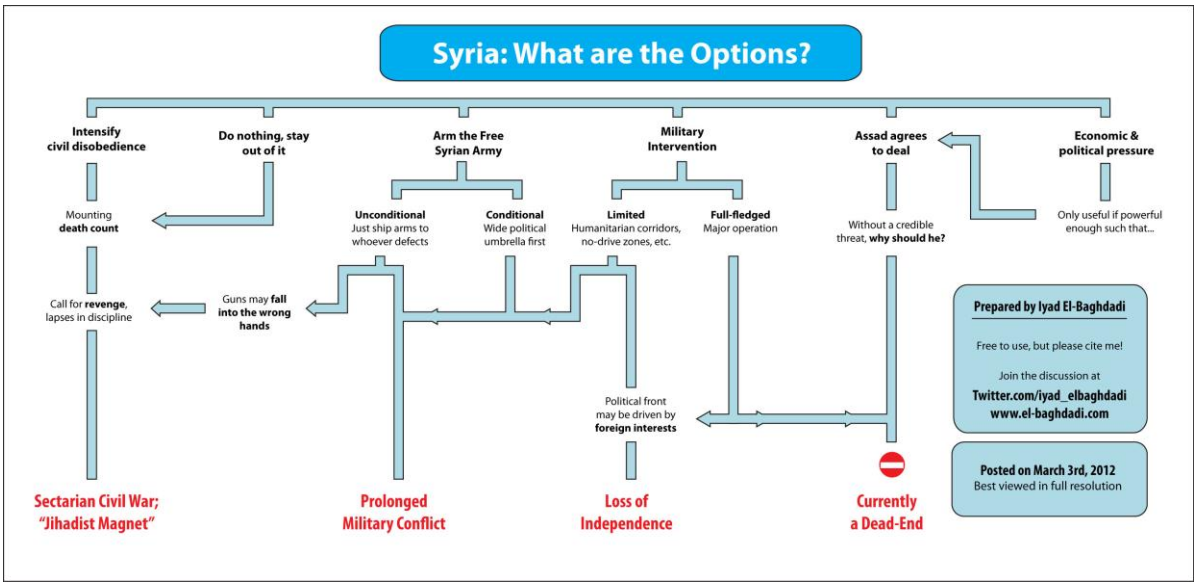
Nabil Abi Saab

- **American Draft Resolution on Syria**
  http://un-report.blogspot.com/2012/03/american-draft-resolution-on-syria.html



Iyad El-Baghdadi

- **Syria's Impasse (Infographic)**
  http://www.el-baghdadi.com/images/stories/syria%20crisis%20infographic%20-%20hi%20res.jpg



Saudi Arabia



Ahmed Al Omran

- It's been a year since Saudi reformists released some important statements: "**Now we're talking**"

  "In addition to the buzz in social media, the past week has seen the release of several statements and open letters demanding reform"
  http://saudijeans.org/2011/02/28/saudi-reform-petitions/

- A New Blog Post by Saudi Jeans: **Saudi Female University Students Protest in Abha**
  http://saudijeans.org/2012/03/07/saudi-female-university-students-protest-in-abha/ and,

- A New Blog Post by Wael: **King Khaled University, your Girls Are Gonna Save You**!
  http://waelitis.com/2012/03/08/282/

  "On Tuesday afternoon 6th of march a few female students were gathered in the females' campus at the King Khaled University (KKU) in Abha, Criticizing the deterioration of basic Facilities on campus like proper class rooms, Benches, tables, waste management; when they were verbally assaulted by the Female security guards calling them "Filthy Animals"& "Barking Dogs".



Ahmad Bagadood

- New Blog Post by Ahmed Ba-Aboud: "**Alternative Saudi Voices**"
  http://alternativesaudivoices.wordpress.com/



The Arab Digest

- New Blog Post, "**Saudi Arabia's Eastern Revolution hits the oil sector: pipeline under fire**"
  http://www.thearabdigest.com/2012/03/saudi-arabias-eastern-revolution.html

- New Blog Post, "**Demonstrations in Eastern Saudi continue; posters call for burning of oil**!"
  http://www.thearabdigest.com/2012/03/demonstration-in-eastern-saudi-continue.html

Iran



M. Zand

- Q&A with former member of IRGC: **Escalating Tensions with West Advance Guards' Strategy**
  http://www.insideiran.org/news/featured/qa-with-former-member-of-irgc-escalating-tensions-with-west-advance-guards%E2%80%99-strategy/

- Q&A with former member of IRGC: Guards **Could Negotiate with U.S. and Turn against Khamenei in a Crisis**

  http://www.insideiran.org/news/qa-with-former-member-of-irgc-guards-could-negotiate-with-u-s-and-turn-against-khamenei-in-a-crisis/

RFE/RL

- **What Do Ordinary Iranians Think About Their Nuclear Program**?

  http://www.rferl.org/content/iran_what_do_ordinary_iranians_think_of_nuclear_program/24507325.html

Tehran Bureau

- A Swift End for the Innocent: **The Sanctions Hit Home** by Ali Chenar

  "Steps to cripple regime have growing impact on Iranian entrepreneurs and families"

  http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/02/business-a-swift-end-for-the-innocent-the-sanctions-hit-home.html



Amin Sabeti

- **Activists vow to defeat Iran's Internet censorship**
  http://gigaom.com/2012/02/27/iran-elections-censorship-tor-balatarin/



Zealous Iranian

- Remember, these are government statistics; **A fact sheet of Parliamentary elections in Iran**
  http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2011/09/factoids-on-parliamentary-elections.html



Mostafa Tajzadeh

- In letter to Judiciary Chief: '**End stoning and cutting of hand forever**,' urges reformer Mostafa Tajzadeh
  http://en.irangreenvoice.com/article/2012/mar/02/3545



Fred Petrossian

- **Iran: "Should We Vote Again?**" by Fred Petrossian
  http://globalvoicesonline.org/2012/03/02/iran-should-we-vote-again/

Tehran Bureau

- **Parliamentary Elections**
  http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/03/live-blog-parliamentary-elections.html

- **'Principlist' Camp Dominates in Preliminary Election Results**
  http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/03/news-principlist-camp-dominates-in-preliminary-election-results.html

- **Tehranis Talk of the Elections' Stakes and Khatami's Shock Ballot**

  Ali, a middle-aged teacher, voted expressly to restrain Ahmadinejad. "Last time I did not vote he became president," says Ali. "Since then, we all are trying to dislodge this man from the presidential office, but he seems to be having too good a time to go anywhere."

  http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/03/news-principlist-camp-dominates-in-preliminary-election-results.html

EA WorldView

- Iran Special Analysis: **The "Invented" Election**
  http://www.enduringamerica.com/home/2012/3/3/iran-special-analysis-the-invented-election.html







Bahrain

- New Blog Post by Mohamed CJ: "Bahrain Security Forces: **Nationals or Mercenaries?"**
  http://mohamedcj.posterous.com/bahrain-security-forces-nationals-or-mercenar



Ahlam Oun

- Law and Revenge: Top 5 Shocking Cases in Bahrain
  http://www.ahlamoun.com/2012/03/03/law-and-revenge-in-bahrain/

The rumored "union" between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and Sunni mobilization:

Bahrain Politics Blog

- **More on Dialogue and Union** by Bahrain Politics Blog
  http://bahrainipolitics.blogspot.com/2012/03/more-on-dialogue-and-union.html
- **Bahrain: Where Trying to Solve a Political Conflict Only Creates More Conflict** (and Perhaps Saudi Bahrainia)
  http://bahrainipolitics.blogspot.com/2012/02/when-no-one-is-happy.html



Sawsan Al-sha'er

- **Gulf Peoples Union**
  http://www.alwatannews.net/en/post.aspx?id=qs0bgq39g6bcpBd5152NfioEezJbFeWIic3f5pvJx1f7uRmSUu1ST1KYE9M/LogG



Yousef Al-Benkhalil

- **The Bahrain Sunnis Decentralization**
  http://www.alwatannews.net/en/post.aspx?id=WW3rCCewW+UN41goOHiIevZTxD9iQ9QGoWxSxLDsdAI=