

9-15 March 2012 Newsletter - Issue No. 4

Egypt:
- The Coptic Minority (10 Million People) - Integrating into to the Post-Revolutionary Society
- Power Struggle between the Old and New Generation
- Choosing Presidential Candidates: Emotions Trump Rationality
- Egypt and the Turkish Model - From a Military Perspective

Tunisia:
- Islamists vs. Secularists - Clashes Erupted

Morocco:
- Injustice Leads to Intense Protests

Syria:
- Waiting for the Tipping Point
- Assessing the Kurdish Role

Saudi Arabia:
- The Kingdom Divided – University Students Continue to Protest

Iran:
- The Bankruptcy of Reform

Qatar:
- The Rising Role Amidst the Regional Vacuum of Power

Kuwait:
- Royal Family (Government) vs. Islamists (Parliament) - Who Wins?

Bahrain:
- Government Inaction and the Pro-Democracy Revolutionary Movement is Strong and Kicking

Palestinians:
- It's All About Gaza – Are We Heading to a 3rd Intifada?

Egypt



Mohamed Sa'eed

- **Egypt Mob Psychology** - Documentary Movie (English subtitles)
  http://vimeo.com/38390623



Coptic Nationalism

- New Blog Post: "**The Demands of Coptic Nationalists**"
  http://copticliterature.wordpress.com/2012/03/12/the-three-demands-of-coptic-nationalists/
  So, what do Coptic nationalists want? We demand the following:

1. *Secular, civilian, democratic Egypt that is just for all. This means Egypt with no Islamists or military in power. It also means getting Islam out of politics in Egypt. Let that be clear.*
2. *Guaranteeing of the civil and political, individual rights of the Copts within Egypt.*
3. *Guaranteeing of the Coptic collective rights and a large degree of non-territorial autonomy: this will mean a separately elected Coptic cultural council with exclusive legislative power over religion, education and cultural matters, and the right to represent the interests of the Copts to the state.*

- **New Blog post analyzing the most comprehensive Survey of Copts in the Diaspora**
  http://www.copticorphans.org/sites/all/uploads/reports/Coptic%20Diaspora%20Survey%20General%20Findings%20Report%202-23-12.pdf

  General Findings:
  1. *The Coptic Orthodox Church is instrumental in keeping Coptic diasporans' connected to Egypt*
  2. *Members of the Coptic diaspora are primarily engaged with Egypt through philanthropy*
  3. *The Coptic diaspora is more interested and more capable of contributing to development in Egypt than its current activities reflect.*
  4. *Coptic diasporans' interest in investment far surpasses their experience.*
  5. *Some Coptic diasporans engaged in the formal political system in Egypt for the first time following the 2011 revolution.*



Ramy Yaacoub

- New blog post by Ramy Yaacoub: **"Concerning My First Experience Inside Maspero"**

  "This is not a revolution against a regime, I am more include to believe that this is a revolution of a generation, which is the majority against the older generation ruling it, the minority"
  http://blogyaacoub.com/2012/03/09/concerning-my-first-experience-inside-maspero/



Fouad, MD

- **NGO crackdown: operating outside the domains of the law**
  http://democrati.net/2012/03/05/ngo-crackdown-background-information/



Bassem Sabry

- **Full List of Egyptian Presidential Candidates**
  http://anarabcitizen.blogspot.com/2012/03/full-list-of-egyptian-presidential.html



Ikhwanweb

- The Muslim Brotherhood party, Freedom and Justice **latest survey regarding the Presidency Candidate**
  http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?id=29747&utm_medium=twitter
  1. *60% Of Egyptians Undecided on Favorite Presidency Candidate*
  2. *73% are persuaded by presidential hopeful's personality*
  3. *21% go by a candidate's election platform*



Mostafa El-Hoshy

- A New Blog Post: **Egypt: Learning from the Turkish Model**

  In most democratic nations military budgets are in the public domain, national security issues are subject to parliamentary oversight, and, they key difference: the military executes, rather than makes, national security policy – therefore, having foreign policy under the purview of the public.

  http://www.ducoht.org/1/post/2012/03/egypt-learning-from-the-turkish-model.html#.T1xjpYcZdB4

Tunisia

Storyful

- **Tunisian Islamist and leftist students clash on campus**
  http://storyful.com/stories/22141

Morocco



Hisham Almiraat

- **#RIPAmina: Moroccan suicide triggers Twitter outrage**
  http://storyful.com/stories/22591
  16 years old Amina's parents forced her to marry her rapist to preserve their "dignity", she killed herself to preserve her own



Jenny Hauser

- The Rif, a mountainous region in Northern Morocco, is geographically isolated & economically underdeveloped



ibnkafka

- Several villages under police siege in northern Morocco, after almost a week of popular protests. Reports of police brutality.
- There's a strong tradition of distrust of central authority in the Rif, and that distrust is reciprocal. Mediatize Rif
- The Rif has a very lively NGO scene, and many vocal activists, many of whom have been thrown in jail the last decade.
- The Rif has very specific features: mountains, Berber language, poverty, reliance on foreign remittances and drugs revenue

Mamfakinch

- **A call for the end of the media blackout on the Rif region Mediatize Rif**
  http://24.mamfakinch.com/mamfakinch-calls-for-the-end-of-the-media-bla

  The inhabitants of the Moroccan Rif region (Beni Bouayach, Imzouren, El Hoceima, etc.) have endured several days of violent repression. Residents have reported cases of violence, harassment, and theft, among others.



Selma Maarouf

- **Peaceful protest dispersed by Moroccan police in the MediatizeRif**
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=7N-RHcLklH4

Syria

Amnesty International

- **Syria's Torture Survivors Speak Out a Report by Amnesty International**
  http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/mde240162012en.pdf

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

- The Decisive Minority: "**The Role of Syria's Kurds in the Anti-Assad Revolution**" by Omar Hossino and Ilhan Tanir
  http://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/The-Decisive-Minority.pdf

- **Amazing 715 Photos from Homs**
  https://plus.google.com/photos/110478121086592505440/albums/5719320265843844689?banner=pwa

Storyful

- Syrian activists release 'movie trailer' of country's plight – Must Watch
  http://storyful.com/stories/22723







Saudi Arabia

Sada Journal

- **A New Article: The Kingdom Divided**
  http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/2012/03/08/kingdom-divided/a1ee
  "While sustained opposition movements continue to battle for their own Saudi Spring, their success hinges on their ability to unite around a common and national set of political demands—and lay to rest the demons of tribalism and sectarianism"



Ahmed Al Omran

- New Blog Post by Ahmed al-Omran: **Saudi University Students Continue to Protest**
  http://saudijeans.org/2012/03/10/saudi-university-students-continue-to-protest/



Iran

Tehran Bureau

- **Iran, the Question of "Reformism"**
  http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/03/comment-man-friday-khatamis-vote-and-the-question-of-reformism.html
- **The Bankruptcy of Reform and the 'Burning Qs of Our Movement'**

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/03/comment-the-bankruptcy-of-reform-and-the-burning-questions-of-our-movement.html

"Al though it would be premature to write the obituary of reform in Iran, the parliamentary elections on March 2 showed all too clearly that the movement is no longer a force to be reckoned with".

"The Green Movement exposed the bankruptcy of reform. And that is a good thing. It was about time we realized that transition to democracy cannot take place in an intellectual void".

Qatar



The Gulf Blog

- **The Arab World's Unlikely Leader: Embracing Qatar's Expanding Role in the Region**
  http://pomed.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/POMED-Policy-Brief_Roberts.pdf

  "Against a backdrop of political upheaval and unrest throughout the Middle East, Qatar has appeared remarkably stable in its internal politics. In contrast to that internal quiet, however, has been an aggressive and changing foreign policy through which Qatar has pursued a new role of power in the region".

Kuwait



Sadajournal

- A New fascinating article by Ghanim Alnajjar: "**Is Kuwait Out of the Impasse?**"
  http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/index.cfm?fa=show&article=47427&solr_hilite=



Mona Kareem

- A New Article by Mona Kareem: **The Islamist "Mission Impossible" in Kuwait**
  http://muftah.org/?p=3370#.T2Chx1G2nDc.twitter

"The debate over amending Kuwait's second constitutional article reflects the opposition's failure to fulfill its promises of reform and its tendency to involve itself in controversial debates. As a result, Kuwait's national assembly remains a hollow institution, reflecting the authoritarian behaviors of its elected representatives".

Bahrain

Bahrain Politics Blog

- New Blog Post: "**Government Inaction - A year to the Saudi intervention in Bahrain"**
  http://bahrainipolitics.blogspot.com/2012/03/government-inaction.html

- **Amazing Pictures from the Pro-Democracy March in Bahrain**
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Om30-k88uZI# and
  https://twitter.com/#!/abbasbusafwan/status/178141642979684352/photo/1



Palestinian



Mohamed Majdalawi

- New Blog Post by Mohamed Majdalawi: "**Mubarak has left, but we are still detained**" http://mmajdalawi.com/home/?p=70

#GazaUnderAttack



Jon Donnison (*BBC Gaza and West Bank Correspondent)*

- Gaza escalation has familiar pattern. After weeks of relatively low level exchanges, IDF kills a big name leading to many more pal rockets.
- Sources in Gaza say Egypt continued overnight to push for ceasefire between Israel and Pal militants. They hope calm may return today.



Erin Cunningham (*Senior Correspondent for the Middle East & North Africa. Based in Cairo)*

- AP story says Israel targeted PRC's Al-Qaissi because he was planning another attack & Israel similar to the one in Eilat last year.
- But from what I know, Israel backtracked on blaming PRC for Eilat attack (after it carried out air strikes in Gaza).
- In my experience, the PRC's armed wing, the al-Naser Salah ad-Din Brigades, was pretty amateur in terms of military capabilities.



Lydia de Leeuw (*In Gaza, Palestine, as a fellow human being, human rights activist)*

- Less reports coming from Gaza doesn't mean Israel is bombing less: power cuts because of fuel crisis: no internet or radio





Budour

- Gazans must remain under siege, bombardment, intolerable conditions w/o fighting back. When they do, they're terrorists.



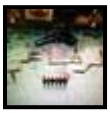
Omar Gaza *(Journalist\Translator\blogger\activist 4m Gaza 2 the world)*

- Ain't wasting my time on an ignorant Zionist filled with hatred like U! U don't think we r humans, I don't think u exist!
- Yeah so children in Gaza r also terrorists? Typical ignorant! Not all Gazans are Hamas tell that 2 your blind army!



sshusma (Palestinian)

- Gaza was mentioned over 57,000 times on twitter today, with and without a symbol before it.



The 47th

- So Israel targets a militant, who Palestinians regards as a freedom fighter, they kill him. But instantly creating 30 people who want revenge



Extrem

- If you love Gaza please put this picture as your twiitter and Facebook profile picture for the next 3 days





Hussein Ibish

- A New Blog post by Hussein Ibish : "**Don't discount a third intifada**"
  https://twitter.com/#!/Ibishblog

  "Israel, on the other hand, seems to have no initiative at all, and no realistic vision of the future except continuing to expand and entrench the occupation. But underlying the new intelligence report is the understanding that the status quo is simply untenable. If it continues, sooner or later something will trigger another confrontation on the ground that is almost certain to spiral quickly into violence"



