

Middle-East New-Media • A Weekly Coverage • Editor: Orit Perlov

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Newsletter - Issue No. 6

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Egypt

Muftah

After Shenouda: Challenges and Opportunities for Egypt's Copts by: Joseph Farag

"Egypt's Copts who, in addition to confronting the uncharted territory in which all Egyptians found themselves following Mubarak's fall, have also had to confront the rising tide of Islamism, sectarianism, and violence that has emerged in its wake"[....] " If Copts are to achieve the equality they so desire and deserve, the Coptic Church will have to take a step back and allow the continuation of extra-ecclesiastical organization, both within the Coptic community, and across the Christian-Muslim divide that afflicts Egypt*"*

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Karim Maged Fawzy

Pope Shenouda III and the Coptic Church: Sensitive Questions

"Will he allow the majlis al mili (laymen council) to be independent? Will the secular elite Christians be allowed back inside the Church to serve a role and fully integrate in Egyptian society? Will Christians hide in their enclave and their community?"

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Egyptians Sour on U.S., Eye Closer Ties to Turkey, Iran

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Egypt Constituent Assembly



The Big Pharaoh

Today parliament will pick the 100 members who'll write our constitution. 50% MPs mostly MB & Salafis. 50% from syndicates, also MB. Enjoy

Committee that drafted Egypt's 1923 Constitution



The Brotherhood will write our "revolution constitution". The same revolution they initially refused to join.

The Brotherhood will write our "revolution constitution". The same revolution they tried to betray after solely meeting Omar Soliman.

People gave their lives for this revolution & all what we are seeing now is silly childish political Pickering between the military & the MB

Why are you surprised at the MB's monopoly over constitution drafting? Didn't you see it coming after last year's referendum results?

Islamist government, army generals ruling from behind the scenes, intelligence controlling foreign policy, US ally...Pakistan? No. Future Egypt

Most probably we will look very similar to Pakistan. We have a lot in common.



Arabist

The way Egypt's constituent assembly was appointed shows one thing: **effectively you have a FJP-Nour alliance in parliament**.



Arabist

The Constituent Assembly and the Crisis of Consensus

"In these circumstances, the political and social forces that have been excluded from the decision-making process will have to make up their minds quickly. They can either be active participants – within the bounds of their fair share of society – or they will find no choice but to withdraw from a scene that does not recognize them, and does not give them a chance for true, equal participation in the decision-making process"

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Bassem Sabry

A New Blog Post by Bassem Sabry: **Why I Feel Disappointed By Egypt's New Constituent Assembly**

"As I regard the final list of the 100 members of Egypt's Constituent Assembly and the dominance of two hegemonic political powers over it, I cannot help but experience a bitter feeling. All I can see is another potential glorious moment squandered for a nation in desperate need for one."

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Zeinobia

New Blog Post by Zeinobia: **Egypt - The final List of constituent assembly**

Here is the final list of constituent assembly members after it was announce
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New Blog Post by Zeinobia: **The Constituent assembly crisis : It is not about majority more about a whole nation**

"Everyday more members withdrew from the 100 members constituent assembly rejecting the way of choosing its members and the Islamist majority control"

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Muslim Brotherhood & The Constituent Assembly



Mahmoud Salem
We started a revolution to stop the fear, the oppression of a party without ideas to benefit the country, to get our rights.

We thought all the people involved agreed on this, while it seems that the MB is different. They wanted it as is with them driving is all.

That's fine, means just another group of assholes that we will expose and uproot slowly. Same game, different asshole.

As for the constitution, well, it's not like we knew or cared for the previous one, coz it didn't represent all or protect all, same game.

Which is why I am not concerned, because the game is not political, that's the distraction, and the game is social, cultural & economical.

So, please, Islamists, expose yourselves further, your defenders are already tired, and you have only been in power for 2 months. Four more years.

You think we are stuck with you? Ha, you are stuck here with us. You have seen what we can do once we focus, so please, focus us more.

Even the idiots amongst us are being exposed as the mentally bankrupts blowhards that they are coz of you. You do us nothing but favors, thanks.



Ahmad Shokr

This is not 1954

"Unlike the Free Officers' coup, Egypt's current revolutionary experience has yielded no leaders or groups that are capable of exercising sole control over the country, or determining the shape of the new political system alone. More likely than a decisive victory and the forging of a hegemonic order by any single force is the persistence of negotiations and conflicts between elements of the old ruling establishment, emerging political leaders and parties, and, lest we count them out, popular forces that have set the pace of events for much of the interim period"

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Lebanon



Mitchell Prothero



Paintballing with Hezbollah: Is the Path Straight to Their Hearts By Mitchell Prothero

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Tehran Bureau

Iranian-Saudi Tensions Play Out in Beirut, Tripoli: Diverse Lebanese state threatened by sectarian conflict in Syria.

"The anti-Assad Lebanese may not get the landscape change in Lebanese politics that they hope for," [.....] "The weakening of the Syrian factor would inevitably weaken the pro-Syrian fractions such as the Baath and Syrian Social Nationalists, and partly the Aounists, but will first start to affect Hezbollah when the party starts to need new ways to acquire weapons, which will not be that difficult as the party controls an important stretch of the Lebanese coast."

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Malik Al-Abdeh

New Blog Post by Malik Al-Abdeh: **The lost stars - Why civil wars happen in Syria & Lebanon**

"How do we explain the de facto civil war unfolding in Syria today? How do we predict what course it will take? How do we come up with a viable and long-term solution?

A good starting point is to compare Syria with a country that bears a striking resemblance: Lebanon. This may seem surprising because the two countries (and two peoples) appear to be somewhat different"

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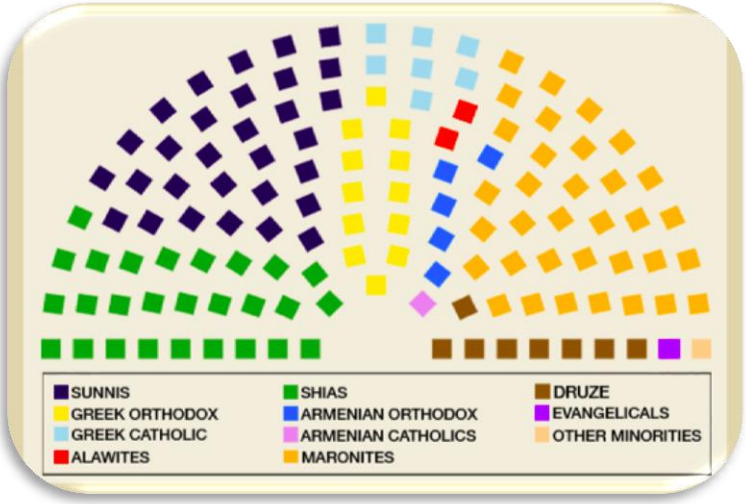

The Taif Agreement established a more equitable share of political power in Lebanon.

Syria

The Majalla

Voice of the People? Just another conference for the Syrian opposition by: Andrea Glioti

"Besides the differing views, what is most discouraging about the opposition is the abortive war of egos. "The fact that any kind of opposition has been forbidden for the last forty years had an influence on its current structure"

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Hurriyet Daily News

Turkey, Syria, Iraq and the Kurdish issue by SOLİ ÖZEL

"Should Syria's Kurds be granted rights, while not replicating the situation of Iraqi Kurds, they will certainly enjoy a better life. . . . Turkish Kurds will feel themselves further oppressed by state-inspired obstacles to greater freedoms

and, encouraged by their co-nationals, will be motivated to obtain greater Kurdish rights." […]"In other words, ***it would be much more difficult to contain the Kurdish problem in distinct countries as a national issue. If regional sectarian strife does not break out and Syria remains territorially intact, this emergence of trans-border Kurdish politics may be the most important consequence of the Syrian crisis****"*

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Colum Lynch

Kofi Annan on Russian support for Syria mediation

"Transcript of remarks by UN/LAS Special Envoy Kofi Annan at a media stakeout in Moscow" Read More



Malik Al-Abdeh

New Blog Post by Malik Al-Abdeh*:* **Syria's rebels need to change strategy – and fast**

"The FSA is a loosely-knit militia organization that needs to start thinking and acting like a cohesive guerrilla army" […]"Much will depend on the Syrian National Council (SNC) and what financial assistance it can extend to the rebels. Much also will depend on the FSA leadership in Turkey, which can offer local "brigades" strategic vision and direction"

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Stephen Starr

The Role of the Mosque in the Syrian Revolution by Thomas Pierret

"After August 2011, mosques gradually lost their importance in the uprising for at least two reasons: ***first****, in Damascus and Aleppo, repression succeeded in making demonstrations increasingly rare in rebellious places of worship;* ***second****, in the regions where the opposition was most powerful (governorates of Homs, Hama, Idlib, and Reef Damascus), it became increasingly militarized and took control of several towns and neighborhoods, thus reducing the importance of mosques as 'safe' zones for demonstration"*

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Yemen

Women in Yemen's Arab Spring



"The Article Portraits the Yemenite women's participation in the recent political protests and provides an historical background on their role in governance"

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Sada Journal

Sheikhdowm: Why Tribes Aren't the Answer in Yemen by Elham Manea

"The state is very much key to any attempt to solve Yemen's problems, and hitherto has been hampered by weakness and corruption stemming from the rule of a single clan—one more interested in filling its coffers than addressing the needs of its population"

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Saudi Arabia

Muftah

New Blog Post by Leila Saudi Arabia's Social Spring

"While it is unclear to what extent the Saudi government actively fosters debate over social issues to deflect attention from more serious political and economic demands, the government has clearly benefitted from a divided and distracted Saudi society"[....] "And while social issues are an important part of Saudi culture, these matters must not prevent Saudi society from addressing more substantive and pressing concerns regarding the country's political and economic future."

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No Saudi Spring: Anatomy of a Failed Revolution by Madawi Al-Rasheed

*"Unlike Egypt and Tunisia, **Saudi Arabia has no civil society of any significance**. As a result, online calls to protest—beloved of so many "cyber-utopians"—had no place to take root"*

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Iran

Tehran Bureau

Former UN Atom Agency Chief: Attack Can't Stop Iran Nuclear Program

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The Sanctioned 17: EU's New Roster of Iran Human Rights Violators

"The new list of 17 includes several prominent figures, most notably Sadegh Larijani chief of the Islamic Republic's judiciary and brother to Majles (parliament) Speaker Ali Larijani and Ali Saeedi Shahroudi Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's representative to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps"

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THE MAJALLA

The Odd Couple, Iran and Qatar: Two regional misfits

"Iran and Qatar have sustained an unlikely relationship of mutual tolerance for best part of 30 years. But in today's international climate Qatar have opted to side more and more with their GCC neighbors, while Iran attempts to cope with increased pressures".

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RFE/RL

Israelis, Iranians Agree Via Facebook: 'We Don't Want War'

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Bahrain

Bahrain Politics Blog



Look Who's Boycotting Dialogue Now

"It is now the Sunnis (at least those in the National Unity Gathering) who are threatening boycott of the still-rumored upcoming second round of dialogue, ostensibly because the physical conflict is still ongoing--that is, because al-Wifaq and "its followers" in the street continue to fight for "regime change."
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Faisal Al Sheikh

Bahraini Sunnis, watch out!

"It has become crystal clear that what happened in Bahrain bears no relation to the Arab Spring movements. It was a sectarian and discriminatory movement led by deeply sectarian political forces that do not recognize any other components in society. They want to show the world that their alleged revolution is supported by the sweeping majority of all Bahrainis from all sects and that the change they are demanding is a popular one"

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Freedom House

New Blog Post by Husain Abdulla: **For Bahrain, the Saudi Solution Means No Solution**

"The Saudi approach would fail to end the current crisis, which has already dragged on for over a year. Only a fair political solution can restore peace and prosperity to Bahrain"

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Palestinian

Muftah

New Blog Post by Yazan Al-Saadi: **One State - the Only Viable and Just Solution for Palestine/Israel**

"As much as Israel, and even the United States, have attempted to hold negotiations hostage to their own terms, they have guaranteed the inevitability of one state. ***The two-state solution has become a relic of an old political-legal framework that does not tackle the crucial factors driving this conflict.****"*

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Jadaliyya

Qalandia: The Potential to Transform Palestinian Nonviolent Resistance

"Qalandia is the scariest site for an Israel bent on policies of divide, conquer, and separation. To target this innermost vertebra of the separation policy at Qalandia is to target the occupation at its weakest, and therefore, its most vulnerable link"

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The Global March to Jerusalem - The Global March to Jerusalem, slated for March 30 (Land Day for the Palestinians), is a coordinated attempt to breach Israel's borders from surrounding Arab states—Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon

GMJ

The Global March to Jerusalem – March 30th

"Massive marches will be organized in Palestine (the 1948 seizures, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) towards Jerusalem or to the nearest point to it. Palestinian people from all factions and institutions will participate alongside international solidarity activists who are able to enter Palestine"

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Occupied Palestine

Action Alert ▶ Global March to Jerusalem – March 30, 2012

"On 30 March 2012, from all continents we will converge and gather along the Palestinian borders with Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, with the participation of delegations joining us from every country in the world in a peaceful march towards Palestine"

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