

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

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Egypt

Present: Abul Futouh - The Next President of Egypt ?!



Hussein Ibish

The Full text of comments by Abdul Monem Abul Futouh

Full Text





Akram Ismail

Abouel Fotouh: The wrong choice for secularists

"We need at least 10 years to have a strong popular base, and we will not garner such support unless we deal very cautiously with our gains, even if they are just minor. I'm not enthusiastic about any theoretical or practical effort that does not serve the interests of our organizations and political positions. ***We can either choose to be the creators of something that requires political struggle, but which will eventually empower us,***

or continue to be observers who possess nothing but valuable opinions and analyses"

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Baheyya

The Aboul Fotouh Bandwagon

*"To kick off the official start of presidential competition, Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh's campaign did a smart thing and showcased the most energetic part of his base: university students. Bedecked in the cheerful orange color of the campaign, they packed into dozens of buses from across Egypt and poured into Alexandria's famed al-Qaid Ibrahim Square where they put on a marvelous show, pulsating with hope and jubilation at the imminent prospect of real presidential elections" [.....] "**If he does make inroads into the pious, suffering lower classes and peels off some supporters from the nervous upper classes, the divided Copts, and the fractious secular left, Aboul Fotouh's bandwagon will be hard to beat**"*

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Future: The Long Distance Runners



Ashraf El-Sherif (Teaches political science at the American University in Cairo)

Egypt's Transitional Period will Never End

*"Sooner or later **the collapse of our deep state is imminent,** as it cannot be revived nor given temporary sedation, not to mention the fact that Egypt will not continue to tolerate circum-political debates, instead of debates on the achievement of the much needed economic and political change, for much longer"*



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THE MAJALLA

Playing it Smart: Hearts and Minds by Paula Mejia

*"As protests over the upcoming presidential elections continue, **El***

Baradei announces a new political party. *Though it is technically too late for him to run, the decision to announce the party now and not participate in the elections may be a strategic move on his part with the potential to give his party the upper hand in the future"*

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Karim Shafei

A New Blog Post by Karim Shafei: **Mind the Gap**

"Even I – someone who's joined January 25th from day 1 – am not willing to fight for the removal of SCAF, not because I believe they are doing a good job but because I see that everybody else has been doing a much worse job" [.....] "And we – as a civil society – have no choice but to gather around such a president and unify our efforts"

It's about time that we start seeing things as they really are:

The army will continue to have significant power for years to come and we have to live with that

The next president will not be able to put the army on trial

The military will be uprooted slowly and it will only happen with a strong civil society that agrees on key basics

Change will happen when people are educated, housed and in good health

Our role in the coming period is to work at the grassroots and to continue to build a collective conscious, not only as individual players but as a civil society interested in seeing change

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The Abbasiya Fiasco - The Day when Egyptian Revolution Committed Suicide!

Storyful

Deadly dawn attack on Cairo protesters

"At least five people were killed in Cairo early on Wednesday morning when a sit-in protest near the country's Ministry of

Defence was attacked by unknown assailants. Protesters have been camped in the city's Abbasiya district for days, demanding an end to military rule. Many of the protesters are supporters of Salafi presidential candidate Hazem Abu Ismail, who was barred from the race because his mother held dual Egyptian-US citizenship"

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Mahmoud Salem

Did you notice how I never really spoke about the #MOD (Ministry of Defense) or called for people two go there, at all? Yeah, there is a reason for that. #amnotstupid

This is the usual game by Islamists; they go start a confrontation, idiots start rallying people to go down, then the Islamists leave.

So, as usual, our people are left there alone, getting shot, maimed or killed, for no purpose or goal. And I am sick of it. #nomoredeath

The reality is, everyone who egged on people to go in the name of solidarity are responsible for all the pointless injuries that happened.

You can encourage people to go fight outnumbered on hostile grounds if there is a real goal. Otherwise, you are just sending them to die.



Adam Makary

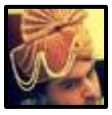
There's Sounds of khartoush around Midan Abbasiya. I can see people on rooftops, balconies throwing rocks at protesters on the ground.

#MOD (Ministry of Defense) arrests: 176- Cairo, 7- Suez, 4- Alexandria.
Casualties: 1 dead, 350 injured, 120 still in hospital.



Huriya Akhdar

Okay my whole morning has been spent obsessed & tweeting about MOD. This is what I hate now about Egypt.. SHIT JUST HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!



Tom Gara

When armed thugs feel comfortable murdering people in the streets in front of their country's Ministry of Defense, you have an army issue.



Desert dweller



A Blog Post on: **What's really going on in Abbaseya?**

1- The march and the sit in was initiated and joined by various revolutionary groups (Not just Hazem Salah Abu Islamil supporters).
2- In addition to the revolutionary Islamists April 6 movement, Kefaya, members of the ultras, presidency candidate like Abol Fotoh, Khaled Ali, Sabahy and of course the independent youth groups and ordinary people are present in the sit in all against military rule.
3- The presence of bearded men can't be neglected of course but calling this (a sit in of radical ultra conservative supporters of Hazem Salah) is bull shit. I don't know how else I should put it. There are many Salafi groups that are revolutionaries and just because you hate Islamists in general you can simply neglect the fact they do exist.
4- The atmosphere in the sit in is great, very well organized and open to everyone similar to how it was in the 18 days.
5- The weapons used were: machine guns, birdshots, tear gas made in the U.S, Molotov cocktails, live ammunition and others.
6- The number of deaths according to field hospital doctors and eyewitness accounts for all the attacks are more than 40 and the number of injuries is more than 200.
7- The military and police forces presence is huge in front of the ministry of defense but they kept watching as people got slaughtered in front of them in addition to aiding thugs and providing them with tear gas and military weapons.
8- There's a complete media bleak out as things were going on and afterwards they came out inaccurate.

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Zeinobia



MOD Sit In: Abassiya Battle II

"We are all against any attack against peaceful protesters and sits

in, no one argues about that but I think we should be careful to what we are being dragged to. WE all knew that the clashes will take place and it will be violently yet for some reason unknown revolutionary romantic reason some people wanted to stand in in front of the train because they are addicted to that adrenaline rush. We are still in self-denial status that many of the assailants that attacked the protesters were from the locals of Abassiya"



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#MOD: Because we do not learn from our mistakes!!

"Already one of the disasters that they cannot deny is how Mohamed El Zawahiri, the brother of Ayman Al Zawahiri was received by his followers mainly from Salafist Jihadi trend as well the Abu Ismail Supporters on the first anniversary of Osama Bin Laden "At the same time John Kerry is visiting Cairo" with chants like "Hey Obama, we are all Osama", "The people want El Sharia" .. to the end of this with their black flags.

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The Constitutional Crisis - A Neverending Story



Bassem Sabry

Egypt Tries To Get Out Of Its Constitutional Crisis

SCAF and multiple political forces agreed on what they see as the principles needed to get out of the current Egyptian constitutional crisis. These six principles were, according to Ahram Online

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Mahmoud Salem

Lots of talk about using the 1971 constitution as a temporary constitution for 6 months until the constitution is written. #hmmm

The question is: which version? 1971, 1980 or 2007? 2007 was horrible & 80 has no term limits, but 71 doesn't state sharia as the source. ;)

Also, 1971 has more powers for the president then the constitutional declaration of SCAF, believe it or not. Do we want that back?

What's makes the discussion more fun is that some voices in the MB are calling for national election to elect the constitutional committee.

Which sounds great, but in the case we elect the constitutional committee, there won't be a referendum on the constitution it produces.

Also, if you see Jihadi fucks shooting at Abbasiya people, don't refer to them as #elthowar. We didn't sign up for this.



Salama Moussa

Nahda and its Ills – 2nd part of critique of Islamist project.

"This post expands on the Nahda*as a guide to cultural and foreign policy and the dangers it would pose to any country who espouses it as a vision for governance."*

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Bahrain

Saudi-Bahrain – From a "Phase of Cooperation" to a "Phase of Union"

Bahrain Politics Blog



GCC Union, Civilian Retrials, and the Resurrection of Ludo Hood: The U.S. and Saudi Put the Squeeze on Bahrain

"More subtle is the storyline in the run up to the much-awaited GCC summit in Riyadh, now only two weeks away, at which leaders are expected to consider the question of moving the GCC from a ***"phase of cooperation" to a "phase of union****," as now-famously said by King 'Abdallah in December"*

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Betrayal - A Fellow Researcher Cross the Line



Gregg Carlstrom

The Majlis

Ed Husain's tweets drew a lot of scorn, and with good reason; comments like this one do not exactly pass for sophisticated analysis:



Ed Husain

If Bahrain is good enough for the U.S Fifth Fleet, it's good enough for **#F1** **#GrandPrix** games. Back away Iran's molotov hurlers.

*"The central issue with his analysis, though, is the framing, and the focus on Qassim. It's true that Qassim can mobilize large numbers of people: His endorsement was one reason for the huge turnout during the March 9 protest on Budaiya highway. B**ut don't confuse that with ideological influence; the protesters carried signs calling for democratic reforms, not vilayet-e-fiqh.** In four trips to Bahrain since the uprising began, and hundreds of interviews with opposition members, **I have never met one who endorsed theocracy"***

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Arabist

Ed Husain ❤ Bahrain's Monarchy

"The terms Husain presents are essentially that the opposition has to agree to the Khalifas' terms, while the latter should be under no obligation to to yield or be held accountable. Ed Husain is taking the Khalifas' spin hook, line and sinker — and most surprising of all this appears to be genuine naiveté on his part. The sad thing is, the Khalifas — try as they might — could not buy that kind of PR"

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Sada

The War of the Words: Bahrain's Struggle over Local Coverage

"Bahrain's ongoing political crisis has profoundly transformed the country's media landscape. Perhaps more so than in any of the other Arab uprisings, the struggle over events' coverage is at the conflict's core. From the regime's

rehashing of familiar tools of repression to its more innovative appropriation of “new media”—as well as ways in which local journalists learn to circumvent the new challenges—Bahrain shows us what the new Arab media scene looks like"

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Syria

The Ugly Truth: It's A Trench Warfare



James Miller

"This practice is perpetrating the myth that there is a solution to the crisis beyond either intervening or letting Syria decay into civil war. There isn't. Syria is ugly, and it won't get any prettier any time soon. "Car bombs" and "ceasefires" are only the superficial make-up for that ugliness"

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The end of Bashar al Assad



Saudi Arabia

Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood is Saudi Bitter Pill



Sultan al-Qassemi (a UAE-based commentator on Arab affairs)

Saudi-Egyptian breakdown: What’s at stake?

"For Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states, the importance of Egypt cannot be over-estimated. Saudi and the Gulf states realize that Egypt is the only Arab state capable of balancing Iran’s threat to their nations. However, the rise of Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood has been a bitter pill to swallow for Saudi Arabia. Ironically for such an important Arab nation, the Gulf states still do not have an “Egypt policy” that would see beyond the constantly

shifting political scene that must be accepted as part of the social change of post-January 2011 Egypt"

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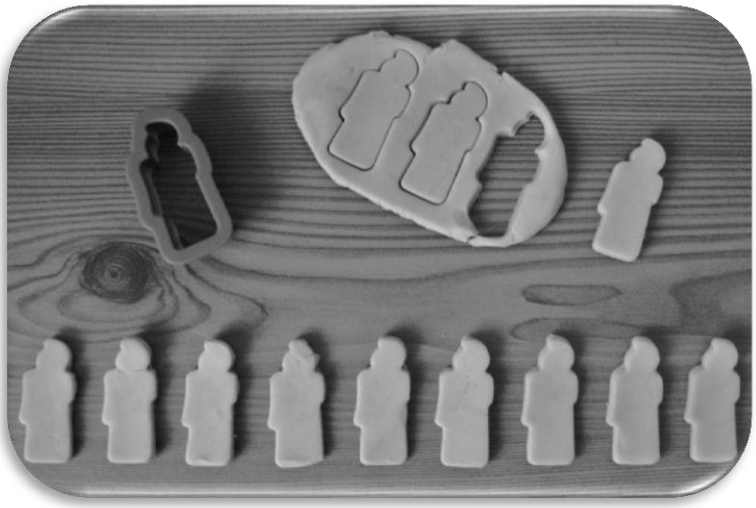
***Robots:* A Monotonic Society!**



Will Abdul
Saudi Arabia; A Monotonic Society!

"It's not very difficult to get an excellent grades through your academic life here in Saudi Arabia, Since all you have to do is to actually show up, listen to whatever the teacher has to say and keep your mouth shut ! Never try to be a smart-ass and ask Qs since they could annoy the teacher and backfire at you, also Do not speak unless spoken to -not like anyone would listen to what you've to say in the first place- . That's it! That all you have to do to get an A+! Be some kind of a giant sponge that absorbs only one single type of liquid and nothing else – Imagine how useful such a sponge would be -, And keep calm while the teacher pour you in the same old template that everybody should be mold into"



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US-Saudi Relations: Dilemma- The Egyptian Lesson



Abdullah Alshammri

Saudi Arabia's Quandary

"The rapid toppling of Tunisia's president and then Egypt's in populist uprisings seemed to spread like wildfire, including to neighboring Bahrain. Instability and rapid change appeared unstoppable, a situation that was deemed to undermine Saudi Arabia's interests and standing in the region. ***The crisis was compounded by the perception that the United States was equivocating on what to do about these events, and the Saudis found it unforgivable that Washington quickly abandoned a long-standing ally like Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Should an***

***uprising take place in Saudi Arabia, the US might also turn its back on the regime**. Riyadh had to fend for itself and something had to be done to halt the tide of events. Riyadh decided that Bahrain would become the breakwater"*

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Lebanon



Shiite Self-Criticism - Hizballah's Popularity In Decline

Hanin Ghaddar

Syria dishevels Lebanon's Shia

*"Naturally, **people are still scared to voice their condemnation of the Syrian regime in public**," said Ali Haidar, a Shia journalist from South Lebanon. "**But in private, there are many who have started doing so. And on the Internet too, we've seen many Facebook groups, such as South Lebanese with the Syrian Revolution, in which Shia are expressing discontent with the regime, and how Hezbollah has handled everything**. Their numbers may not be large – usually each one gets one or two thousand supporters – but they're growing, and their condemnations are powerful." Expatriates, too, are often at odds with the party's position: "**As well as the leftists, and the educated elites, those who live outside the South, or the [mainly Shia Beirut suburb] Dahiyeh, or Lebanon altogether, tend to be more vocal in their negative opinions**"*

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Lebanese: We Want Change - Now!



Nadine Moawad

I Have a Feeling Our Time Has Come

"I have a feeling that our time has come. We, the people on the margins. The angry, disenfranchised people who pay too much for bread and fuel and rent and water and parking. We, the kids who grew up in the 80s. We, who are unamused by boring media and mindless entertainment.

We, who've been struggling for years trying to create small, important projects that go nowhere and achieve nothing. Civil marriage. Women's rights. Green spaces. Anti-corruption.

Renewable energy. Equal pay. Migrant rights. Bicycle lanes. Refugee rights. Public schools. Public universities. Social security. Protect our beaches. Protect our workers. Protect our Internet. Protect love. *Save our animals. Save our forests. Save our heritage. End torture. End the civil war. Build a public transportation system that works already!"*

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Iran

The Power of the Working Class Can No Longer Be Ignored

Tehran Bureau

Iranian Labor and the Struggle for Independent Unions by Sohrab Behdad and Farhad Nomani

*"The recent resurgence of independent collective labor activity has generated a search for new ideas and new debates among labor activists, labor committees, and several independent trade unions concerning the formulation of workers' demands and effective organizational practices" [.....] "**The power of the working class of Iran can no longer be ignored. Despite all the historical, political, legal, and structural obstacles,** including repression and intimidation, its strength is once again on the rise"*

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Ahmedinejad's Crumbles

Tehran Bureau

Behind the Curtain Principlist Rivalries in 2d Round of Parliamentary Elections

"These parliamentary elections have largely been boycotted by the reformists. *The main rivalry has been between two principlist groups: one, under the supervision of Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi Kani, that goes by the name of Jebheh Mottahed-e Osoolgarayan (United Front of Principlists), the other, whose spiritual leader is Ayatollah Mohammad Taghi Mesbah Yazdi, known as Jebheh Paaydaari (Stability Front, or Durable Front)"*

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Press Freedom Day Conference



Daoud Kuttab

Nedal Mansour says 2012 witnessed fall from cliff of Jordanian media despite media making success in overcoming self-censorship

Mansour; majority of Jordanian journalists more critical of news web sites yet consider them guarantee for press freedom

Mansour; Jordanian journalist Jamal Muhtaseb in jail for tenth day in violation of Jordanian constitution and press law

The New Appointed Government - Only a Makeup



NOW Lebanon News

Jordan's Islamists say New Government "Setback for Reform"

"Jordan has seen persistent Arab Spring-inspired demonstrations almost every week since January 2011, demanding sweeping reforms and a tougher fight against corruption" [....]"Last Friday, more than 1,000 people demonstrated in central Amman, criticizing Tarawneh, saying they "want to change policies, not only governments"

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Democracy Digest

Jordan's Mukhabarat and 'Careless' Monarch Set Back Reform?

"As elsewhere in the Gulf, a minority of Arab Bedouin clans would rule the roost, while the nonindigenous majority would find themselves relegated to second-class citizens or guest workers. ***Hopes of political and economic reform will be put on ice, and Gulf largesse will relieve pressure to hold to account those parts of the state budget that are currently outside parliamentary review, like military expenditure.*** *Already the Central Bank looks increasingly powerless to investigate allegations of high-level corruption. When the Central Bank's governor tried last month to do just that, he was sacked and his office surrounded by the Mukhabarat to prevent him entering it"*

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Yemen



Fragile: *Tribal, Religious, and Military* Mix

Nasser Maweri

Yemen's fragile transition keeps civil war at bay

"A Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) deal for political transition is now in place, but regime rivalries are impeding progress as the fighting intensifies between security forces and Ansar al-Sharia, an insurgent group with close ideological and leadership links with al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The agreement's failure could return Yemen to the brink of civil war and increase the al-Qaida threat in the Gulf and the West"

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Nasser Arrabyee

In Yemen: The coming regime: a civil or religious state?

"The third scenario lies between the best and worst, and is the most likely to happen. The conflicting parties may maintain the current balance until 2014 and even beyond--not in order to establish the civil state but to reproduce themselves as "snakes" creeping under and around a new dancing president who will either do their bidding or impose himself on them as Saleh did in the past. This scenario is more plausible, being easier, less costly and more familiar to the traditional forces (tribal, religious, and military) trying to reproduce themselves under the banner of the "civil state"

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Morocco

The Future is in the Hands of the *MBs Party*



Abou Bakr Jamai

The Moroccan Reinvention of Mild Authoritarianism

*"The government of Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane is avoiding serious reforms. Since the PJD's (**Party of Justice and Development**) accession to power four months ago, nothing has been proposed let alone done to rationalize an unfair tax system, reform the financial black hole that is the subsidies fund or more generally confront the entrenched economic mafia related to the monarchy. When the effects of the crisis in Europe and the economic fallout of a paltry rainy season hit home, inflaming even more the*

already incandescent social climate, the PJD fuse might not prove solid enough to protect the Moroccan model of authoritarianism. Another nightmarish scenario for the monarchy would be if the famed internal democracy of the PJD came back with a vengeance. PJD constituencies might balk at their party leaders' powerlessness and subservience to the regime, and revolt"

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Palestinian



Gaza - The Power of Civil Society Reveals

Occupied Palestine



#PalHunger - 3000 Palestinians fight for Human Rights & Dignity

"Palestinian Prisoners endure ongoing violations of the rights. Incarcerated in Israeli prisons, many jailed without charge or trial. Continuing ill-treatment of 4,600 political prisoners, denial of family, lawyer & more..."

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Why Palestinian prisoners are on Hunger Strike

Basic demands – to live with dignity and:

An end to the arbitrary practice of administrative detention

An end to solitary confinement

An end to the storming of cells

The lifting of all restrictions on family visits

The improvement of medical care

An end to relatives being humiliated at checkpoints while journeying to and from visits

Factsheet



Iyad El-Baghdadi

As a stateless Palestinian, I have never taken any hand out from any government ever, coz none are responsible for me. And I'm proud of it.

I'm going to be 35 in a few weeks, and I must wonder whether I will ever vote before I die.



Thameena Husary

Protest in support of prisoners, #Ofer prison, May, 1, 2012

For more pictures



Rana B. Baker

These are moments when I feel how isolated #Gaza is from the world. I cannot even join friends at #Ofer in the West Bank in my home.



Abir Kopty

A woman just got on top of the skunk truck with Pal flag! Viva women of Palestine



Linah Al-Saafin

What's a little (ok a lot) of pepper spray compared to the thousands of Palestinian prisoners refusing food for 15 days now? #PalHunger

Protest at #Ofer prison today (1/5) may have been "exciting" but don't forget why we were protesting. Hunger striking Palestinian prisoners



Tweet Palestine

Stand against Israeli oppression stand for justice don't let Israel kill our helpless prisoners in Israeli jails starving for Freedom



Asa Winstanley

Palestinians carry signs the names of villages destroyed during the 1948 Nakba in the village of Abu Snan during the annual March of Return



Palestinians assert right to return on Israeli "Independence Day"

"It's passing from one generation to another, without giving up our rights,"[....]"This is a message to the Israeli apartheid that no matter what they do, no matter how much efforts they put for 64 years to destroy our identity, to demolish our narrative and our history, it's not going to work."

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Haniyeh Landslide Victory Over Mashal in Polls



Arabist

Reports: Islmail Haniyeh Seen Leading in Hamas Politburo Vote

"Is Hamas Politburo leader Khaled Mashaal's constellation dimming? He's already announced he'll be stepping down, and whether or not his next step to be a more active international leader in the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, if he keeps his word he may not be the man eventually presiding over the (stalled) implementation of "unity" agreement with Fatah that has been sitting dead in the water since Hamas put forward terms that Fatah did not (and could not) accept" ***[.....]"The continued division here, resulting from Hamas's 2007 crackdown on Fatah in response to Dahlan's actions, prolongs the status quo - or, more precisely, inches the region towards a situation in which the status quo will be normalized"***

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Reality and Policy are Changing and Reshaping



Sharif S. Elmusa (a Palestinian poet and professor of political science at the American University in Cairo)

To visit or not to visit Jerusalem, why make that the question?

*"**The Palestinian Authority must admit that it and the Arab regimes have done precious little to stop the Judaization of Jerusalem or other parts of the West Bank**. Its invitation to Arab citizens and religious leaders to show up in the city and to make Jerusalem the question of the moment marks a desperate move to mask the PA's failures. **The time is overdue for the PA leadership to hand over its banner to others more willing to stand up to Israel's bulldozers"***

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Ahmad Nagi

What about Palestine?

*"Many will profit from the continuation of the Palestinian issue. **It's a vicious circle of regimes pretending to want peace or practicing verbal jihad.** There is no peace but no war, no space to dream or hope for closure" [....] "What's more worrying than the lack of insight or vision with regard to the Palestinian issue by all political forces in Egypt is this lack of vision by the Palestinian forces themselves. **Even more distressing is the fact that this comes at a time when all of the meanings of the Palestinian cause have changed; even the word 'Palestine' is difficult to define**"*

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