

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

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Storify

Alber Saber's Trial #freeAlber

"Two months ago, the young activist was arrested in his house, on the 13th of September. Accused of having published writings and videos mocking the fasting during the Ramadan and the cross devotion for the Christians; and of having created the webpages "The crazy dictator" and "Egyptian Atheists", Alber Saber is currently supported by many defending the Rights of Expression.The Marg Misdeamor Court is incriminating Saber's publications of atheist material and propaganda on the social medias. The trial which was supposed to begin one month ago had been postponed to the 14th of November"

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Salama Moussa

The Empty Seat

"Egyptians have struggled with modernity for two centuries. the Copts and the Muslim Brotherhood have taken two radically different paths in that struggle. We now see with glaring clarity the results. Dr. Mursi had a golden opportunity to heal and lead by the simple act of sitting in a chair with his fellow Egyptians. But perhaps loyalty to his cult is stronger than an oath to his countrymen. Whatever the case, the fissures in Egypt were always there, and the Egyptians were experts at denial through the meaningless discourse of "National Unity". Now the fissures are big enough to swallow all words save the truth. Pray that when the fractures appear that they not be along religious lines"

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NGO's Against IMF Deal

Arabist

Egypt Parties, NGO's Against IMF Deal

"We, the undersigned civil society groups and political parties, are writing to express our concerns about the proposed $4.8 billion International

Monetary Fund (IMF) loan to Egypt that is currently under negotiation. ***We reject the loan negotiations on the following basis: The negotiations of the terms and conditions of the loan agreement, including the government's economic reform program, have lacked transparency on the part of both the IMF and the Government of Egypt****. Moreover, these negotiations have continued in the absence of an elected parliament, which was dissolved on 14 June 2012, and with the president of Egypt holding full legislative authority. Any agreement under these circumstances would contravene the democratic principle of separation of powers and Egypt's longstanding constitutional requirement of parliamentary oversight over executive decisions"*

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Full Letter

Draft Constitution: The Power Struggle - Islamists vs. Liberals Continues



ihoudaiby

Constitution for an Elitist State

"The writing of the constitution comes after a revolution in which Egyptians exercised their political power without a proxy, in parallel with a social protest movement – perhaps the largest in modern history – that demanded collecting economic and social rights and shattered the domination of the state by the elite. Nonetheless, the structure of the constitution is very conservative, which accurately represents the dichotomy between politicians (whether Islamists or civil) and society. ***It also confirms the ongoing conflict, not between Islamists and civil forces, but between the people on the one hand and a state of experts together with the privileged of the deposed regime on the other hand****"*

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Mai E

Egypt's Draft: A Constitution of Conditionals

"Historically, constitutions that are short, succinct, and explicit have been the most successful and have provided the strongest protections for the citizens of the state and the state itself. Egypt's draft constitution, although

superficially touching on a comprehensive set of topics, does little to prevent against the abuse of power. The ambiguous and conditional nature of the phrasing throughout the document is suspect and will certainly allow for the speedy rise of an oppressive majority, whether the Muslim Brotherhood today or a different group tomorrow. To complicate matters further, a strict deadline for a final version of the draft has been set for November 19. Thus, it is unlikely that much will be changed in the interim, despite a recent Salafi protest demanding the implementation of Sharia, prominent disagreements on the phrasing of Articles 2 and 68, and the threat of 30 Constituent Assembly members to walk out on the body if not granted an extension. ***Egypt's constitution seems to be the farthest from a consensus document and only paves the way for a problematic future that is in direct contradiction with the principles of the revolution****"*

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Sandmonkey

Down with Shari'a in the Constitution

"I had no problem with keeping the Shari'a clause in the constitution before, but it has become increasingly obvious that the Islamist parties won't just contend with having it there, but will increasingly try to use it to "fix us", which is something I am totally opposed to. I am not the one who wants to sleep with children or who finds it acceptable to kidnap teenage girls and marry them off without the consent of their parents. I don't need fixing, and neither do any of you. ***The level of potential abuse of power that having even the word Shari'a in the constitution with the Islamists in charge is so high that I fear we will continue witnessing horrifying events, laws and justifications- like the ones we have been hearing for months- for years to come if it stays in its current form****. So ask yourself this question today: does that seem like a country you want to live in?"*

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Arabist

Nader Fergany on the Egyptian Draft Constitution

"The authoritarian regime—against which the great popular revolution rose up at the end of January 2011—sold the Egyptian people the most despicable forms of the corruption of political life for many decades, leaving in its wake

a deep heritage of oppression, poverty, and social injustice that accumulated until the people could bear it no longer. They rose up in hopes of securing the noble ends for which the demands of the revolution were drawn up: freedom, equitability, social justice, and human dignity. Unfortunately, the transitional period's government was intent on acquitting those who were responsible for the corruption of political life before the revolution from having to face the punishments necessary for just retribution, which has contributed to post-revolution corruption in political life. This corruption has resulted in a state of confusion and legislative and political blunders as a result of the path the elections took before the constitution, which is reflected in the controversy and disputes around the Constituent Assembly and the draft of the constitution prepared by the assembly"

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New Egypt Old Crisis: #PillarOfDefense #SaveGaza

Zeinobia

#Gaza: Day#3 rockets and visits





"Today (17.11) is the third day of the ongoing mini-war taking place between Israel and Gaza, between the IDF and Hamas. For the second day sirens heard in Tel Aviv as the long range Fajr homemade missiles reached the city. Israeli officials say there are not casualties. El Kassam says that it fired rockets towards the Knesset yet sirens have not been heard in Jerusalem though. Israel continued its strikes in North Gaza. Bibi has recalled more reservists. Israeli channel 2 says that 75000 reservists will be drifted. I do not know if it is a psychological warfare or we are in front of a preparation for a land invasion"

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Where is the intelligence in #Egypt from All this??

"On Friday (16.11) A Jihadist Salafist group in Sinai "Shura El Mujahadeen" declared their responsibility for firing these rockets !! The group also announced that these rockets hit their targets in Israel according to a video

Al Shorouk newspaper's correspondent in North Sinai Mostafa Singer got a copy from"

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Full Video



Nervana Mahmoud

The Era of Sadat

The current Gaza war is one example; not just of the futility of the whole episode but of the predictability of it. Now, the Palestinians know exactly how the Israelis will respond: through a series of target assassinations and air strikes that initially began restrained, then gradually become wild, with higher civilian death toll" [.....] "The military established are ruled by weak politicians pursuing cheap glory. In this round, Netanyahu's behavior is no different than that of Olmert. ***The king of Israel in his first war has offered nothing authentic or new****. Confrontations have become increasingly like a reproduction of the same movie with different cast, but with the same script****. Frankly, it has become boring, disgusting and nauseating—a lose-lose situation. Israel lost its ability to surprise or impress, while Arabs have begun to enjoy their victimhood and consider as an asset****"*

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Bassem Sabry



The New Egypt Confronts an Old Crisis

"Arab ruling elites can no longer afford to ignore passionate public sentiments or present half-baked moves toward the Palestinians" [.....] "Current Arab governing elites aren't exactly eager for a confrontation with Israel either and genuinely need to focus on their internal problems now more than ever" [.....]" Israel cannot afford to continue to test the limits of the region, all while expecting a non-alarming Mubarak and Jordan on the other side, while the US cannot afford to ignore Arab public sentiment and expect autocratic regimes to deal with their publics anymore"[.....] "If there is to be a breakthrough for peace in the region, old policies must change. And

unlike what some commentators claim, there is such a window for a breakthrough"

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Hussein Ibish

Morsi's Gaza Challenge

"The interest of Israeli politicians in striking a tough pose in advance of an election is straightforward. But the intentions of those in Gaza who know full well what the Israeli response is likely to be, and are deliberately provoking the strongest reaction they can, are less clear-cut. ***One potential motivation might be to call the bluff of the new Muslim Brotherhood Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi"*** *All of those who are escalating this conflict—whether Israeli politicians looking at reelection, or militants in Gaza trying to force the hand of Egypt's new president or achieve some other strategic results—are gambling with the lives of ordinary people. With senior Hamas figures assassinated and rockets now falling in or near Tel Aviv, political cynicism on all sides has brought us to the brink of a potential calamity, above all for the long-suffering people of Gaza"*

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Mohamed Mahmoud: One Year Later



Shahira Amin

Anger over unmet expectations

It was as if the clock had turned back to those fateful days last November when youth revolutionaries had battled with security forces on Mohamed Mahmoud Street in downtown Cairo, in protests demanding an end to military rule. This week's clashes between activists and riot police on the very same street were reminiscent of last year's bloody skirmishes that left more than forty people dead"[....]"Unlike the January 2011 mass uprising that toppled the former president (which was an all-inclusive people's movement), this latest rally did not enjoy much popular support. ***The taxi driver who drove me past the street just before the clashes broke out, told me "People have grown tired. The time for protests is over. We need to get back to work." I fully agree****"*

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Mahmoud Salem

The rights of the martyrs

*"**You don't destroy a state unless you are ready or willing to built one to replace it, the same way you don't start a revolution unless you intend on ruling, but we had symbols and an intelligentsia who steered us to the path we were in, side-battle after side-battle instead of focusing on winning the war, because they simply couldn't stop being the opposition**. They had won, removed Mubarak, and were still protesting and making demands, instead of enforcing their will as winners. We followed them because we couldn't comprehend the truth at the time: they didn't have the desire, capacity, knowledge or experience to rule or build institutions; they just wanted to stay as the opposition. If you think I am too harsh, consider this: they are the same people who told us to vote in for Morsy- a president whose values and goals have nothing to do with us or theirs- so we can oppose him later, and are now opposing him. Joy"*

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#Morsillini: The Omnipotent Leader of Egypt



Bassem Sabry

Absolute Power: Morsi's Decree Stuns Egyptians

*"**Some are trying to justify Morsi's decisions using the "three necessaries": He resorted to "taking necessary powers as a necessary evil to enact some necessary good"** — and that Morsi is allegedly "a good guy who would not abuse such powers." But the point is that laws are not designed separately for each person and each case. Laws are designed to create good governance, to protect people from its possible excesses and abuses, and even to protect the government officials themselves from their own potential excesses. Allowing such moves by the sitting president to take place just because the intentions could be benign or because the person himself appears to be of a positive personal disposition is tantamount to justifying the powers Mubarak gave to himself under the names of stability and security"*

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Rajaa Aquil

The shepherd turned into Hitler

"If the US gives the green light to Morsi to have absolute power– with his decrees this evening he gained himself the three powers, executive, legislative, and judiciary– it should kiss Arab Spring and democracy good-bye. I hope it will reconsider its support to Morsi. I do understand that peace in the Middle East secures US's stability and security. But if there is no stability in Egypt, there will be none in the whole Arab world. Please help the opposition have a secular liberal government where Christian, Muslim and Jewish Egyptians live in peace. They used to have one before Nasser came to power. They cannot regain this coexistence unless they are helped. Down with Morsi and with the (murshid's) the supreme guide's reign"

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#Nov23: Back To Tahrir - Islamists Vs. Everyone Else



Zeinobia

#Nov23: There is anger all over the country

"President Morsi said in the beginning of rule that he is the President of all Egyptians yet in those months due to wrong policies he is insisting on become the president of Islamists only. Today protests, rallies and clashes were beyond Tahrir square and Cairo amazingly and surprisingly. In fact the protesters outside Cairo were much violent and scary than in Cairo where the clashes are between protesters and security forces. There were protests and clashes over Morsi's latest decisions in the following governorates: Alexandria, Port Said, Suez, El Behaira, Dakhalia, Assuit, Qena, Luxor and Aswan!!!"

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After the #Nov23, the battle continues

Since early morning Egypt has been witnessing meetings, statements, protests, strikes and rallies. After the announcement of judges in Alexandria and El Behaira that they will go in to a strike till the cancellation of the constitutional declaration, the Judges' club held a general assembly where it announced a full strike all over Egypt till Morsi withdrew his declaration. *On the other hand there was a meeting in early morning between political parties in Al Wafd party. That meeting was attended by ElBaradei, Sabbahi, Badawy and partisan leaders. It is worth to mention that that several parties began a sit in in Tahrir square till Morsi cancels his declaration. So far the parties and movements in Tahrir are : The constitution Party , Egyptian current Party, Kafaya Movement , El Adl Party, Free Egyptians party , Misr El Horreya Party, Popular Current , El Wafd Party, Social Democratic Party , April 6th Youth movement and Mina Daniel movement too. I believe more movements and independent protesters will join them"*

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Elazul

Egypt: A "Civil War" Is Here

"If the MB plan to win the battles in the governorates before Tuesday is successful, then by default the outcome of the major battle of Cairo is moot, because they will then be able to successfully rally their governorate supporters and "Show" that they have enough support in Cairo to come close to if not match the Anti-Morsy opposition in Cairo, much like they did on Friday. It's a basic war strategy. Combined with the divide and conquer strategy; in this instance, they are attempting to decrease the strength and numbers of their opposition by utilizing "Useful Idiots" to create clashes within the opposition dividing them into "Feloul" and "Revolutionary" camps. Yes, it may not have come down to an actual bloody war yet have no doubt; this is a "Civil War"

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Ashraf Khalil

After the Power-Play in Egypt: Morsy and the Islamists Vs. Everyone Else

"Since taking office, Morsy has repeatedly stated that all of his power and legitimacy flows from the street–specifically from Tahrir Square. But now a large portion of that street has violently turned against him. Tahrir Square–

which for several months this year was almost exclusively Islamist territory–has become the epicenter of the freshly galvanized movement against his rule. In symbolism that's hard to ignore, Morsy and his supporters have abandoned Tahrir for the streets outside the presidential palace. Morsy appears to have won the behind-closed-doors battle for power. But it may be the street battles (peaceful or otherwise) looming this week that determine whether he can truly pull this off"

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Arabist

To break the deadlock, Morsi wields a clumsy hammer

"The question now is what next. Mr Morsi and his supporters say the move is necessary, and the opposition is being irresponsible, bent on sabotaging anything he does out of anti-Islamist spite. That is partly true: there are many, from conservatives nostalgic of the Mubarak era to angry revolutionaries, who simply cannot stomach that Mr Morsi is president and his Muslim Brotherhood are the dominant political power. Opposition groups, the revolutionary movement and civil society feel cheated by the Islamists' majoritarian view of democracy, and they are also right to be worried about the Islamists' views on the application of Sharia and their lack of enthusiasm for civil liberties. ***The central problem in Egyptian politics today is trust, or the absence thereof - and Mr Morsi has not invested much time in creating more of it since elected. This new wave of protests is the price he is paying for his negligence****"*

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Koert Debeuf

Egypt and the psychology of dictatorship

*"**The problem is that once you go down the path to dictatorship, there is hardly a way back. So Morsi has the choice: either he sticks with his declaration and has to start a crackdown in order to maintain it.** Or he leaves his bunker, cancels his declaration and faces the difficulties every post-revolutionary transition has to deal with. There is always a way out. The president and the opposition should start a dialogue instead of setting ultimatums. Deleting articles 2 and 6 and agreeing on a way to move forward with the Constituent Assembly might be the only solution to avoid a major political deadlock. It is not easy and often very*

frustrating. ***But thinking that a short period of dictatorship will set everything right is wrong. History proves that the path to democracy never leads through dictatorship***"

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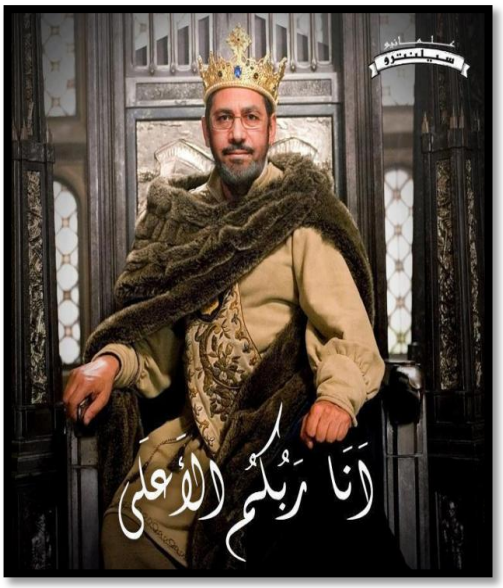

Syria

The Doha Agreement & The New National Coalition (#NC)



Joshua Landis



New Syrian Leadership Electrifies Opposition: Ten Countries Promise Recognition

"It is a big day for the Syrian opposition. Defying naysayers and skeptics, the opposition came together in Doha to follow the outlines of the Riad Seif plan. Opposition members the world over are electrified by the outcome and moving speeches given by the opposition's new leadership. Assad regime must be worried, as it has survived for 42 years thanks to Syria's fragmentation. Now the challenge will be to unite the militias on the ground in Syria behind the new civilian leadership. The role of Qatar, the US, France and Britain have been central in encouraging unity"

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Michael Stephens

Syrian Politics in Doha

"Negotiations in Doha to form a new Syrian opposition finally came to an end after almost of week of diplomatic wrangling. The Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Force (SNCORF) is a new body formed with the help of the USA and Qatar, designed to widen the representation that currently exists in the Syrian National Council (SNC). In truth, no one expected much for the SNC which for the past year has been mired in factional infighting, lethargy and ineffectiveness. However, given the renewed sense of urgency from the United States and Qatar in trying to find a credible opposition, the SNC finally agreed to participate in a larger National Coalition"

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Hassan Hassan

Strengthen Syria's opposition - or be complicit in the war

"There are at least three reasons why the world must not only recognize the coalition, but support it diplomatically and financially - sooner rather than later: ***(1)*** *The coalition is extremely fragile and there are already attempts to undermine it because it has failed to deliver on its promises of full recognition and military support for the fighters on the ground. The coalition was originally a US-sponsored idea that succeeded largely because of these promises. But an increasing number of Syrians are becoming anxious because that support has not materialized" [....] "* ***(2)*** *The coalition is the most representative political entity to emerge during the 20-month uprising, reversing the domination of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Syrian National Council. The coalition, unlike the SNC, is structurally open to other forces, which allows for even more inclusiveness. Also unlike the SNC, the coalition has a limited mandate and does not aim to manage the transition period on its own. Above all, it has been well-received by the majority of anti-regime Syrians" [....] "****(3)*** *To have an authority that begins to replace the regime in areas outside its control. As the situation stands in Syria, rebels are making impressive progress on the ground: the majority of the country is outside the regime's control, some of the regime's operatives and militia leaders are being either captured or killed, and its elite forces are being humiliated and forced to retreat. As the regime withdraws, it is important that institutions take its place and learn how to run the country after the regime falls"*

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East Banker vs. Palestinian



Jadaliyya

When is Something, Something? Jordan's Arab Uprising

"Political transformations are not zero sum games. For anyone familiar with Jordan, the events of the last few days – and the anger that is being directed at government institutions and the king – are no surprise. This was long in coming. Although much is unpredictable at the moment, and Jordanians are understandably afraid that violence will grow, I wonder, will political analysts continue to argue that little has changed in Jordan? Regardless of what happens in the days to come, much has changed. It has been changing. Indeed change, an inevitable product of the constant power/resistance dialectic that characterizes the politics of everyday life, is a constant in social life, even if it does not count as a "something" in policy debates in the United States. Much would be gained by focusing on what has happened and is happening rather than what is not"

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Al-Bab Blog

Buying time in Jordan

"The Jordanian government is clearly hoping to ride out the storm triggered by its economic austerity package which includes substantial rises in fuel prices. Events in Gaza have provided what, for the government, is surely a welcome diversion and Jordanian security forces have mostly avoided stoking the fires of revolt with heavy-handed policing (though there are many unanswered questions about the death of activist Qais al-Omari in Irbid). According to the government's own figures, there were 91 protests and/or riots across the country during the first three days of disturbances last week: 15 in Amman, 29 in the northern governorates, 20 in the south and 27 in the central region. By Friday, a total of 280 people had been arrested and detained, though some of them had also been released"

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The End of Deterrence & Abbas UN Bid



Nervana Mahmoud

The End Of Deterrence

The solution for Gaza is two-fold, a conditional acceptance of Mahmoud Abbas's U.N. bid in return for demanding that the Egyptians reinstate the U.N.-recognized Abbas government in Gaza and empower his security team to run the Rafah border. In addition, Israel announces its willingness to engage with the emerging Sunni alliance—Turkey, Qatar, and Egypt—to formulate a plan to dismantle Gaza militants' military capabilities in return for lifting the siege. Such a gambit could snooker Hamas supporters into either accepting the deal, offering alternatives, or a rejection, which would make them appear to be the opponents of a political solution. It is time for the Israeli leadership to recondition their thinking process and adopt new pragmatic strategies towards Gaza. Any truce with Hamas would not be sustainable, and "re-formatting" would be a very costly option. The U.N. bid could be beneficial to Israel, an opportunity for Benjamin Netanyahu to change the stalemate and adopt a proactive approach that fits in with the current dynamic in the Middle East. But is he willing to take it?

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#PillarOfDefense #SaveGaza #PrayForGaza #GazaUnderAttack

Electronic Intifada

Rami Almeghari, Shahd Abusalama and Rana Baker report from Gaza under Israeli bombing

"This reminds me very much of what was going on, what we experienced during the three-week offensive attacks on Gaza in 2008-2009. It's the same scenarios repeated, the same images, the same horrors, the same traumas in the Palestinian streets." - Shahd Abusalama. "Since Wednesday, the Israeli attacks on Gaza have not stopped. At the moment, we have F16s shelling entire neighborhoods in Gaza, especially in the East and South. We have warships firing directly from the sea toward refugee camps that lie along the beach. And drones all the time." - Rana Baker. "If these attacks continue ... there is already a lack of medicines and medical supplies ... And there has

been repeated talk about the lack of more than 100 items of medical supplies in Gaza." - Rami Almeghari

Full Podcast



Brent E. Sasley

Do Targeted Killings "Work"?

"What this suggests is that targeted killings degrade Hamas's capabilities in the short term, forcing its officials underground, making it harder to exert leadership over the group, and promoting greater caution about antagonizing Israel. But Hamas's goal to remain relevant makes it rely on rockets as well as other means, and sometimes its need will be greater—prompting heavier rocket fire—while at other times it will be lesser—leading to restraint on its part. Assassinations, then, are likely to work in the short term, but can only work long-term in conjunction with other carrots and sticks. Israel, then, should first determine what its strategic and tactical, and political and military, objectives are, before using them as a policy tool"

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Gigi Ibrahim

One Night in Gaza

"The continuation of same-old Mubarak policies when it comes to Palestine will no longer be tolerated. Egypt post revolution especially with a president, who phrases himself on being 'pro Palestine and revolutionary', must and ought to take radical steps in support of Palestinians against Israel. Symbolic change like recalling our ambassador or even evicting the Israeli ambassador in Egypt was our demand since 2000 if not even before! We must cut all ties with Israel, we must open the Rafah border for all goods and people without any strings attached, and we must end the Camp David accord even with a referendum. This is the least we could do and anything Morsi does less than those three things would simply be bogus"



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Erin Cunningham

Gaza-Israel clash ensnares Egypt

"If Morsi does not align with Hamas we will remove him," said Abdullah Al Desouqi, a member of the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party in South

Sinai. ***Hamas is the Islamist movement now in control of the Gaza Strip. "He is meant to be the voice of the Egyptian people," he said. "And the Egyptian people will fight for Palestine****."*

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Word Press

An open letter to the President

"Mr. President, when the bombs began raining on Gaza again and you reiterated Israel's "right to defend itself", I took that sticker off my jacket. Later, you called Prime Minister Netanyahu and asked him to "use restraint," as though he were a glutton at a feast, rather than an elected official of a powerful military nation, using your own country's weaponry to engage in a one-sided assault. Mr. President, you are the most powerful man in the world. You do not need to politely request anything of Mr. Netanyahu; you can stop him by ending U.S. military aid to Israel until Israel complies with international and U.S. law"

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Nervana Mahmoud

Escalation in Gaza: Update 1

1. There is ***Hamas****: the organization is not in harmony. It is well known that there are tensions between the hawks and the doves. The outside leaders like Meshaal and those hardline militants inside Gaza like Zahar, who surprisingly did not make any recent appearances, are representative of divisions that may not help the group to agree on a future plan. It appears that some inside Hamas are after escalation, and they already have surprised Israel by their ability to hit Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. They may view ground invasion favorably as it would increase both Gaza civilian and Israel IDF casualties. This would help Hamas negotiate better terms in a ceasefire and claim victory based on defiance and restoration of a "balance of terror." 2. The* ***other rebellious factions****: there are numerous small parties that probably have strong links with Iran. They have a different agenda and ceasefire is not part of it. If Qatar used Gaza to send a message to Iran, the Islamic republic reciprocated and also replied through Gaza. 3. There is* ***Israel****: Netanyahu is after deterrence. After a trail of target assassination and air bombardment, he is expecting "naughty" Hamas to say, "Ouch, sorry sir, we are scared now and we won't do it again." Therefore, short of a joint press conference of all Palestinian factions*

announcing an end to hostilities and a long-term commitment to a lull, he may struggle to sell this as a victory to his people"

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Escalation in Gaza: Update 2

"Many analysts are claiming that Hamas is desperate and lost most of its missile capabilities. I think we should be careful before we assume such a conclusion. Four years of smuggling won't be depleted easily. It seems to me, although I could be wrong, that Israel is not duly bothered by Hamas capabilities; however, it is aimed to achieve a long-term deal, not a truce or a lull but a concrete agreement. ***Netanyahu seems to be willing to give Hamas a favorable strategic position against Fatah in return for guaranteed stoppage of rocket launching and control of other smaller groups****"*

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Qaph

Hamas's victory, Palestine's Defeat

"After the dust of war started clearing and noise of rockets calmed, three of the four parties involved in Gaza war- and truce-making left satisfied while only one bears the loads of defeat… Hamas claims victory, Israel claims the campaign achieved its target; Morsi's Egypt is more than happy with its new role on the Middle East political stage, while Palestine the people, land and dream of an independent state fades in the light of current events"



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Ms. Entropy

The Conflict in the Gaza Strip: the Rhetoric of Hypocrisy & Illogic

"Israelis are not going anywhere. Palestinians are not going anywhere. I would like to state, clearly, definitively, and on record: sustained infrastructural encroachments by the Israeli government have long since precluded a viable two-state resolution to this conflict. ***I support a one-state solution for Palestine-Israel–one in which citizenship rights***

are granted without regard to ethnicity or religion. I believe this is the governmental system commonly known by the term "democracy."

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Sharif S. Elmusa

Gaza: An Israeli test to Egypt's new rulers

"Egypt and other Arab and regional countries could do much to aid the Palestinians, without having to go to war with Israel. They could renew the Arab economic and political boycott of that state, or obtain a resolution from the United Nations General Assembly for an international boycott of Israel (Erdogan himself had already made such a proposal more than a year ago in an interview with Time magazine), similar to the one issued against the apartheid regime in South Africa. The Gulf countries could again levy a tax on Palestinians working there to finance those under occupation and wean them off Western handouts predicated upon Palestinian acquiescence. The Arab countries can, in this way, give the Palestinians an enabling context within which to launch protracted, peaceful protest against Israel, a form of resistance with which they have long experience"

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Arab Liberals: Values Clashes Over Gaza



weddady

Arab Liberals and Gaza: Or Why We Must Re-Define Resistance

"Arab liberals must avoid the temptation to take leave of our moral values whenever Israel enters the conversation. I do not have the solution to the conflict with Israel, but I know that having a sense of compassion and humanity can help lead the way. ***But in the end, our main challenge is not Israel, but rather our (in)ability to have a conversation without fear or self-censorship. What we need now is a new resistance movement – to resist being co-opted by Islamists and nationalists whose price for belonging requires betraying core human values****. Our resistance movement struggles to secure liberty of thought and to reject the false choice of barbarism or guilt. We need to set ourselves free. We have a third way: Be ourselves without fear. Again, feel free to disagree with me"*

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Mustapha Hamoui

What is the Proper "Arab" Way of Talking About Gaza?

"Why is that? Why should Arabs have an exceptional form of logic and a form of story-telling that is different from that of the rest of the world? Aren't we capable of a nuance that sees both the victimhood of the Palestinian people and the evil of Hamas? ***Does being Arab require that I protest loudly when innocent Palestinian children are killed, but that I completely give away my humanity and turn a blind eye when innocent Israeli children are killed?*** *"*

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Cartoons: Carlos Latuff