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November 9th, 2010

Middle East News: World Press Roundup

Israel plans 1,300 new settlement units in sensitive areas of occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank, prompting US and Palestinian protests. Daniel Seidemann and Lara Friendman say PM Netanyahu must have approved the plans. Doyle McManus and Yossi Alpher both think Pres. Obama might now emphasize foreign policy goals. UNSG Ban calls for renewed peace efforts. The PA says Shin Bet officers met with Hamas officials. Israel continues to quarrel with the UN over religious sites in the occupied territories. Hamas bans a commemoration of the late Pres. Arafat in Gaza. Jesse Rosenfeld says extremist settlers are now targeting Israeli citizens. Linda Heard says Israel's intransigence is suicidal. Ghassan Khatib says Obama will continue to dictate US policy and Akiva Eldar says he should unveil bold new American peace proposals.

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Israel Plans 1,000 Housing Units in East Jerusalem

Article Author(s): Isabel Kershner

Media Outlet: The New York Times

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s):

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/09/world/middleeast/09mideast.html?ref=middleeast> [6]

JERUSALEM ? Israel has published plans for some 1,000 new housing units in a hotly

contested area of Jerusalem, advancing the approval process at a delicate time when the United States is pressing Israel to renew a freeze in settlement construction and get stalled peace negotiations with the Palestinians back on track.

U.S. "deeply disappointed" at Israeli housing plans

Article Author(s): Laura Rozen

Media Outlet: Politico

Article Type: Analysis

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s):

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/1110/US_deeply_disappointed_at_Israeli_... [7]

The United States expressed deep disappointment over Israeli government plans to build 1,300 new housing units in contested East Jerusalem, the State Department said Monday.

"We were deeply disappointed by the announcement of advanced planning for new housing units in sensitive areas of East Jerusalem," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told journalists Monday. "It is counterproductive to our efforts to resume direct negotiations between the parties."

Netanyahu pushes East Jerusalem settlements

Article Author(s): Lara Friedman

Media Outlet: Americans For Peace Now

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s): http://peacenow.org/entries/netanyahu_pushes_east_jerusalem_settlements [8]

Netanyahu's undeclared period of self-restraint in Jerusalem appears to have come to an end. No new tenders for construction in East Jerusalem had been issued since Vice President Biden's fateful visit to Jerusalem last March, nor had any new construction plans been deposited for public review since that time.

Until now.

On Thursday of last week new tenders were for the construction of an additional 238 residential units in Pisgat Zeev and Ramot.

Israel to build more homes in East Jerusalem

Article Author(s): Edmund Sanders

Media Outlet: The Los Angeles Times

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-israel-housing-20101109,0,33...> [9]

Reporting from Jerusalem ? Setting the stage for another potential clash with the Obama administration, Israel said Monday that it would build an additional 1,300 homes on disputed land in East Jerusalem.

A new battleground

Article Author(s): Doyle McManus

Media Outlet: The Los Angeles Times

Article Type: Opinion

Date: November 7, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-mcmanus-column-elections-20...> [10]

Here's one thing last week's congressional election wasn't about: foreign policy. The campaign was long, loud and polarized, but somehow the fact that the United States is at war in Afghanistan and Iraq ? and carrying out bombings in Pakistan and Yemen ? went almost unmentioned.

That's because voters were preoccupied by the economy, of course. But it's also because foreign policy has been a zone of relative bipartisanship in Washington, an oasis of civility compared with the battlegrounds of economic policy and healthcare.

After GOP victory, emboldened Israel declares new building in East Jerusalem

Article Author(s): Joshua Mitnick

Media Outlet: The Christian Science Monitor

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2010/1108/After-GOP-victory-emboldene...> [11]

Israel has published plans to build about 1,300 new housing units in East Jerusalem neighborhoods, a move that highlights US-Israeli differences just as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in the United States to huddle with Obama administration officials.

Skip to next paragraph

View gallery: Israeli settlements

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Israelis launch their own tea party ahead of US elections

As stonethrowing escalates, Israeli police round up Arab children in E. Jerusalem

Oil and gas discoveries produce potential Israel-Lebanon flash points

Peace process diplomacy continues in US

Media Outlet: Ma'an News Agency

Date: November 9, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=332140> ^[12]

WASHINGTON (Ma'an) -- US officials expressed deep disappointment Monday following the announcement of advanced planning for new housing units in occupied East Jerusalem.

"It is counterproductive to our efforts to resume direct negotiations between the parties. We have long urged both parties to avoid actions which could undermine trust, including in Jerusalem, and we will continue to work to resume direct negotiations to address this and other final status issues," US State Department spokesman Phillip Crowley said at a DC news meeting with reporters.

UN chief calls for efforts to revive stalled Israeli-Palestinian talks

Media Outlet: Xinhua

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s): http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-11/09/c_13597805.htm ^[13]

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) -- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Monday that it was vital to break the current diplomatic stalemate, resume the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and produce results.

The UN chief made the statement in his meeting with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against a backdrop of the stalled direct peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

After U.S. chides Netanyahu over East Jerusalem

construction, more settlement plans unveiled

Article Author(s): Nir Hasson
Chaim Levinson

Media Outlet: Haaretz

Date: November 9, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/after-u-s-chides-netanyahu-over-east-j...> [14]

Israel published two major new settlement plans on Tuesday, threatening to undermine Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's latest trip to Washington.

More than 1,000 Jewish homes were approved for construction beyond the Green Line in East Jerusalem, along with a second plan to build 800 homes in the West Bank settlement of Ariel.

The U.S. administration had been trying to persuade Netanyahu to declare a second settlement freeze in the territories.

The State Department said it was very unhappy when it learned of the plans to build in East Jerusalem.

PA: Shin Bet officers met with top Hamas officials 'over coffee'

Article Author(s): Avi Issacharoff

Media Outlet: Haaretz

Date: November 9, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/pa-shin-bet-officers-met-with-top-hama...> [15]

The Palestinian Authority complained to Israel recently that Shin Bet officers were in contact with high-level Hamas members around Jenin, senior Palestinian sources told Haaretz.

The Palestinian sources said that 10 days ago a number of low ranking Shin Bet officers met with senior figures of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Netanyahu to Ban: 'Don't erase 4,000 years of history'

Article Author(s): Tovah Lazaroff

Media Outlet: The Jerusalem Post

Date: November 9, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=194571> [16]

The United Nations should not erase 4,000 years of historic Jewish connection to the Cave of the Patriarchs and Rachel's Tomb just to score a political point, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the organization's Secretary General Ban Ki-moon when the two men met Monday evening in New York.

Hamas nixes Arafat commemoration in Gaza Strip

Article Author(s): Khaled Abu Toameh

Media Outlet: The Jerusalem Post

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=194540> [17]

As it has every year since taking control of the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2007, on Monday Hamas announced its decision to ban Fatah supporters from holding a rally in the Gaza Strip to mark the anniversary of Yasser Arafat's death.

Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Fatah Central Committee, said the Hamas government had informed him formally of the decision to ban the rally, which was scheduled to be held on November 11. He said the rally, which had been planned by Fatah, was supposed to be held in Gaza City's Katibeh Square.

Israel's own citizens are the new target of extremist settlers

Article Author(s): Jesse Rosenfeld

Media Outlet: The National

Date: November 9, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.thenational.ae/the-national-conversation/news/comment/israels-own-cit...> [18]

West Bank settlers entered the Arab city under the cover of an armed escort. As they proceeded, security forces chased Palestinian youth down alleys, firing tear gas, stun grenades and foam-covered bullets. Masked in keffiyahs, local high school students who had been striking against the settlers' provocations reorganised, throwing stones at the Israeli forces from behind makeshift barricades.

Israel digging its own grave

Article Author(s): Linda Heard

Media Outlet: Arab News

Article Type: Opinion

Date: November 9, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://arabnews.com/opinion/columns/article183449.ece> [19]

Israelis exist in a state of low-key fear of obliteration that has become absorbed into their psyche. They're so used to it that it has become part of who they are. The Jewish state may call itself a democracy but in fact it's a militarized entity always alert to criticism and attacks from its foes within and without.

Broader than party politics

Article Author(s): Ghassan Khatib

Media Outlet: Bitterlemons

Article Type: Opinion

Date: November 9, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.bitterlemons.org/issue/pal1.php> [20]

For the most part, the United States government builds its strategies on national interests rather than on narrow party or personal politics. Nevertheless, the recent congressional elections inspired debate over possible effects on American Middle East policies, the peace process in particular. The reason for this is that in the eyes of some analysts and politicians, the current administration is leaning a little bit on Israel, especially on the issue of settlements. They believe that the new Republican-majority House of Representatives might restrain the administration.

Change we can't foresee

Article Author(s): Yossi Alpher

Media Outlet: Bitterlemons

Article Type: Opinion

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.bitterlemons.org/issue/isr1.php> [21]

The conventional wisdom in some circles now holds that Republican gains in last week's US congressional elections will weaken President Barack Obama's hand in trying to advance an Israeli-Palestinian peace process. This is not necessarily so, and for several reasons.

Obama should learn from Clinton

Article Author(s): Akiva Eldar

Media Outlet: Bitterlemons

Article Type: Opinion

Date: November 8, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.bitterlemons.org/issue/isr2.php> [22]

The results of the American congressional election place President Barack Obama at a crossroads regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. He confronts two options.

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