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December 6, 2010

Middle East News: World Press Roundup

Andrew Bacevich says US-Israel relationship is imbalanced. Only 51% of Israelis support equal rights for Palestinian citizens. A civil service program allows Palestinian citizens of Israel public, but not military, service. Turkey pledges support for a Palestinian state. Human Rights Watch urges the PA to release a blogger. Pres. Abbas says he expects new US proposals shortly. Palestinian firefighters aid Israel's battle against a massive fire, prompting a rare phone call between Abbas and PM Netanyahu. Abbas says as a last resort Palestinians might dissolve the PA, but an official says it's not under active consideration and welcomes Brazil's recognition. Bradley Burston says Israel depends on a Jewish majority, which is incompatible with the occupation. Akiva Eldar says trouble battling the fire has undermined Israel's military deterrence. A leading British politician says settlement goods must be labeled. Sec. Clinton is due to issue a major statement on negotiations. Palestinians plan to rebuild a West Bank road destroyed by Israel. John Whitbeck says linguistic clarity is needed for peace.

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^[5]

Israel and the U.S.: A lopsided relationship

Article Author(s): Andrew J. Bacevich

Media Outlet: The Los Angeles Times

Article Type: Opinion

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-bacevich-us-israel-20101205...>

[6]

The widely reported deal negotiated by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ? Israel committing itself to a nonrenewable 90-day freeze on settlement activity in return for 20 F-35 fighters and a U.S. promise to block anti-Israel resolutions in the United Nations ? illuminates with startling clarity the actual terms of U.S.-Israeli relations.

Q&A: Why only 51 percent of Israelis support equal rights for Arab minority

Article Author(s): Joshua Mitnick

Media Outlet: The Christian Science Monitor

Article Type: Interview

Date: December 4, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2010/1204/Q-A-Why-only-51-percent-of-...> [7]

Tel Aviv

The Israeli Democracy Institute (IDI) this week published their annual survey on democratic practices in Israel, which characterizes itself as both democratic and Jewish. But as Israel's Arab minority grows ? already it accounts for 20 percent of the population ? the compatibility of those dual ideals is being challenged.

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For Israeli Arab teens, a way to serve the country ? without joining the army

Israel loyalty oath bill stirs Arab-Israeli unease

Gaza flotilla raid pushes unknown Knesset member into spotlight

For Israeli Arab teens, a way to serve the country ? without joining the army

Article Author(s): Joshua Mitnick

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Source Link(s): <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2010/1204/For-Israeli-Arab-teens-a-wa...> [8]

Shfaram, Israel

Six years ago, Rabah Rizik quit his banking career to help reverse decades of public neglect toward Israel's 20 percent Arab minority.

His new job? Helping to implement a pioneering civil service program akin to AmeriCorps in the United States. The initiative gave Arab high school graduates ? who are exempt from the draft faced by Jewish 18-year-olds ? the opportunity to contribute to their state, just as most of their Jewish counterparts do through military service.

Erdogan pledges support for '67 state

Media Outlet: Ma'an News Agency

Date: December 12, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=339326> ^[9]

ANKARA, Turkey (Ma'an) -- President Mahmoud Abbas visited Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan in his Ankara home on Sunday, to discuss developments in the peace negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators.

Following the meeting, Ambassador of Palestine to Turkey Nabil Ma'roof told the official PA news agency WAFA that Erdogan pledged to support a bid for the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders. The official said he would speak with the leaders of all those nations with which Turkey had diplomatic relations.

HRW urges PA to release West Bank blogger

Media Outlet: Ma'an News Agency

Date: December 5, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=339260> ^[10]

JERUSALEM (Ma'an) -- Human Rights Watch on Sunday urged the Palestinian Authority to release a blogger detained over his religious opinions.

PA intelligence officers arrested Walid Hasayin on 31 October at an internet cafe in the West Bank city of Qalqiliya.

Ahmad Mbayyad, the head of the PA's military judiciary, told HRW that Hasayin was suspected of posting online messages criticizing Islam and other religions.

Abbas: US proposal for peace talks expected soon

Media Outlet: Ma'an News Agency

Date: December 5, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=339276> [11]

AMMAN (AFP) - A US proposal to bolster troubled Middle East peace talks was expected within days, President Mahmoud Abbas said following a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II on Sunday.

"His majesty and I agreed to continue our cooperation and coordination in light of an expected US position in the coming few days, and we should examine it together," a palace statement quoted Abbas as saying.

Abbas did not elaborate.

Direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians have faltered following the end of a temporary ban on Jewish settlement building in the West Bank.

Netanyahu, Abbas hold rare phone chat over fires

Article Author(s): Allyn Fisher-Ilan

Media Outlet: Reuters

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/netanyahu-abbas-hold-rare-phone-chat-over-fir...> [12]

JERUSALEM, Dec 4 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas expressed condolences in a rare telephone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday over the deadly fires raging in northern Israel, Israeli officials said.

The two leaders were not believed to have spoken since they last met in September when U.S.-backed peace talks stalled in a spat over Jewish settlement construction.

Abbas: Last resort _ I'll ask Israel to take over

Article Author(s): Mohammed Daraghmeh

Media Outlet: The Statesman

Date: December 4, 2010

Source Link(s): http://www.statesman.com/news/nation/abbas-last-resort-_ill-ask-israel-to-10988... [13]

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK ? Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has warned he may dissolve his self-rule government and ask Israel to resume full control of the West Bank if troubled peace talks fail.

Dismantling the Palestinian Authority would be a last resort, Abbas told Palestine TV in an interview broadcast late Friday. However, his comments marked the most explicit warning yet that he's considering a step that could crush lingering hopes for a Mideast peace deal.

Palestinian official says not yet to dissolve PNA, welcomes Brazil's recognition of state

Article Author(s): Saud Abu Ramadan

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-12/05/c_13636020.htm
[14]

A senior Palestinian official announced on Sunday that dissolving the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is an option, but will not be taken for the time being, while the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movement slammed Hamas for accepting a referendum in case of a peace deal with Israel.

Nabil Shaath, member of the Palestinian negotiation team said in a press statement emailed to reporters that dissolving the PNA might be carried out only when the Middle East peace process with Israel collapses, "but it is not planned for now."

Auschwitz borders are here

Article Author(s): Bradley Burston

Media Outlet: Haaretz

Article Type: Opinion

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.haaretz.com/blogs/a-special-place-in-hell/auschwitz-borders-are-here-...> [15]

Auschwitz borders. That ominous phrase, so elegant in its horror. A go-to mantra of the right for more than four decades, it has proven so durable in linking a West Bank withdrawal to the annihilation of the State of Israel that it has outlasted countless anti-peace process ad campaigns (?Yesha zeh kan? the ubiquitous signs once read: Judea, Samaria and Gaza are right here?).

Unraveling another myth about the State of the Jews

Article Author(s): Akiva Eldar

Media Outlet: Haaretz

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/opinion/unraveling-another-myth-about-the-s...> [16]

In everything that pertains to locating the source of fires, water shortages, flight safety, earthquakes, etc. - subjects that require long-term planning - our decision makers prefer to use a method of pinpoint handling. It is known as "putting out fires." Yet the disaster in the Carmel has shown that we are also far from being able to be called world champions in putting out fires.

Palestinian firefighters come to Israel's aid

Media Outlet: The Jerusalem Post

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=198113> [17]

Firefighters and firefighting personnel from all over the world came to Israel's aid over the weekend, responding to the most devastating fire the country has ever seen. While most of the aid that arrived had to be flown in, early Sunday morning, four fire engines manned by 21 firefighters began a five-hour drive to the Carmel mountains.

Yvette Cooper calls for Israeli settler labelling on food imports

Article Author(s): Kai Bird

Media Outlet: The Guardian

Date: December 5, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/dec/04/yvette-cooper-israeli-settler-lab...> [18]

Britain should step up pressure on Israel to stop building illegal settlements in the West Bank by pressing for greater Europe-wide transparency on food exported from the occupied territories, Yvette Cooper says today.

In an interview with the Guardian, she calls on the government to persuade the EU to introduce labelling that would identify goods produced by Israeli settlers.

Cooper, who spoke after her first visit to the Middle East as shadow foreign secretary, wants the EU to follow the example of supermarkets which identify goods produced in the occupied West Bank.

Clinton to issue statement on Israeli-Palestinian talks

Media Outlet: Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.jta.org/news/article/2010/12/05/2742018/clinto-to-issue-statement-on-...> [19]

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States will issue a declaration this week on Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

"I will be making a very formal set of remarks about that next week," Clinton said in an interview over the weekend with Al Hurra, the U.S.-run Arab language broadcaster. "We have been talking with both parties very substantively, and I think that the United States can play a role to help each make decisions about very difficult matters that then can be presented to the other side."

Palestinians battle bid to bulldoze road to statehood

Article Author(s): Hugh Naylor

Media Outlet: The National

Date: December 6, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://www.thenational.ae/news/worldwide/middle-east/palestinians-battle-bid-to-...> [20]

As Husam Assi describes it, it was an important battle on the road to Palestinian statehood.

It began in late November when Israeli soldiers took positions protecting bulldozers sent to this otherwise sleepy West Bank village to destroy a recently laid strip of asphalt. Then, Mr Assi said, Palestinian youth swarmed the Israelis from the surrounding hills.

"From the village mosque we called on the community to defend the road against the Israelis," the 49-year-old manager at Qarawat Bani Hassan's municipality said as he surveyed the area a few days later.

?New language for Middle East peace?

Article Author(s): John V. Whitbeck

Media Outlet: Arab News

Date: December 5, 2010

Source Link(s): <http://arabnews.com/opinion/columns/article208864.ece> [21]

The recent passage by Israel's Knesset of a law requiring either a two-thirds Knesset majority or approval by an unprecedented national referendum before Israel can "cede" any land in

expanded East Jerusalem to a Palestinian state or any land in the Golan Heights to Syria has been widely recognized as making any "two-state solution", as well as any Israeli-Syrian peace, even more inconceivable than was previously the case.

It also highlights the need for a concerted effort by politicians, negotiators and commentators to adopt a new "language of peace".

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