



Published on *The American Task Force on Palestine* (<http://www.americantaskforce.org>)

[Home](#) > [Printer-friendly PDF](#) > [Printer-friendly PDF](#)

---

## July 31, 2009

### Middle East News: World Press Roundup

The New York Times, LA Times, the Economist, and Patrick Seale in the Gulf News all praise President Obama's Middle East peace initiative and encourage him to continue to pursue an Israeli settlement freeze. The Wall Street Journal outlines Hamas' present policies. As Israeli human rights groups challenge settlement activity in courts and seek an end to US federal tax exemptions for donations to settlements, the Israeli government considers banning foreign donations to "subversive" NGOs. Ha'aretz profiles the role of White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, and reports on the first Palestinian "planned city" in the West Bank. Asharq Al-Awsat reports on Arab foreign ministers' conditions for normalization steps in response to a potential Israeli settlement freeze, while Zuheir Kseibati in Al-Hayat warns against such steps.

---

[PRINT ALL](#) [1] [EMAIL TO A FRIEND](#) [2] [DOWNLOAD TO PDF](#) [3] [RSS](#) [4]

---



[5]

---

### The Settlements Issue

**Media Outlet:** The New York Times

**Article Type:** Editorial

**Date:** July 30, 2009

**Source Link(s):** [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/31/opinion/31fri1.html?\\_r=2&ref=opinion](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/31/opinion/31fri1.html?_r=2&ref=opinion) [6]

The last American president to openly challenge Israel on settlements was George H.W. Bush and we commend President Obama for demanding that Israel halt all new construction. The

controversy must not obscure Mr. Obama's real goal: nudging Israel and the Palestinians into serious peace negotiations.

## Obama's evenhanded Mideast policy

**Media Outlet:** The Los Angeles Times

**Article Type:** Editorial

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-israel31-2009jul31,0,303539.story> [7]

Evenhandedness usually is considered to be a positive attribute in diplomacy, but when it comes to the Middle East, many Israelis and their supporters see it as code for a pro-Arab policy. In that view, President Obama's insistence that Israel freeze Jewish settlement construction is anti-Israeli and a sop to the Arab street. That's wrong. Obama has committed himself to a comprehensive peace that would give Palestinians a state of their own and provide Israel with security and recognition from the wider Arab world.

## Settlement Foes Take Fight to Israel's High Court

**Article Author(s):** Howard Schneider

**Media Outlet:** The Washington Post

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/30/AR2009073003809....> [8]

It has been nearly a decade since the Jewish settlement of Migron appeared on the hilltop opposite this Palestinian village, beginning with a communications tower and followed by a cluster of homes and a fence around approximately 90 acres of land.

Data tucked onto the hard drive of anti-settlement activist Dror Etkes's computer indicates that the land belongs to the residents of Burqa and nearby Deir Dibwan, and Etkes said he expects that information will one day force the settlers to leave.

## Hamas Chief Outlines Terms for Talks on Arab-Israeli Peace

**Article Author(s):** Julien Barnes-Dacey  
Jay Solomon

**Media Outlet:** The Wall Street Journal

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124899975954495435.html> [9]

The chief of Palestinian militant group Hamas said his organization is prepared to cooperate with the U.S. in promoting a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict if the White House can secure an Israeli settlement freeze and a lifting of the economic and military blockade of the Gaza Strip.

## Get stuck in, Mr President

**Media Outlet:** The Economist

**Date:** July 30, 2009

**Source Link(s):** [http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14121744](http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14121744) [10]

THE American president may think he has enough on his plate without worrying about the dog's dinner simmering away in the corner: the sickly Middle East peace process, with its often nauseous ingredients. This week he has sent an array of colleagues to stir the pot, including his envoy, George Mitchell, who has been in and out of the region; Robert Gates, his secretary of defence; and Jim Jones, his security adviser, who knows the Palestinians from the past. But Mr Obama is the indispensable head chef. However preoccupied, it is he who must decide what to serve up—and when.

## Not quite as gloomy as they look

**Media Outlet:** The Economist

**Article Type:** Editorial

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** [http://www.economist.com/world/mideast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14140390](http://www.economist.com/world/mideast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14140390) [11]

BACK in the autumn of last year, Ehud Olmert, then Israel's fading prime minister, and Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinians' more durable president, were astonishingly close to a peace deal. Judging by an interview with Mr Olmert published in Newsweek in June, after he had given up his post, they appeared to have been only a whisker apart—though Mr Abbas has since called the gap 'wide'. But it is worth spelling out what Mr Olmert says he offered, in an account that other senior Palestinians have pretty much verified.

## Rahm Emanuel: Self-hating Jew or peace-broker?

**Article Author(s):** Natasha Mozgovaya

**Media Outlet:** Haaretz

**Article Type:** Opinion

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1104187.html> [12]

When I ask a liberal American Jew involved in politics what he thinks of the claim that Rahm Emanuel is an anti-Israeli fifth column in the Obama administration, he laughs. "So, do they really think in Israel that Rahm Emanuel, David Axelrod, Dan Shapiro, Mara Rudman, Dennis Ross and the other good American Jews who work with Obama are a fifth column?" And then he says slowly, like someone explaining something to a person who has difficulty understanding: "How many times do you have to be told ... "

"... that you love us?" I try to complete the sentence.

## A new Palestine

**Article Author(s):** Ari Shavit

**Media Outlet:** Haaretz

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1103993.html> [13]

Remember the name: Rawabi. The city of hills to be built nine kilometers northwest of Ramallah. The first planned city in Palestinian history. The first planned city in the West Bank to be inhabited by Palestinians rather than settlers. A city designed to be a Palestinian city of abundance - secular, open and vibrant. A city of pedestrian malls, cafes, kindergartens and schools. A city of thriving Palestinian start-ups and Palestinian yuppies. A city that will pave the Palestinians' way to the 21st century.

## Israel targets foreign gov't NGO funds

**Article Author(s):** Herb Keinon

**Media Outlet:** The Jerusalem Post

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):**

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JPostArticle/ShowFull&cid=124...> [14]

Recent revelations about foreign government funding for local NGOs involved in political activity have triggered discussions by senior Israeli officials about the possibility of making such aid illegal, The Jerusalem Post has learned.

The senior officials are looking into whether it might be possible to ban donations from foreign governments to political NGOs, just as it is forbidden for foreign residents, let alone governments, to contribute to Israeli political parties.

## Israeli NGO battles settlements in US

**Article Author(s):** Dan Izenberg

**Media Outlet:** The Jerusalem Post

**Date:** July 30, 2009

**Source Link(s):**

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1248277936821&pagename=JPost%2FJPArti...> [15]

The left-wing organization Gush Shalom is launching a campaign against organizations soliciting donations in the United States, particularly those receiving US federal tax exemptions for settlements and illegal outposts, The Jerusalem Post has learned.

The timing of the campaign has been stepped up from September to August because the Foreign Ministry recently launched its own campaign to block governments of foreign countries from donating money to human rights organizations in Israel.

## Gaza children go for world record for kite flying

**Article Author(s):** Ibrahim Barzak

**Media Outlet:** Associated Press

**Date:** July 30, 2009

**Source Link(s):**

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hVMbeJgDGaZxV3vJAAtXEwSzw1kAD9...>  
[16]

Thousands of children in the Gaza Strip attempted to set a new world record Thursday by flying colorful homemade kites amid the ruins of Israel's bruising offensive earlier this year ? a rare display of joy in the isolated seaside territory ruled by Hamas militants.

The festive event, sponsored by the United Nations, brought some 6,000 campers in orange uniforms and blue caps to a beach in Gaza's war-torn north, where they released their kites into clear skies. Some included designs such as the red, green, black and white Palestinian flag.

## Breaking Israel's spell

**Article Author(s):** Seth Freedman

**Media Outlet:** The Guardian

**Article Type:** Opinion

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/31/israel-british-jewish-commun...> [17]

For the most part, London's Jewish community is a shining example of social cohesion and pastoral care. Large charitable donations are raised on a constant basis and distributed to those in need of assistance; sick or lonely individuals are clutched to the communal bosom and provided for by welfare associations and concerned neighbours; and the ethics inculcated into each new generation are built on a bedrock of values dating back to biblical times.

## Israel defends IDF action in Gaza war

**Media Outlet:** Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://jta.org/news/article/2009/07/30/1006928/israel-releases-brief-defending-g...> [18]

Israel issued a 160-page document justifying its military offensive in Gaza.

The report, published on Thursday and entitled "The Operation in Gaza - Legal and Factual Aspects," asserts that Israel had a right to undertake Operation Cast Lead last December and January following "incessant rocket and mortar attacks upon thousands of Israeli civilians and (Hamas') other acts of terrorism." Hamas violated international law, says the report, which also documents Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians and the ways in which Hamas put Palestinian civilians in danger.

## Arab Ministers on Conditions for Accepting Mitchell's Bid for Ties with Israel

**Article Author(s):** Michel Abu Najm

**Media Outlet:** Asharq Alawsat

**Date:** July 30, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=1&id=17600> [19]

George Mitchell, US special envoy to the Middle East, has made a statement in Cairo calling on the Arab countries to take measures toward the partial normalization of ties with Israel in order to facilitate launching peace negotiations on all Arab-Israeli tracks.

## With a Semi- or Quarter-Normalization

**Article Author(s):** Zuheir Kseibati

**Media Outlet:** Dar Al-Hayat

**Article Type:** Opinion

**Date:** July 30, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalarticlendam/42926> [20]

US peace envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell neither utters a word nor reveals the features of the final solution that President Obama's administration wants, when he insists that comprehensive peace means the normalization of Arab ties with Israel. The Arab peace initiative does not rule out normalization as a result of final settlements, which would restore the Golan Heights and the remaining occupied lands in southern Lebanon. This settlement would also end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict once and for all by establishing a Palestinian state.

## Obama's Middle East map

**Article Author(s):** Patrick Seale

**Media Outlet:** Gulf News

**Article Type:** Analysis

**Date:** July 30, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.gulfnews.com/opinion/columns/region/10336042.html> [21]

The utter determination of US President Barack Obama to bring peace to the Middle East is no longer in doubt. The US president's manner is gentle. He seeks to persuade rather than coerce. He gives precedence to the carrot rather than the stick. But the iron will is there. It would be rash indeed for Arabs or Israelis to attempt to thwart him.

Right across the region the message is sinking in. We are beginning to witness what might be called the 'Obama effect'.

## Another historic opportunity for Mideast peace

**Article Author(s):** Ahmad Majdoubeh

**Media Outlet:** The Jordan Times

**Article Type:** Opinion

**Date:** July 31, 2009

**Source Link(s):** <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=18817> [22]

As days and events unfold, the Obama administration - though recent on the global and Middle-Eastern scenes - has proven itself to be a most knowledgeable and reliable peace patron or broker: the Arabs? and Israelis? best bet, I would say.

---

 [PRINT ALL](#) [1]  [EMAIL TO A FRIEND](#) [2]  [DOWNLOAD TO PDF](#) [3]  [RSS](#) [4]

---

**Source URL (retrieved on Dec 14 2019 - 2:10am):**

[http://www.americantaskforce.org/world\\_press\\_roundup/20090731t000000](http://www.americantaskforce.org/world_press_roundup/20090731t000000)

**Links:**

- [1] <http://www.americantaskforce.org/print/8182>
- [2] <http://www.americantaskforce.org/printmail/8182>
- [3] <http://www.americantaskforce.org/printpdf/8182>
- [4] <http://www.americantaskforce.org/rss/wpr>
- [5] [http://www.americantaskforce.org/donate\\_online](http://www.americantaskforce.org/donate_online)
- [6] [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/31/opinion/31fri1.html?\\_r=2&ref=opinion](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/31/opinion/31fri1.html?_r=2&ref=opinion)
- [7] <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-israel31-2009jul31,0,303539.story>
- [8] <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/30/AR2009073003809.html>
- [9] <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124899975954495435.html>
- [10] [http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14121744](http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14121744)
- [11] [http://www.economist.com/world/mideast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14140390](http://www.economist.com/world/mideast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14140390)
- [12] <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1104187.html>
- [13] <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1103993.html>
- [14] <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull&cid=1248277938265>
- [15] <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1248277936821&pagename=JPost%2FJParticle%2FShowFull>
- [16] <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hVMbeJgDGaZxV3vJAAtXEwSziw1kAD99OSDGG1>
- [17] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/31/israel-british-jewish-community>
- [18] <http://jta.org/news/article/2009/07/30/1006928/israel-releases-brief-defending-gaza-conflict>
- [19] <http://www.aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=1&id=17600>
- [20] <http://www.daralhayat.com/portalariclendah/42926>
- [21] <http://www.gulfnews.com/opinion/columns/region/10336042.html>
- [22] <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=18817>