



Middle East Mediterranean

An ELIAMEP Report

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Greece**
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Palestine**
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Yitzhak Frankenthal

Middle East Mediterranean

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Middle East Mediterranean (MEM) is an unbiased bimonthly report of the *ELIAMEP Middle East Research Project*, focusing largely on geopolitical and economic developments, debates as well as policies, affecting the future of the Middle East. Having a global outlook MEM hosts analyses, commentaries, interviews and news, conducting research in the fields of politics, economics and culture in the Middle East and adjacent areas, such as the Eastern Mediterranean.

NOTICE: The views expressed in the articles of the *Middle East Mediterranean* do not reflect the point of view of the Hellenic Institute for European and Foreign Policy and the Editorial Team.

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Editor's Note

More than any other conflicts globally that of Palestine-Israel remains an enigmatic riddle waiting to be deciphered. After 67 years of constant regional instability and many efforts to reach a consensus, few things have changed today. This period has been one of the most fruitful in the diplomatic history of the conflict. It is perhaps the most productive one after the Oslo Accords (1993). As a result of the upgrade of the representation of Palestine to a non-member observer State in UN in November 2012 and the subsequent change of the mission title from "Palestine (represented by PLO)" to State of Palestine, in 2014 there was an intensive political effort by the international community to take the initiative and create the suitable political framework that could revive negotiations and lead to a permanent and viable solution to the conflict.

In 2014 the Palestinians joined several treaties and conventions on the strength of their U.N. observer status. For instance the recognition of Palestinian statehood by various European parliaments and the ascendance to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Law of the Sea, giving them legal control of 12 nautical miles from the Gaza coast. This could have implications for Israel's naval blockade and known offshore gas deposits. Also the forthcoming membership of Palestine in the International Criminal Court on April 1 is expected to give a new dimension to the conflict by shedding more light and investigating possible illegal activities and crimes committed by Israel.

Cooperation between Greece and Palestine is much needed both in regard to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and in areas of mutual interest. Greek-Palestinian relations are of particular importance for geopolitical stability in the Eastern Mediterranean involving a series of issues including that of Cyprus. Given the ongoing growing ties between Athens and Tel Aviv, increased cooperation between Palestine and Greece is a positive factor for enhancing geopolitical stability in the region. As a result of bilateral contact and cooperation

both countries can be benefited mutually, both in resolving critical issues related to geopolitical stability and security and the geopolitical configuration of a secure environment conducive to the economic development of these areas.

The current issue of the Middle East Mediterranean focuses on aspects such as Palestinian unity, illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian lands, the current stance of Israel and Palestinian-Greek relations, aiming to provide the reader with an update as a means of shedding more light to this riddle which has a strong impact on future regional developments.

MEM

Analyses

Restoring Palestinian Unity

Dr. Mitri Raheb,
Dar al kalima University, Bethlehem, Palestine

The two major Palestinian parties, Fatah and Hamas, may pay lip service to unity, but for the above mentioned reasons their hands are tight. With under-developed democratic structures, the absence of the long overdue presidential and legislative elections and the unwillingness to share or alternate power there is no reason to believe that any kind of unity is in near sight.

A German delegation recently asked me the question: “We really can’t understand the Palestinians, why can’t they unite? Why can’t Fatah and Hamas join forces, especially when facing an Israeli occupation that doesn’t spare any of them?” I could feel in the question a sense of bewilderment and blame. I answered: “But you as German should understand this phenomena better than others!” The expression on his face made it clear that he didn’t understand my answer. So I continued saying: “Remember when Germany was divided into two parts, East and West; was the reason behind that the German people were not organized, wise, and responsible enough, or where there other reasons? Wasn’t the cold war between East and West the main reason behind that? The magnetic

fields of the two world superpower were so strong that it divided countries (like Germany and Korea), regions (Horn of Africa), and continents (Europe). Something similar is happening in Palestine today, although it has nothing to do with the old cold war. In fact the polarization within Palestine is an outcome of regional geo-politics, international as well as Israeli and intra-Palestinian politics.”

The Geo-politics of the Middle East

Looking at the history of Palestine “long duree” one would realize that Palestine is a small strip of land situated between major regional powers that developed early in history and continued to influence its fate. There is Egypt on the south

west, Europe to the west across the Mediterranean, Turkey to the North, Syria and Iraq to the North East, and a bit further Iran. Those five powers have natural and human resources, political as well as military power, and have been at one time of history imperial powers. Palestine is very much dependent on those regional powers. What happens within those powers is mirrored to a certain extent in Palestine. Often the magnetic fields of two of those regional powers collide on Palestinian soil, dividing the country into two. The most fertile land in Palestine was often used as a battle field for those regional powers. Today you have Syria and Iran on the one side backing Hamas, Sisi's Egypt on the other side backing Fatah , and Turkey pulling in a third direction. But these historical powers are not the only players in the region. The Petro-Dollar helped Saudi Arabia and Qatar become regional powers with lots of resources used to buy influence and cloud, especially within the poorer and dependent countries of the region. While Saudi Arabia backs President Abbas, Qatar is more supportive of Hamas. But there is also a third regional polarization taking place in the Middle East of today: Old national regimes (seemingly secular) are colliding with different forms of political Islam (neo-conservative capitalist in Turkey), (Muslim Brotherhood led in Egypt and

Palestine), and (Islamic State "ISIS" controlled in Syria and Iraq). The rise of the Justice and Development party in Turkey in 2002, Hamas victory in the 2006 Palestinian elections as well as the Muslim Brotherhood victory in the Egyptian election in 2012 gave the impression as if the polarization has come to an end with a clear winner, namely political Islam. Yet the counter revolution in Egypt in 2014 and the fact that the Assad regime is still in power in Syria shows that the polarization of the Middle East is far from over. Fatah and Hamas thus keep repositioning themselves according to the power shifts and developments in these countries.

The international community has been part of the problem in Palestine. Not only did they not recognize the Hamas government back in 2006, but they keep preventing any serious reconciliation between the two Palestinian fractions. The fact that both the Palestinian authority and Hamas are so dependent on foreign financial funding is a clear indication that under the current circumstances a Palestinian unity is far from reach.

Israeli Politics

After the eruption of the second Intifada in the year 2000 Israel took a decision to separate Gaza from the West Bank, thus eliminating any possibility for a two

state solution. The Unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip in 2005 aimed at weakening the Palestinian Authority grip over Gaza and thus allowing Hamas to take control slowly but surely. The three Israeli wars on Gaza were meant to strengthen Hamas political image and to weaken them only to the extent that they can't harm Israel, but keep them strong enough to continue challenging Fatah. On the other hand, Israel allows the Palestinian Authority to have as little authority as possible with no authority whatsoever over Gaza. Israel created the rift between Gaza and the West Bank and is relaxed as long as the two geographical entities are separated geographically and politically.

Palestinian Politics

So are the Palestinian mere victims of regional, international as

well as Israeli politics? Can't they do anything to change the statuesque? The Polls show that the majority of the Palestinian people want unity. The two major Palestinian parties, Fatah and Hamas, may pay lip service to unity, but for the above mentioned reasons their hands are tight. With under-developed democratic structures, the absence of the long overdue presidential and legislative elections and the unwillingness to share or alternate power there is no reason to believe that any kind of unity is in near sight. Real unity is under the current circumstances nothing but a wishful thinking; hindered by Israel, lacking any regional or international backing and not attractive enough for those currently in power. Yet with a volatile region, a dwindling hope for a political solution based on two states, and a growing financial crisis in both the West Bank and Gaza, things can change. 🇵🇸

Israel's Stance at the Current Stage

Dr. Yitzhak Frankenthal,
The Fund For Reconciliation, Tolerance & Peace
The Arik Institute for Reconciliation, Tolerance and Peace,
In Memory of Arie Zvi Frankenthal, Israel

The Israeli leadership will decide to strike peace based on essential territorial compromises, ceasing the construction in occupied territories and real conversations with an open mind to “pay the price of consented retreat from the occupied territories,” including compensation to the Palestinian refugees who were banished from Palestine, then we can reach a real and stable peace.

I am a religious, Zionist Jewish man, father of four and grandfather of seven. On July 1994 my oldest son, Arik, died in battle with Hamas, and since then I have left the business world and am now pursuing the promoting of peace and reconciliation between the nations. In 1995 I have formed a group of bereaved Israeli parents who would support the efforts of PM Yitzhak Rabin to bring peace and reconciliation, and during that year I had also formed a group of bereaved Palestinian parents who are working to find peace and reconciliation between the nations. For 10 years I had directed the Israeli-Palestinian group, which now includes over 600 bereaved families.

I think that the Israeli occupation is the worst form of terrorism. In my mind, as a religious, Zionist Jew, the land of Israel was promised to the Jewish people since the giving of the Torah in 1313 BC,

but before I am a Jew I am also a human being, and as a human being I am not willing to rule over another people, I am not willing to watch how the Israeli occupation is destroying the Palestinian people. Hundreds of thousands of Israeli Arabs had lived in Palestine, where very few Jews had lived, and hundreds of thousands of them were banished between the years 1947-1967.

Israel had recently decided to hold an election. This is an outrage of the highest degree. The real reason for the decision is Netanyahu's incompetence as a Prime Minister to satisfy the needs of the extreme right-wing public on the one hand, and to take care of the Israeli security and economy on the other.

In the past months thousands of Jews has started visiting the Temple Mount, to Haram al-Sharif, with the encouragement of the Israeli government, in total defiance of the status quo, which existed since 1967.

This situation had caused unrest within the Arab population in Israel and in Palestine, and had brought forth further escalation and acts of despair by the Palestinian citizens, including Israeli Palestinians. The harsh feelings of the Palestinians following the construction of more houses in the occupied territories had taken a turn to the worse after the change in status quo at the Temple Mount – Haram al-Sharif.

The recent behavior of the Israeli government is transforming the political/state conflict into a religious one, which will be hard to solve. Among these strange behaviors we've seen how Abu Mazen was a "lame duck" in the eyes of the Israeli government, although he had done and will do everything in his power to prevent further escalations, though at the end of Operation Protective Edge in Gaza, Abu Mazen was so loved by the Israeli government that he was asked to take the leadership in Gaza upon himself. And now, not even a month later, Abu Mazen is again considered an unsuitable "partner" by the Israeli government.

There's no question that the deterioration in the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians will pose a problem for the peace agreements between Israel and Egypt and Israel and Jordan. Israel had refused to acknowledge the ruling of Hamas and its democratic

elections, but is holding indirect conversations with Hamas, sort of like a "bluff" to misguide the Israeli public and the world.


The biggest specialty of the Israeli government is to create panic and fear within the Israeli public. Fear from Iran, fear from Hezbollah, fear from Hamas, comparing Hamas to ISIS, etc. In my conversations with Hamas leaders I asked some of them: what do they want? – They can't annihilate Israel, they can't profit from killing Israelis because Israel would just kill Hamas people in retaliation, and so what is their vision? Their answer surprised me. Some of them said they would fight Israel until the Israeli public will be sick of it and will leave the country. Those were the few extremists. The vast majority said: "look, Yitzhak, Arafat and the Fatah had acknowledged Israel and what came of it? Nothing. The situation is becoming worse and worse. We want Israel to acknowledge us first and then we will acknowledge Israel. We have no problem in signing a peace agreement with Israel, if only Israel would acknowledge us." I asked them why they were boycotting the Israeli peace organizations and they claimed that those were against normalization. I said that normalization can't be a constant state of occupation and no peace, and their response was: "look at the peace camp in Israel, which is

striving for peace for 47 years and the situation is still deteriorating. We have nothing to gain from the peace organizations.”

In conclusion, I have no doubt that if the Israeli leadership will decide to strike peace based on essential territorial compromises, ceasing the construction in occupied territories and real conversations with an open mind to “pay the price of consented retreat from the occupied territories,” including compensation to the Palestinian refugees who were banished from Palestine, then we can reach a real and stable peace.

In order for that to happen we must act within the Israeli public, we have to show them how their lives

are interwoven with the conflict, how deeply rooted it is in their DNA. We have to teach the Israeli public about the Palestinian narrative, we have to show them what is to be gained with peace. If we can do that and the public will change their minds, then the elections will lead to a leadership that will achieve peace.

Indeed, this is no simple matter, but from my research over the past years, which was also scientifically tested, it was proven that when the Israeli public realizes how addicted they are to the conflict and how tightly connected the conflict is to the Israeli narrative, then 33% of the right-wing camp had changed their minds in favor of ending the conflict. 

Comments

The Palestinian Problem: A View from Greece

Dr. Thanos Dokos,
Director-General, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy-ELIAMEP

The current policies of the Netanyahu government on the Palestinian problem are shortsighted and that the lack of a viable solution will affect negatively Israel's own future. Greece would be willing to offer its good services both in the context of the EU's regional policy, but also as a host or facilitator of peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

The wider Mediterranean security environment is predominantly characterized by multiple sources of insecurity, fluidity, instability, and continuing change and evolution. Furthermore, the Arab revolts have already caused an exponential increase in the region's volatility and unpredictability. In this “Hobbesian” security environment, resolution of the Palestinian problem remains a necessary -but no longer sufficient, because of the multiplication and complexity of the region's problems- condition for a substantive and permanent improvement of the region's security situation.

Successive incidents of large-scale armed conflict between Israel and Hamas, with a substantial human toll, have taken place during the past few years. Despite diplomatic pressure by the Obama

Administration and recognition of a Palestinian state by an increasing number of European parliaments, the Netanyahu government has not shown any genuine interest in re-engaging into talks for the solution of the problem. But neither has Hamas shown any signs of moderation in its position vis-a-vis Israel. Relations between Hamas and Fatah also remain tense and the current ‘ceasefire’ is fragile.

Although Israel seems to be doing fairly well, from a security and an economic perspective, despite the aforementioned relative diplomatic isolation and its disagreements with the Obama Administration, it can be argued that the current policies of the Netanyahu government on the Palestinian problem are shortsighted and that the lack of a viable solution will affect negatively Israel's own

future. Future challenges for Israel will be two-fold: (a) security challenges as the Palestinian youth, lacking any hope for a better future may decide to take their struggle against Israeli occupation to the next level of violence, i.e. a new Intifada, or an increase in suicide attacks with cars, knives, etc. that have been witnessed during the past few months or even suicide bombings with the use of non-conventional devices, although the latter is a low probability, high impact scenario. It is extremely unlikely that any Muslim country might use military force against Israel using the Palestinian problem as a pretext; and (b) challenges to Israel's democratic system of government as a result of demographic trends (increase in the percentage of the Arab population living inside Israel).

Under the current circumstances, both sides are being “pulled by the strings like puppets” from their extremist factions. Such groups will remain influential for at least the immediate future. Therefore, the implementation of a peace settlement along the general lines of the “Geneva Initiative” appears to be the only realistic solution for the removal of a poisonous cancer from the “Promised Land”. In the framework of such a solution, Palestine will be a demilitarized state, with only a reinforced domestic security force, and to supervise the peace

agreement the deployment of a Multinational Force composed of troops from the US, other NATO countries, “neutral powers”, as well as a number of moderate Arab countries. Potential hydrocarbon deposits in Gaza’s maritime zones could play an important role in the economic development of a Palestinian state.

The EU has a disproportionately small political influence and role in the Middle East peace process, despite the economic assistance offered over the years. Europe cannot remain just a provider of economic assistance. Many Arab countries are anxious for Europe to play a major role in the peace negotiations, as well as in managing the consequences of the Arab revolts and the other major regional security challenges (such as the civil war in Syria, the emergence of the Islamic State and the transformation of Libya into a failed state).

Indeed, the fluid nature of contemporary international relations in the Middle East certainly offers the EU the opportunity to upgrade its role in this important region. A prerequisite for this is agreement among the European countries to develop a common foreign and security policy, as well as a common policy towards the region. Not an easy target in a period of economic and political problems for the EU, but in times of increasing

geopolitical turbulence in both its Southern and Eastern neighborhoods, there is simply no other alternative for Europe than an active role in managing those challenges. Greece, a traditional and tested friend of the Palestinian people, but also a country enjoying a strategic relationship with Israel,

would be willing to offer its good services both in the context of the EU's regional policy, but also as a host or facilitator of peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis. 🇮🇱

Greece and the Recognition of the Palestinian State

Dr. Evangelos Venetis

*Head of the Middle East Research Project –
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Europe must display keen interest swiftly to develop an action plan to address the problem of Palestine and the respect of international law. Greece can play a constructive role in this process. Active cooperation is needed to ensure that the challenges in Palestinian-Israeli relations are addressed adequately by securing the right of Palestinians to full statehood and the right of Israelis to security.

The recent political mobility in Palestine on the issue of recognition of the Palestinian State by Sweden, the first country in the West, which did so at a bilateral level, has upset the stagnant waters of the Palestinian. At the same time the parliaments of other countries in Europe such as the UK, Ireland and Spain, with France have similarly been inspired by the Swedish initiative. Given that 135 of the 193 UN members, from all continents except Europe, N. America and Oceania, have already made in recognition of the Palestinian State, admittedly, the West has delayed to act actively in this context.

Undoubtedly, unlike the Italian position, delaying the settlement of the Palestinian Issue with the prolonged deadlock in negotiations is not a positive development for geopolitical

stability. Additionally the frozen negotiation process is accompanied by an increase in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied area C which is 61% of the total territory of the West Bank. As a result there is a complication in the process of creating two independent states and containing the parallel increase of violence in the Gaza Strip. It is evident that the resumption of negotiations needs strong impulse, and Sweden's move is to this direction.

Despite the disagreement of Israel and its partially justified security concerns, it is not possible to continue the freeze on negotiations because such a development can lead only disappointment and disaster. In this context Europe's parliaments are not early but late already. The profound concern of European parliaments is an encouraging

development for restoring geopolitical stability in Mesopotamia and the Levant. Moreover there is an excellent opportunity for the emergence of moderate political forces on both sides.

Strikingly enough and despite the long tradition of close Palestine-Greek ties in combination with the recent rapprochement with Israel and the obvious interest of Europeans on the issue, the Greek government and the Greek MPs (the coalition and the major opposition) are overtaken by the alarming domestic issues of the country and they have not given the due importance to Palestine, which is a major issue with geopolitical implications reaching Cyprus. Interestingly the Major opposition and central left wing MPs have not showed any particular interest in Palestine although they have repeatedly touch upon this issue in the past in a socialist and human rights framework internationally. It is necessary to stress out that the domestic and foreign policy of a country are interconnected and the Greek Parliament is expected to acknowledge that sooner rather than later. It is not only a matter of party leadership but also of each one MP to display the necessary tact in this regard.

Beyond the question of the application of international law, the issue of Palestine is a major concern to the Greek government in the context of geopolitical question of assisted relations of Athens with Tel Aviv and the crisis in Cyprus and Turkey. But Athens has as much leeway in Palestine as Israel has in Cyprus, e.g. see. the presence of the Turkish Cypriot “Minister” of Foreign Affairs of the Pseudo-State of Northern Cyprus Ozdil Nami in Israel on November 6, 2014. In the quiver of Greece there is still the legacy of Greek-Arab relations. These two combined make Greece a special place for Palestine and finally to perform its own constructive role by adopting a creative and balanced diplomacy. Currently Athens, which has repeated its position on two independent states in theory, is called by developments to confirm this position in practice, by discuss in Parliament the issue of recognition of the Palestinian State by the Greek government. Alternatively, if Athens hesitates to proceed to the recognition of Palestine now, it has the opportunity along with other Europeans to put the prospect of recognition as a precondition for the immediate resumption of talks between Israelis and Palestinians.



Focus on *Palestine*

Palestinians are currently in a process of boosting their diplomatic efforts worldwide in order to promote the Palestinian cause by achieving wider official statehood recognition by western parliaments and by attempting to bring Israel to the International Criminal Court. Facing effectively illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian lands, and achieving domestic political unity are two milestones for Palestine.

In this context, Mrs. **Hanan Ashrawi**, Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) unfolds in her interview key points related to the conflict and the role of Greek Palestinian relations in this process.

Q: *How could the recognition of the Palestinian State by European parliaments contribute to restarting the negotiation process?*

A: The recognition of the Palestinian State by European parliaments addresses the balance power is a way of recognizing the will of the people of Palestine for freedom and independence through a Two States solution process. It is also a way to address the power imbalance between Israel and Palestine and sends a clear message of the hope of Palestinians for an immediate and sustainable solution.

Q: *Do you foresee a real danger for Palestinian radicalization as a result of the lack of progress in the negotiations with Israel?*

A: Palestinians do not count on negotiation really. Radicalization in the ranks of Palestinians can happen as a result of Israel's unilateralism and illegal behavior by stealing Palestinian land for illegal settlements and killing Palestinians. Actually it is not the lack of negotiation that leads to radicalization. It is Israel that destroys the prospects of a viable solution for the sake of peace and stability. Palestinians believe that

negotiations without mutual commitment to reach a solution can be fruitless.

Q: *What is the current state of relations between Fatah and Hamas? Can one expect further steps towards Palestinian unity in the coming months?*

A: Both Fatah and Hamas are trying hard to reach reconciliation. The pluralistic political system of Palestine is a good platform on which political legitimacy can be restored. Yet Israel does not behave constructively and responsibly to this end. Israel must proceed to responsible moves, such as allowing the funds for Gaza, addressing security concerns in the West Bank and Gaza, lifting the siege of Gaza, and removing the crossing points. These measures are preconditions for free and fair Palestinian elections.

Q: *Greek-Palestinian political relations have always been very close. How would Greek-Palestinian relations be affected in view of the forthcoming Greek-Cypriot-Israeli energy alliance? Is there any scope for Greek*

involvement of a mediating nature in the Palestine-Israel conflict?

A: Greek Palestinian relations have always been strong, flourishing and constructive for the sake of both peoples and regional stability. In recent years the strengthening of Greek-Israeli ties has created a new picture in the region. Being at large a result of the friction between Turkish-Israeli formerly alliance. Israel tries to balance the loss of turkey for Israeli interests by engaging Greece in this process.

We look forward to the constructive role of Greece in the Palestine-Israel Conflict because Greece has always been on the right side of history. Greece could play a mediating role in spite of the fact that Israel keeps a unilateral approach defying major global powers, such as the US. Athens can support the state recognition of Palestine and exert its influence in the EU by employing international law as a means of stopping Israel's unilateralism and boosting a concrete vision for respect of the basic rights of Palestinians for freedom and state independence. 🇬🇷

Monitoring the Middle East

Afghanistan

Afghanistan and USA ink long-awaited security agreement (30, Sept. 2014)

The bilateral security agreement between Afghanistan and United States was formally signed by Afghan and US officials on Tuesday. The long-awaited security agreement was inked by US ambassador to Afghanistan James B. Cunningham and national security adviser Hanif Atmar. The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) for the NATO forces was also inked during the signing ceremony.

Comment: This agreement is not expected to alter the power balance and security in Afghanistan.

Bahrain

Bahrain participates in the GCC anti-ISIS coalition in Iraq (24 Sept., 2014)

Bahrain and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) sent planes to hit a number of positions of "terrorists", today announced the general country's army headquarters. "A swarm of fighter aircraft of the Royal Air Force of Bahrain launched earlier this morning with the air forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and other allied and friendly countries air strikes against a number of selected targets (...) and destroyed them.

Cyprus

Two British war jets fly from Cyprus base to Iraq (27 Sept., 2014)

Two British jets are flying over Iraq and are ready to hit today targets in their first mission after parliament gave permission for strikes against militant Islamic State, said the British Ministry of Defense. Eyewitness Reuters at the base of RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus saw two jets Torneido to leave the base at 7:25 hours GMT (9:25 GMT), which followed a few minutes later a tanker.

Comment: Cyprus is influenced by developments in Mesopotamia, including the emergence of political Islam in the occupied territories of Cyprus.

Egypt

Egypt accuses Erdogan of supporting terrorism (25 Sept., 2014)

Egypt today accused the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that supports terrorism and trying to cause chaos in the Middle East, after his speech to the UN General Assembly in which questioned the legality of the Egyptian president Abdel Fatah al-Sisi. Relations between Ankara and Cairo have intensified after the overthrow of the last elected president Mohamed Morsi,

member of the Muslim Brotherhood, the then chief of army Sisi after mass demonstrations against the policy.

Iran

Fabius on nuclear negotiations (27 Sept., 2014)

Negotiations are underway in New York between Tehran and major powers over its nuclear program of Iran's Islamic Republic does not have "made significant progress", said to the press by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. He stressed that a meeting at ministerial level "withdrawn absence of progress. " "Right now you talk there has been significant progress," said the minister. You should set a date to "meet again soon," he added, suggesting that this is to define a new date to continue the difficult negotiations.

Iraq

French planes hit ISIS targets in Iraq (21 Sept., 2014)

French warplanes struck targets in Iraq today, as said Stefan Lefol, the representative of the government of President François Hollande. "There were setbacks in Iraq this morning," said Lefol without going into details. These raids were the second largest after September 19, when the Paris announced that part of the international coalition formed by the United States against the jihadist Islamic State who have occupied vast areas in Iraq and Syria.

Kuwait

Kuwait after higher level of cooperation with Nigeria (21 Sept., 2014)

Kuwait has set up a crack team of 80 public security officials to comb the country and make sure no Islamic State (IS) operatives are active there nor are there any sympathizers of the militant Sunni Islam.

Lebanon

Lebanese army arrested 450 mujahedin suspects (25 Sept., 2014)

The Lebanese army arrested around 450 suspected mujahedin near the country's border with Syria as the country stepped up efforts to prevent armed Islamists build on their border town of Aarsal. Last month, the Aarsal became the theater of the most bloody spread of Syrian civil war that has already completed three years. During these conflicts, in which dozens of people were killed, the jihadists arrested a group of Lebanese soldiers and since then have killed at least three of them. It is estimated that still detain hostages more than 12.

Libya

Libya accuses Sudan of supporting terrorism (8 Sept., 2014)

Libya accused Sudan of violating its airspace, claiming that Sudanese military plane was heading to Tripoli airport, held by Islamist organizations to provide "terrorist groups" with weapons.

Palestine - Israel

Abbas against Israeli occupation (27 Sept., 2014)

The President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas today called before the UN General Assembly to end the Israeli occupation and to recognize the 'independence of the State of Palestine. "He accused Israel unleashed "a new genocidal war" in Gaza and promised to do everything to "punish the guilty."

Qatar

Qatar Foreign Minister hails formation of new Iraqi government (21 Sept., 2014)

The Foreign Minister H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah hailed the formation of a new government in Iraq as a promising step, while stressing the need for a comprehensive national dialogue to preserve unity.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia shuts its embassy in Sanaa (10 Sept., 2014)

The Saudi Kingdom has issued instructions to close down its embassy in Sanaa and evacuate diplomats, as well as all Saudi citizens, amid growing concerns over safety and security following a string of attacks on foreign targets.

Saudi call for jihad (19 Aug. 2014)

A Saudi kamikaze of the Islamic State called on Saudi people to launch jihad, expressing the hope that the organization will spread to Saudi Arabia and "will expel the infidels from the Arabian Peninsula," according to Islamist website monitoring service SITE. The man called Abu al-Khazer Zazraoui and carried out a suicide attack in August in the city of Pakala against a Syrian military and administrative center of the Islamic State.

Somalia

Blast kills 12 (9 Sept., 2014)

A double bombing was perpetrated today by members of an Islamist organization in Somalia, resulting in at least 12 dead people in the first major attack in which progressed after the death of their leader last week, which swore revenge. The two attacks that took place within an hour, aimed to hit the convoy of the African Union and a motorcade of police. Others least 30 people were injured in the attacks, one of which was the African Union force target men in Somalia (AMISOM).

Syria

The leader of Kohorasan is dead (28 Sept., 2014)

The head of the organization Khorasan has been killed by US air strikes in Syria according to the American Islamist website tracking center SITE. A mujahid who in the past has fought on the side

of Khorasan group sent via Twitter a series of messages expressing his condolences for the death of Muhsin al-Fadl, a former member of al Qaeda and allegedly head of Khorasan, and Abu Yusuf al-Turki, a still a leading member of the organization.

Tunisia

Tunisia closed its border with Libya (2 Aug., 2014)

Tunisia has closed today the main border crossings with Libya as thousands of foreigners and Libyans refugees have flocked to the area to cross borders in search of safe haven, so that it has created chaos, reported the state Tunisian news agency TAP.


Turkey

Turkey border hit by missiles from Syrian territory (28 Sept., 2014)

Four mortar shells fell today in Turkey, near the border with Syria, injuring two people, as fighters of the Islamic State conflict with Kurdish forces defending a city in the Syrian border, said local officials and a witness told Reuters. The Islamic State launched an offensive to occupy the border town Troupe before more than a week, laying siege to three sides. More than 150,000 Kurds have fled the town and surrounding villages passing in Turkey.

Yemen

The Houthis take control of Sanaa amid demonstrations (29 Sept, 2014)

Hundreds of Yemenis demonstrated in Sanaa on Sunday demanding that Houthi rebels who had seized control of the capital last week leave, a day after the Shiite fighters attacked the home of the intelligence chief. 



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