





















# Syria

## Newspapers

"Nobody can ignore the fact that the Zionist lobby has too much influence inside the US Administration in general and the White House and the Congress in particular. Therefore, even naïve people know that the signing by President George Bush of the so-called Accountability Act which provides for the imposition of economic and diplomatic sanctions on Syria was the work of Israel's friends in the Congress and the White House....

It is sure that the supporters of Israel inside the American political circles have been making use of the 9/11 tragic events in New York and Washington by spreading lies and slanders against the Muslims and Arabs. The first thing they did is to fill the heads of their guys in the White House and the Congress that the Muslims and Arabs are terrorists and accused them of launching the said attacks! They also accused all nations that back the legitimate rights of peoples to self-determination and freedom to be 'rouge' or advocates of international terrorism. This is a big lie known to everybody as the same powers and parties that market such slanders are the strongest backers of the occupation forces and war criminals in Israel..."

M. Agha, "Zionist Act", *Syria Times*, December 15, 2003

# United Arab Emirates

## Cartoons



*Al-Ittihad*, December 25, 2003  
The cartoon's headline: "Peace Talks".

## Arab Newspapers

***Al-Ahram (Egypt)*** - an Egyptian daily owned by the Egyptian government: the president appoints the editor. He (as the editor of the other government owned dailies, *al-Gumhuriyya* and *al-Akhbar*) is given substantial leeway in his editorial practices, assuming he avoids certain "taboos". *Al-Ahram* is the largest Arabic paper in the world and has established the *Al-Ahram* Regional Press Institute.

***Al-Gumhuriyya (Egypt)*** – a government daily.

***Al-Wafd (Egypt)*** - *Al-Wafd* is the main opposition paper in Egypt. The paper criticizes the regime on a wide range of issues - from economy to internal and foreign policy. However, it is important to note that the criticism is on subjects that are allowed by the regime. The paper is one of the most acceptable channels of opposition activism, since the Egyptians see themselves as supporters of freedom of the press, and the paper is supposed to be concrete proof to this idea. *Al-Wafd* expresses extreme anti-Israel and anti-Semitic views, in articles and cartoons.

***Ar-Rai (Jordan)*** – a government daily; expresses the approaches of the Jordanian regime.

***As-Safir (Lebanon)*** - a Lebanese daily, close to Syria.

***Al-Ayyam (PA)*** – a government daily.

***Al-Hayat al-Jadida (PA)*** – the PA daily.

***Al-Quds (PA)*** – an opposition daily, which does not exceed the government policy.

***Al-Watan (SA)*** – a daily owned by the governor of the 'Asir district.

***Ar-Riyadh (SA)*** - A Saudi daily, one of the four principal Saudi papers (the three others are: *al-Madina*, *al-Jazira* and *al-Watan*). The paper presents a relatively conservative attitude, while emphasizing (as most of the Saudi papers) its praise of the Royal family.

Generally, the Saudi government lays severe limitations on the freedom of press and has a strict censorship, even on the foreign press that enters Saudi Arabia. Since the Saudi press is government-oriented, it concentrates on praising the Saudi Royal Family. Of course, opposition or independent newspapers do not exist in Saudi Arabia. However, the London based Saudi press has more independent features

***Tishrin (Syria)*** - a state sponsored and owned newspaper, in which the journalists are appointed and instructed by the government (The English-language *Syria Times* is published by *Tishrin* as well).

***Al-Watan (Qatar)*** - *Al-Watan* is one of the five Qatari dailies. *Al-Watan's* chairman is Hamad bin Sahim al Thani, a member of the royal family (All of the papers are owned by different branches of the royal family). The Foreign Minister, Hamed bin Jasem bin Jaber al Thani, owns half of the newspaper.