

Arab Media Review: Anti-Semitism and Other Trends

February - March 2004



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On the cover: *Al-Wafd*, Egyptian opposition newspaper, March 27, 2004

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Introduction

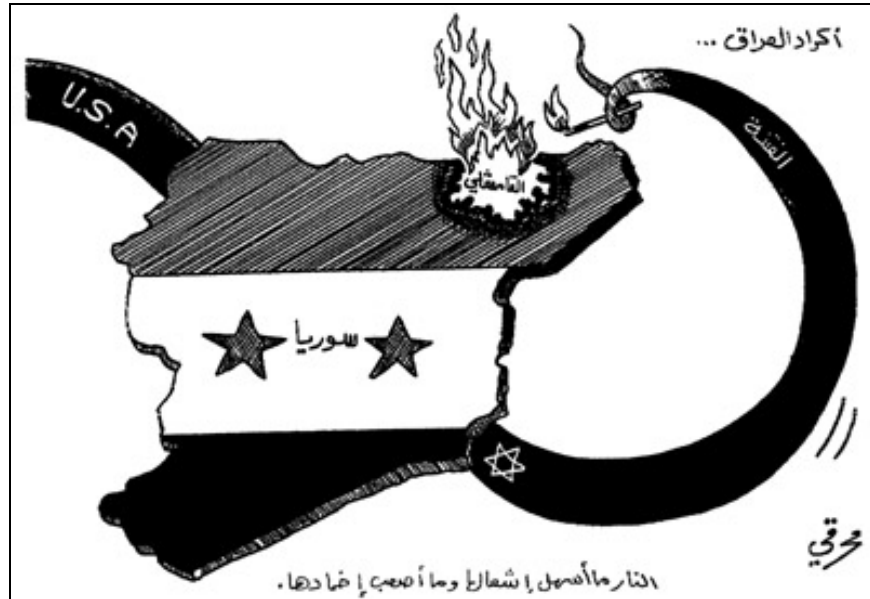
Anti-Semitism is widespread throughout the Arab and Muslim world, manifested in every segment of society. The following report is a compilation of select anti-Semitic expressions and other related trends in the Arab and Muslim world in February and March 2004.

As in recent months, newspapers continued to feature anti-Semitic caricatures on themes such as Israel's security fence, Jewish/Israeli control of U.S. foreign policy and the upcoming American presidential elections. Other common themes that are pervasive in the media include demonic images of Jews/Israel as snakes, conspiracy theories of Jews plotting to control the world, anti-Semitic blood libels and depictions of the stereotypical Jew (big nose, black coat and hat, skull cap etc.) along with Jewish symbols such as the Star of David and the menorah.

Material in this compilation was translated by ADL from the original Arabic or from English language sources in the Middle East.

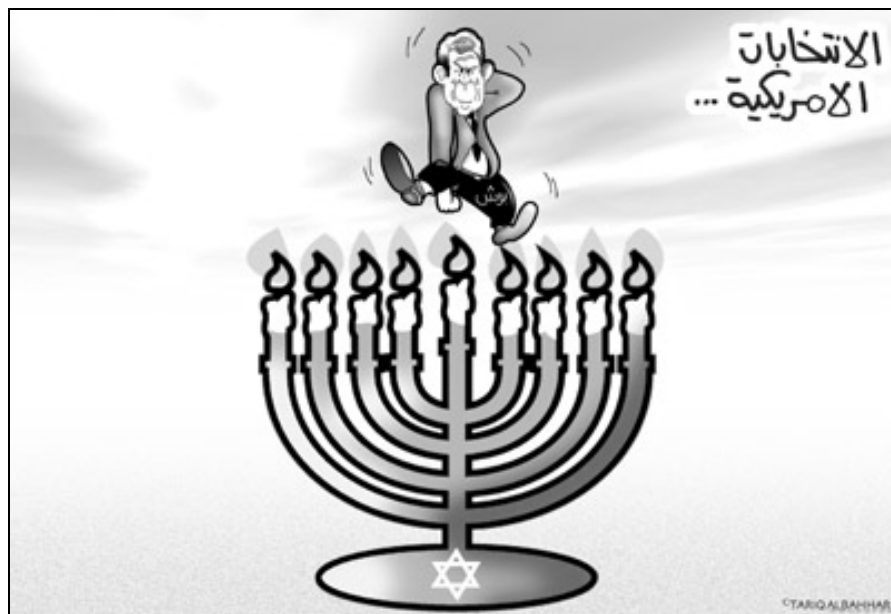
Bahrain

Cartoons



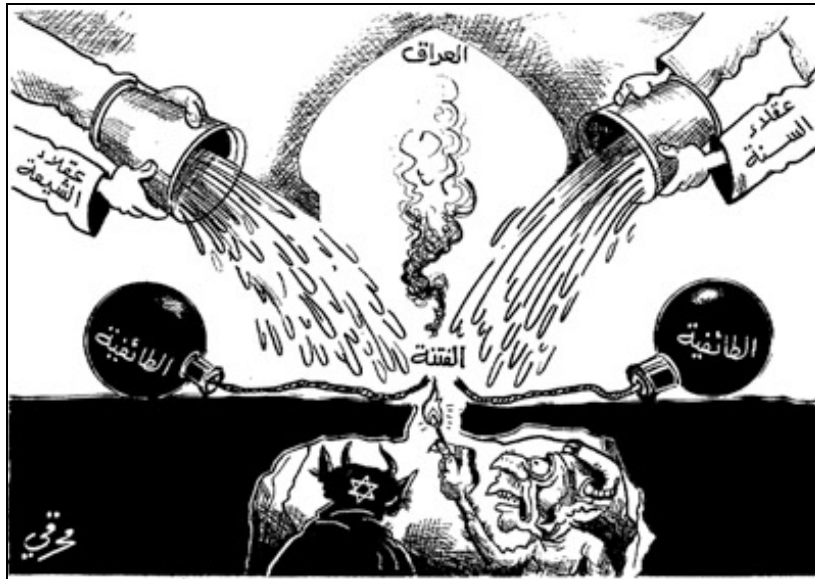
Akhbar al-Khalij, March 19, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The Kurds in Iraq". At the bottom: "How easy it is to light the fire, and how difficult it is to extinguish it". The USA and Israel (the Star of David), represented by a snake, are going through Syria and igniting a civil war in Kamishli (the Kurdish region in north Syria).



Akhbar al-Khalij, March 19, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The American Elections".



Akhbar al-Khalij, March 12, 2004

Wise people from the Shiites and Sunnis (on the right and the left) are spilling a civil war into "Iraq". The Jew and the devil are igniting grenades of "sectarianism".



Akhbar al-Khalij, March 7, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The big Middle East" [this is a word game: the word "East" is written here with one letter missing, what means: "partition". So the meaning of the title is: "The big Middle (East)'s partition"]. America is pouring Stars of David into the head of "the Arab world".



Akhbar al-Khalij, February 6, 2004

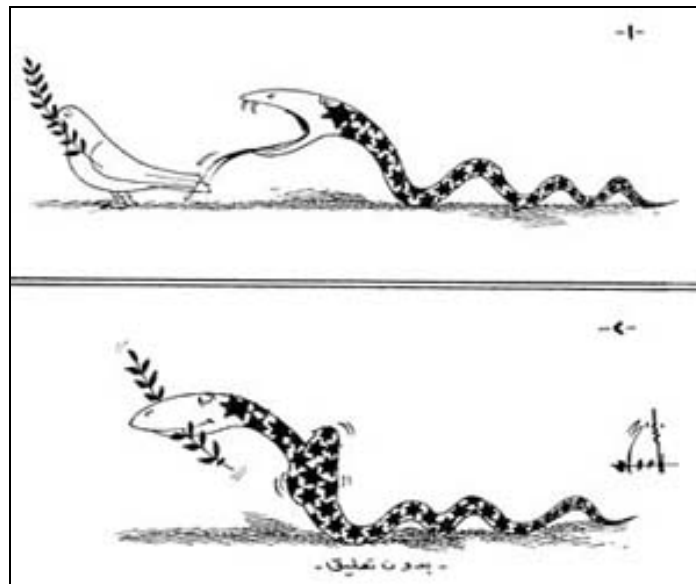
The cartoon's headline: "With the Approach of the American Elections." Israel is giving the US a sack full of "Iraq oil."

Egypt

Cartoons



Al-Wafd, March 27, 2004 The cartoon's headline: "No comment!"

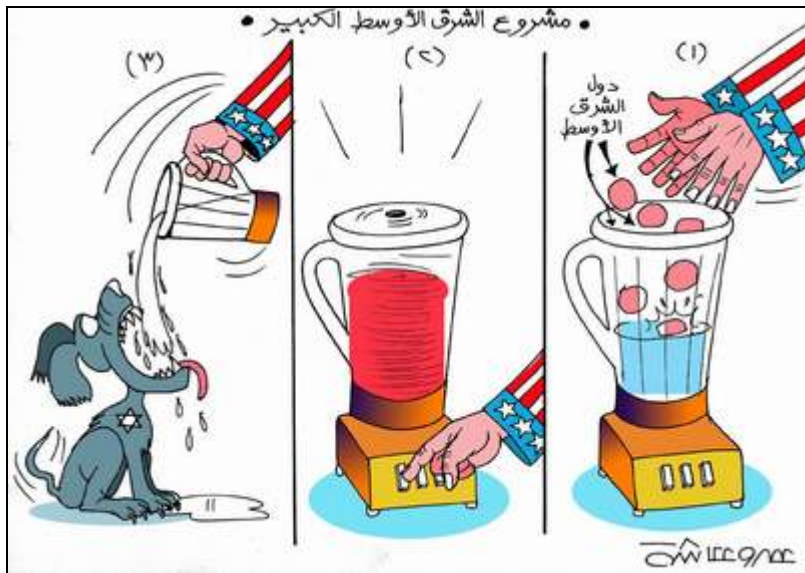


Al-Ahram, March 24, 2004 In Arabic: "No comments".



Al-Ahram, March 18, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The White House Announces the Death of the President's Dog." While stabbing the Arab world, Sharon is saying: "Mr. Bush, my heart was broken by the death of dear Spot".



Al-Wafd, March 17, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The big Middle East's plan." From right to left: stage 1: America is inserting "the Middle East countries" to the blender; stage 2: the countries are being mashed in the blender; stage 3: the mash is given to the Jewish dog.

Newspapers

- In an article dealing with the formation of the terms Semitism and anti-Semitism, the writer is claiming that the term is being used by the Jews in order to “rob the world” and scare it:

“... this stage used the Jewish crematoria in order to link and to call attention to this term (anti-Semitism – editor’s note) and to encourage the feelings of the sin complex against the Jews, especially in the Arab countries.

All of the Zionist economic and media forces that control the world, were subjugated to stand behind this purpose, so that it would succeed in spreading this terroristic manner of speaking to the western decision makers, in addition to Christian churches, writers, thinkers and politicians...”

Dr. Fathi al-Baradi’i, “Anti-Semitism: Zionist Creation of the Semantic Terror”, *Al-Ahram*, February 19, 2004

Jordan

Cartoons



Ad-Dustur, March 13, 2004

Bush is holding a box on which is written: "Support me, or if not - you will lose me". The Jewish lobby is saying to Bush: "Don't tell me what you gave to Israel. Tell me what else can you give". The man representing the Jewish lobby is holding behind his back a long list of "new demands".



Ad-Dustur, February 17, 2004 In Arabic: "The American intended media."

Oman

Cartoons



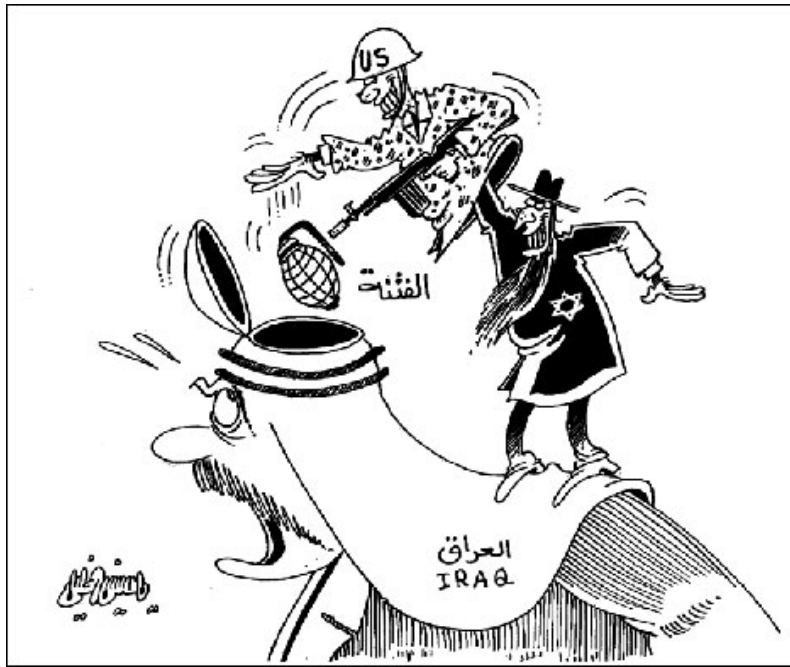
Al-Watan, March 24, 2004

While stepping on the Arabs, the "Zionist companies" are given drink from "Iraq oil."



Al-Watan, March 4, 2004

The Republican and the Democratic parties are running to "the White House".



Al-Watan, March 3, 2004

In Arabic: "Civil war." The term used here, *fitna*, is very meaningful in Arabic: it refers to the domestic conflicts that occurred within the Muslim community in the beginning of Islam and has a very negative and dangerous connotation.



Al-Watan, February 3, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The Feast of Immolation"* On the right, in Arabic: "The Islamic world's attitude?"

*Eid al-Adha, The Feast of Immolation, also called The Festival of Sacrifice, is a three-day festival and the concluding act of pilgrimage. It commemorates the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ishmael, in obedience to God. After the morning of communal prayer, Muslims slaughter an animal to commemorate the angel Gabriel's substitution of a lamb as Abraham's sacrificial obligation. The meat is shared with family members, neighbors and the poor and needy. This major holiday is one of the two main Islamic festivals and is observed whether or not one is on pilgrimage.

Qatar

Cartoons



Al-Watan, March 1, 2004

The Jew is saying to the Arab on the left: "He understands Hebrew, not Arabic," while pointing at Bush.



Al-Watan, February 9, 2004

In Arabic: "The American Elections." Sharon is taking "the settlements" (in the kennel) from the Gaza Strip.



Al-Watan, February 1, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The Real Terror." The USA is holding Sharon.

Saudi Arabia

Cartoons



Ar-Riyadh, March 8, 2004

Focus: Israel's Security Fence

On December 8, 2003, the United Nations General Assembly (GA), in a special emergency session adopted a Palestinian-initiated resolution sending the issue of Israel's security barrier to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague for an advisory opinion on the question: "What are the legal consequences arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory." The Palestinian Authority and supporters had attempted to have the Security Council pass such a resolution, however these efforts were unsuccessful, and they turned instead to the General Assembly, where anti-Israel resolutions are routinely supported by the majority of member nations. The resolution passed 90-8, with 74 countries abstaining. The ICJ heard oral presentations for three days beginning on February 23. In the weeks leading up to the Court's oral hearings, forty-nine nations and international organizations, submitted briefs to the ICJ. The majority, including the European Union (all 15 current members, plus the ten countries joining), the United States, Canada, Russia, Australia, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands submitted written briefs questioning the International Court of Justice's jurisdiction to advise on the issue of Israel's security fence. Others, including the member nations of the Arab League and Cuba, submitted briefs arguing for an ICJ opinion on the fence. In addition, fifteen countries, all of whom called for an ICJ opinion condemning the fence, made oral presentations before the Court.

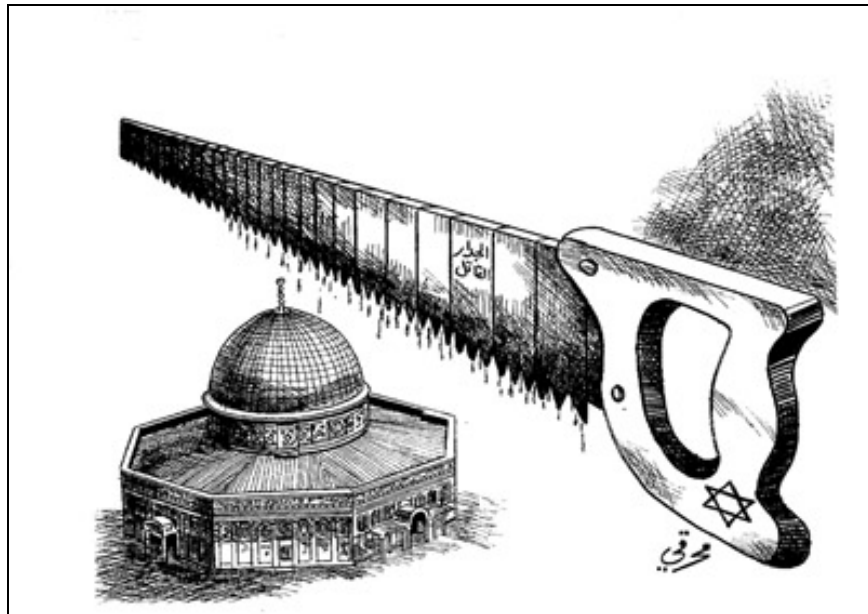
The Arab media published many articles, interviews and columns dealing with the fence and the ICJ proceedings, as well as cartoons criticizing Israel for what is mostly called in the Arab media as "the isolation fence." In one of the Bahraini papers, the fence was described as "the killing fence." One of the main arguments used was that the fence is racist and that Israel can be compared to other racist nations, as in what was written in *Al-Ahram*: "But a decision (by the ICJ) that will show the lack of legal legitimacy to build it, will undoubtedly put a moral and international pressure on the Israeli government, as it will be revealed it in front of the world as a racist government that uses the policy of racial separation and might be subject to all kinds of boycott as the former South African racist government."

The followings are examples of cartoons that appeared in the Arab papers:



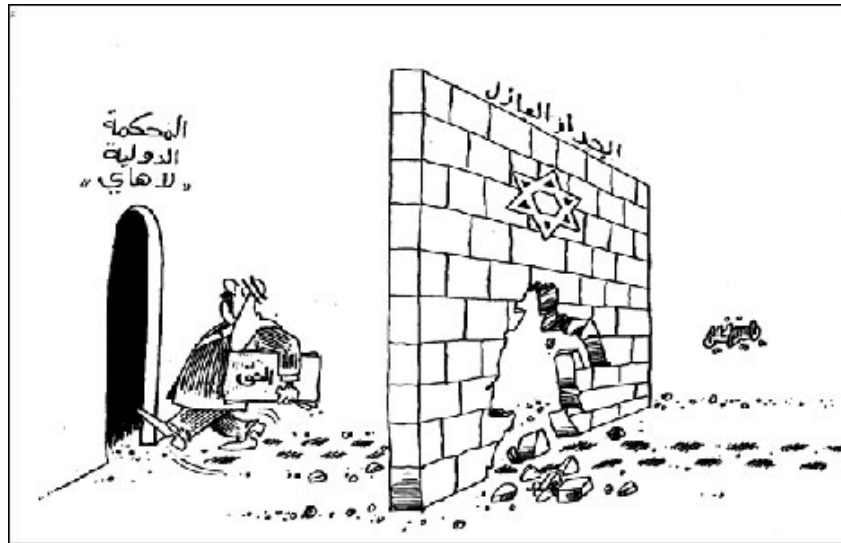
Akhbar al-Khalij, February 26, 2004 (Bahrain)

"The isolating fence" is standing in front of the "Hague International Court of Justice," saying: "(I am) unjustly treated... By God, honorable magistrate."



Akhbar al-Khalij, February 25, 2004 (Bahrain)

In Arabic: "The killing fence."



Al-Watan, February 23, 2004 (Oman)

The man is going through "the isolating fence" to the "Hague International Court," while holding a file on which is written: "The rightness."



Al-Ahram, February 13, 2004 (Egypt)

The Israeli soldier is saying: "This wall is protecting me from you."



Al-Watan, February 10, 2004 (Qatar)

In Arabic: "The West Bank."



Al-Watan, February 6, 2004 (Oman)

The Jew is taking Europe and America to the Hague International Court. Behind, an Arab is holding a file on which is written: "The Problem of the Isolation Fence."

Focus: The Killing of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin

On March 22, 2004 the spiritual leader of the Hamas movement, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, was killed by an Israeli missile aimed at his car. This event induced wide coverage, including articles, columns and cartoons – almost all of them criticizing the state of Israel and its Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, who is depicted as the perpetrator of the killing. The following are a few excerpts from articles and cartoons:

- "...The blood that follows the killers will not only follow them in imagination, but is following also in the present. They will not know the taste of peace, only through the blood that they will re-spill. From here the Zionist Macbeth could only kill the Palestinian paralyzed Sheikh, Ahmad Yassin...

But the Zionists' killing of the Sheikh Ahmad Yassin is natural behavior in spite all. I mean that this is logical, because the hands that were soiled with blood will never find peace, unless it soils itself with fresh blood from which it escapes fear, and presents its power...

But the Zionists cannot feel safety if their hands are not soiled with blood".

Ahmad 'Abd al-Mu'ti Hijazi, "All of the World's Seas Will Not Wash that Blood," *Al-Ahram*, March 31, 2004 (Egypt)

- "This is the Israeli theory framework in which we have to see the crime of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin's killing. This is so that we know that this is not the first crime, nor will be the last..."

Rajab al-Bana, "The Theory of State Terror," *Al-Ahram*, March 28, 2004 (Egypt)

- "...This is Ariel Sharon, Israel's PM, who led from the air the conspiracy to kill the great Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Palestinian Hamas movement..."

This is the atrocity of terror... in a Satanic manner...

What is this barbaric animality, which preceded the lowest wild animals?"

Zakariya Nil, "The Public Opinion and the Expected Tunis Summit," *Al-Ahram*, March 27, 2004 (Egypt)

- “The terrible killing of Ahmad Yassin came to add a new sphere to the spectrum of violence and tension in the Middle East, due to Sharon’s silly and daredevil policy, which lacks the simplest rules of logic and sense. Innocents of both sides are paying its price...”

“The Necessity of International Protection to the Palestinian People,” *Al-Ahram*, March 24, 2004 (*Al-Ahram’s* view) (Egypt)

- “As usual with the Jews, which are represented by Israel, they only celebrate through bloodshed. They killed the prophets, one after the other... And here is the criminal Sharon, supervising with his low-tide and criminal soul the killing of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of the Hamas movement...”

“The Killings of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin – Meanings and Lessons,” *Akhbar al-Khalij*, March 24, 2004 (Bahrain)

- “...Before Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Israel did not have mercy for Jenin’s kids, and did not respect the distinguished personalities of the international and humanitarian organizations. Its history is full of crime, massacres and the violation of rights from its members....

Israel proved yesterday that (it is) a bloody democracy...”

“America (and) Israel – Two Democratic Models,” *Al-Watan*, March 24, 2004 (Saudi Arabia)

- “...Israel started to carry out the new list of killings and eliminations, which was prepared and is being supervised by the big terrorist, Ariel Sharon himself...

Sharon has perpetrated his horrible crime at the time when the American government is dealing with the upcoming elections, and the Bush administration put its relations with Israel at the first level of importance and attention in order to gain the Jews voices in these elections...”

Farahat Hasem ad-Din, “The New List of Killings,” *Al-Ahram*, March 23, 2004 (Egypt)

- “Ariel Sharon has crossed all red lines in the Middle East region and has dared to kill the spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of the Hamas movement, in a crime characterized by fear, barbarism and meanness...”

Ibrahim Nafi’, “Facts,” *Al-Ahram*, March 23, 2004 (Egypt)



Al-Watan, March 25, 2004 (Qatar)



Akhbar al-Khalij, March 25, 2004 (Bahrain)

The cartoon's headline: "The balance of power."



Akbar al-Khalij, March 23, 2004 (Bahrain)

In Arabic: "The blood of the Shahid Yassin."



Al-Wafd, March 23, 2004 (Egypt)

The cartoon's headline: "The murder of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin." Sharon is standing on the "Palestinian resistance", saying: "At last I am satisfied."

Arab Newspapers

Akhbar al-Kahlij (Bahrain) - A pro-government daily and Bahrain's oldest newspaper; editor in-chief - Anwar Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman.

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-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 of this idea. *Al-Wafd* expresses extreme anti-Israel and anti-Semitic views in articles and cartoons.

Ad-Dustur (Jordan) – a government-owned paper that expresses pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli views. It is considered a high quality paper.

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

Ar-Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) - 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

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.

Al-Watan (Oman) - a government-backed daily. The paper was established in 1971 and its editor-in-chief is Muhammed Bin Suleiman at-Tani.



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