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Subject: Fw: The Media Line MidEast Daily

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From: MidEast Daily News <medialine@list.themedialine.org>
To: MEDaily@list.themedialine.org <MEDaily@list.themedialine.org>
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Syrian Forces Unleash Fierce Artillery Barrage Against Homs

Any lingering doubts that Syrian President Bashar Al-Asad has reneged on his commitment to the cease fire brokered by Kofi Anan [pictured] exploded Sunday morning with a fierce artillery barrage aimed at the city of Homs. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the situation, reported that shells were falling at a rate of three-per-minute. The cease fire was to have gone into effect on Thursday and a UN-observer team is due on Sunday. Few believe the unarmed 30-man team will have much impact, but the resolution authorizing its deployment was the first resolution to make it past Chinese and Russian vetoes. The observer force will assess the situation and make a formal report to Anan by April 18. In Washington on Friday, the Obama administration announced it had approved a package of communications equipment and medicines for Syria's opposition forces saying it expects the assistance to increase "over time," but will be limited to only non-lethal aid.

Egyptian Police Ambushed by Salafists in Sinai; 2 Officers Dead

Two Egyptian police officers were killed and three others were wounded when their patrol car was ambushed by Islamist terrorists in the Sinai Peninsula town of Al-Arish on Sunday. Authorities identified the shooters as Salafists. The attack came shortly after hundreds of police were dispatched to the

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region in order to prevent the spread of terrorism. Also on Sunday, news agencies reported the arrest by Egyptian security forces of three Palestinians who are suspected of planning a terror attack in Cairo. Meanwhile, the committee governing Egypt's elections has disqualified ten candidates including Hosni Mubarak's former intelligence chief Omar Suleiman and more surprisingly, Khairat Al-Shater, the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice. According to local media reports, Suleiman failed to submit the requisite number of signatures on his nominating petition while Al-Shater's criminal record disqualified him. The most prominent personality to survive the council's ruling was Amr Moussa, former head of the Arab League whose status was in doubt after rumors that his mother was Jewish circulated.

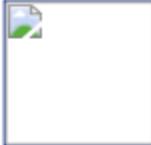
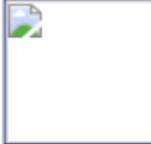
Israel Receives Support from Foreign Governments in Scuttling "Flytilla" Demonstration

As of Sunday morning, some pro-Palestinian demonstrators have arrived at Israel's Ben Gurion International airport as part of the "Flytilla-to-Palestine" protest, but the effect of the event appears to be muted by cooperation from foreign governments in preventing participants from embarking on Israel-bound flights. As was the case the last time the tactic of tying up Israel's primary international gateway was attempted, foreign carriers appear to be again refusing to allow passengers to board Tel Aviv-bound flights if they were identified by Israeli authorities as participants in the "flytilla" program. Organizers claim the demonstration is pro-Palestinian rather than anti-Israel, with Bethlehem being the final destination for the travelers who will participate in peaceful protests there. Those who do make it through to Ben Gurion airport will receive a some-what tongue-in-cheek letter from the Israeli government "welcoming" them and suggesting that rather than choosing to demonstrate against Israel, the visitor "could have chosen to protest the [Syrian](#) regime's daily [savagery](#) against its own people, which has claimed thousands of lives...You could have chosen to protest the [Iranian](#) regime's brutal crackdown on dissent and support of terrorism throughout the world. You could have chosen to protest [Hamas](#) rule in Gaza, where terror organizations commit a double war crime by firing [rockets](#) at civilians and hiding behind civilians." Protest organizers on Sunday threatened legal action against airlines alleged to have cooperated with Israel by denying boarding to would-be passengers, including Air France, Lufthansa and EasyJet.

Yemeni Army Clashes with Al-Qa'ida Forces in South

Forces linked to Al-Qa'ida attacked a Yemeni army checkpoint on Saturday killing four soldiers. Eight Al-Qa'ida gunmen died

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in the ensuing firefight according to Yemeni officials. At the same time, Al-Qa'ida operatives kidnapped a Yemeni intelligence officer and two soldiers just south of the capital Sana'a in the town of Radda. Fighting continues to escalate between the government troops and the terrorists who succeeded in taking over large areas in the southern part of the country during the upheaval that led to the resignation of longtime ruler Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Palestinian Residents of Syria Allowed to Wed in West Bank Town

The West Bank village of Deir Istiya was the rare but festive scene of the wedding of two Palestinians who were born and raised in a refugee camp near Damascus, Syria. At the request of the Palestinian Authority, Maha Surougi and Thaeer Qasem received permission from Israeli authorities to travel into Palestinian territory to celebrate their wedding. The 23-year old bride and groom were both born in the Yarmouk refugee camp that is home to 100,000 Palestinians. The entire village reportedly participated in the festive day.

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