

# MEIWeekly.



Demonstrators shouting slogans during a protest against the government's judicial reform Bill near the Knesset (Parliament) in Jerusalem on 20 February 2023. Photo: Ahmad Gharabli / AFP

## WHAT'S HOT: MEI PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS, & MORE

- **WRITE:** Where does the Middle East lie in India's strategic vision? What are the primary drivers of this relationship? Send in your 250-word abstract for our latest Insights series on India-Middle East relations by 28 February. Find out more [here](#).
- **READ:** The blog discusses how some countries in the Middle East are inclined to a multi-partner strategy that involves the US despite Beijing's growing influence in the region. Read the article [here](#).

## WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### Israel Government Advances Judicial Reforms

The Netanyahu administration moved ahead with its reform plans despite mass protests, including one to block the Supreme Court from halting ministerial appointments. The proposed Bill, if approved, could allow Mr Aryeh Deri to regain his ministerial posts.

### Iran's Tit-for-Tat Sanctions on EU and UK

Sanctions were imposed on several military companies as well as ministers and lawmakers, both at a national level and in the European Parliament. The French Minister for Gender, Equality, Diversity, and Equal Opportunities, Isabelle Rome, is among those sanctioned.



People walking in a commercial area in Tehran on 21 February 2023 as Iran's currency plunged to new lows on 20 January amid fresh EU sanctions, crossing the psychologically important rate of 500,000 rials to a dollar in foreign exchange markets. Photo: Atta Kenare / AFP

### Yet Another Earthquake in Turkey

A 6.4-magnitude tremor struck near the city of Antakya on Monday night. The buildings that were already heavily damaged by the earthquakes two weeks earlier rumbled violently as more of their facades fell off.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### [Book Launch] Global Jihad: A Brief History

Most violent jihadi movements in the 20th century focused on removing corrupt, repressive secular regimes throughout the Muslim world. But following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a new form of jihadism emerged – global jihad – turning to the international arena as the primary locus of ideology and action. This book talk will examine the history and nature of global jihad and question its future as a strategic threat from the Middle East to Southeast Asia. The talk will be conducted both in-person and online via Zoom on Thursday, 2 March 2023, from 4 pm to 5.15 pm (SGT). To register, click [here](#).

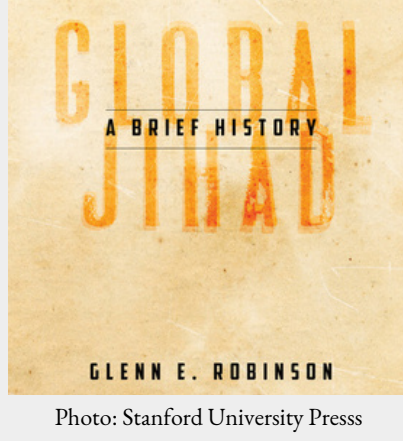


Photo: Stanford University Press

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Donors' Conference for Quake Victims

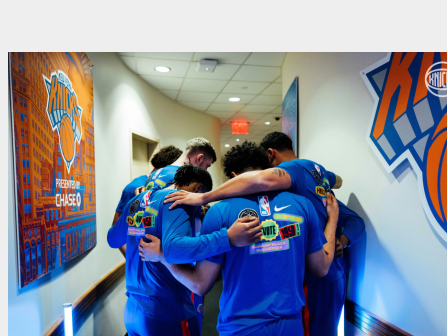
The European Union will host the conference in Brussels on 16 March, as part of its efforts to mobilise funds in support of the people in Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes.



A member of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations team assisting a quake victim. Photo: Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation website

### Qatar and UAE Eyeing Stakes in NBA

According to reports, executives at Mubadala Investment Company and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) have expressed interest in NBA ownership. A potential match could be the New York Knicks since the team has been open to selling a minority stake and has ties to Abu Dhabi through Mubadala's investment in equity group Silver Lake.



The New York Knicks team in a pre-match talk before their game against the Utah Jazz on 11 February 2023. Photo: NBA website

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