

MEI Weekly.



Palestinians setting up camp near the Rafah border on 6 December 2023, after the Israeli military ordered the evacuation of residents in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis. Photo: Mahmud Hams / AFP

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

- **READ:** MEI's latest *Perspective* delves into the implications of the ongoing Gaza conflict on Israel's decision-making, its domestic political landscape, the volatile Middle Eastern region, and the broader international system. Read the article [here](#).

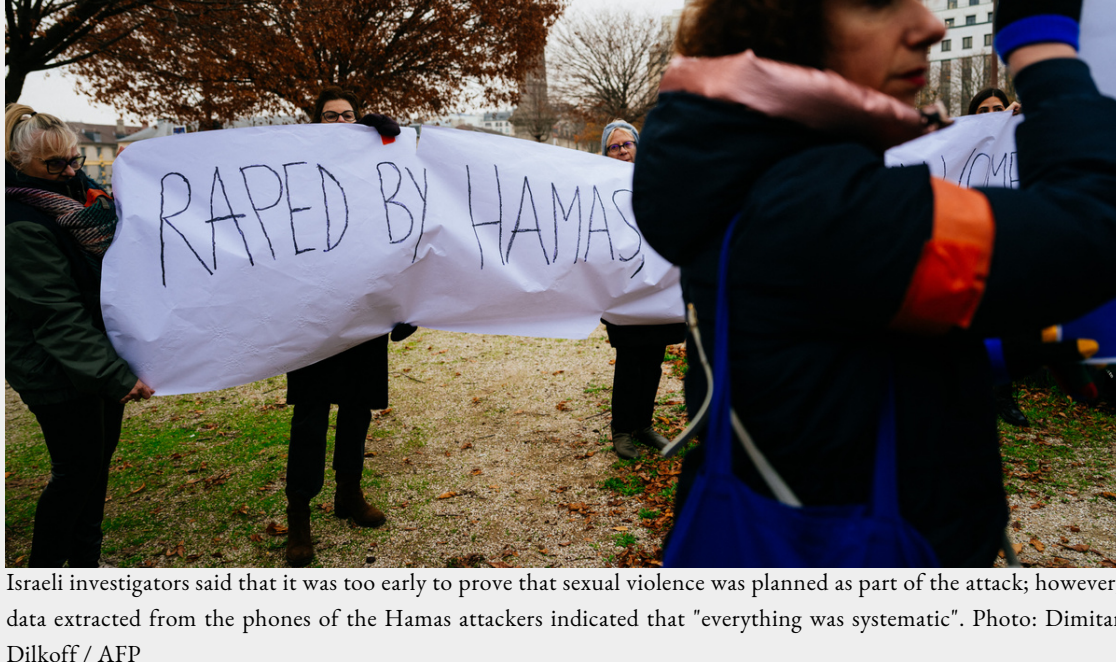
WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

House-to-house Battles Between Israel and Hamas

Israeli forces and Hamas have been engaged in house-to-house battles along the length of the Gaza Strip, resulting in devastating consequences for the civilian population amidst a complete collapse in humanitarian relief.

Hamas Raped and Mutilated Women: BBC Reports

Several people involved in collecting and identifying the bodies of those killed in the 7 October Hamas attack said that they had seen multiple signs of sexual assault. Additionally, a video testimony from an eyewitness detailed the gang rape, mutilation, and execution of one victim.



Israeli investigators said that it was too early to prove that sexual violence was planned as part of the attack; however, data extracted from the phones of the Hamas attackers indicated that "everything was systematic". Photo: Dimitar Dilkov / AFP

COP28 President Delivers Controversial Remarks

In comments that did not bode well with activists and the UN, Mr Sultan Al Jaber claimed there is "no science" indicating that a phase-out of fossil fuels is needed to restrict global heating. He added that this would not allow sustainable development "unless you want to take the world back into caves".

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture 2023

Attending the S R Nathan Lecture? Things to note: Your email confirmation slip is a must for entry. No walk-ins, or same-day registrations will be allowed. Latecomers will also be turned away. The event will be held both in-person and remotely, on 13 December 2023 at 10am (SGT). For more details, click [here](#).



The aim of the S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture is to provide greater awareness and understanding of the modern Middle East.

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Riyadh, Doha to Strengthen Bilateral Co-operation

Saudi Arabia and Qatar signed a number of agreements and MOUs, including those for joint co-operation between the central banks of the two countries, and collaboration in the field of youth and sports affairs.



Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman was welcomed by Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani upon his arrival in Doha for the 44th GCC summit and the seventh meeting of the Saudi-Qatari Coordination Council. Photo: X

Vietnam and Egypt to Convene

While they consented to organise the sixth meeting of the Vietnam-Egypt Joint Committee soon, both sides agreed to continue promoting collaboration, increase co-operation exchanges, and maintain bilateral co-operation mechanisms.



The agreement was reached during Vietnamese Minister of Public Security To Lam's trip to Egypt. Photo: Communist Party of Vietnam

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