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Sent: 16 October 2006 16:05
Subject: CAABU British Broadsheet Summary - 16-10-06

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The career of Moshe Katsav is perching on the edge of a precipice; Israeli police announced yesterday that the Israeli president may be put to trial for the rape of a woman who worked for him. However, any such charges are likely to cause a 'constitutional conundrum' as the president 'enjoys immunity from criminal prosecution in his capacity as head of state' (The Daily Telegraph). He would therefore have to stand down to be charged. Mr Katsav, the moral figurehead of the Jewish state, denies all the allegations.

Meanwhile, Israel and Hamas are on the brink of further conflict as Hamas threaten to ignore the 20 month old ceasefire in retaliation for the latest Israeli assault on the Gaza strip (The Daily Telegraph). The death toll of Palestinians in this latest stream of attacks has reached 23 (The Independent).

The uproar that ensued after "Sir Richard Dannatt, the head of the British Army, was accused yesterday by senior politicians of acting unconstitutionally in his comments over Iraq. David Blunkett made clear that Dannatt had behaved unacceptably. (The Daily Telegraph) and Paddy Ashdown attacked Sir Richard's behaviour as 'a clear constitutional breach' (The Guardian).

Phil Woolas, the communities minister, told a Sunday newspaper that the 23 year old English teacher Aishah Azmi "put herself in a position where she cannot do her job" by refusing to remove her veil. He added that if she were to lose her job then 'so be it' (The Times).

The government looks set to identify 'hotspots' of religious extremism (The Times). Ruth Kelly supported the plans with the statement "In major parts of Britain the new extremism we're facing is the single biggest security issue for local communities. "This is not just a problem for Muslim communities. The far Right is still with us, still poisonous, still trying to create and exploit divisions."

However, Vikram Dodd (The Guardian) believes that lecturers and university staff across Britain are being asked "to spy on 'Asian-looking' and Muslim students they suspect of involvement in Islamic extremism and supporting terrorist violence" as the government believes campuses have become "fertile recruiting grounds" for extremists.

The Daily Telegraph

News

Hamis threatens to break ceasefire after Israeli air strikes... Israeli president faces rape charges
Tim Butcher

"Israel and Hamas were on the brink of war last night as a senior member of the Islamic movement hinted that it would stop observing a 20-month-old ceasefire in retaliation for the latest Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the career of Moshe Katsav, the president of Israel and moral figurehead of the Jewish state, hung in the balance last night as police recommended that he face rape charges for alleged sexual assaults on female members of his staff."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessionid=RTRCVVDTE21MFQFIQMGSFGGAVCBQWIV0?xml=/news/2006/10/16/wmid16.xml>>

Race relations minister in row over teacher's veil
Toby Helm

"The Government minister in charge of race relations provoked a furious backlash last night after demanding that a Muslim teaching assistant who insists on wearing her veil in class should be sacked. Phil Woolas, the communities and local government minister, said Aishah Azmi had put herself in a position where she could not "do her job".

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/16/nfaith316.xml>>

'Muslim' job puts strain on BBC marriage
Catriona Davies

"The BBC newsreader Darren Jordon, who will leave to be the anchorman for al-Jazeera's new English language service, is on the verge of separating from his wife because she does not want to live in a Muslim country."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/16/nfaith416.xml>>

Army chief went too far with his Iraq attack, says Blunkett
Toby Helm

"Sir Richard Dannatt, the head of the Army, was accused yesterday by senior politicians of acting unconstitutionally in his comments over Iraq.

David Blunkett, the former home secretary, and Lord Ashdown, the ex-leader of the Liberal Democrats, made clear that he had interfered unacceptably in political debate by saying the presence of British troops in Iraq was exacerbating violence.

Mr. Blunkett stopped short of saying the general should be sacked but he made clear that Sir Richard's position would be untenable if he stepped out of line again."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/16/ndannatt16.xml>>

Worldwide debate, but no-one gives in
Foreign Staff

"Calls from other nations to bring their soldiers home, and cries of "we told you so" from critics of the war, have followed Sir Richard Dannatt's comments. In Australia, the opposition Labour party said its conviction that the war in Iraq was a distraction from the war against

terrorism had been vindicated by the Chief of General Staff.

Kim Beazley, the Labour leader, said: "Everybody now knows this is the wrong war, everybody now knows that the persistence of the presence of allied forces is exacerbating the problem."

But the defense minister, Brendan Nelson, said: "Under no circumstance are we going to let the insurgents and the terrorists win.""

Comment and Leaders

Death of Gaza hothouse dream

Tim Butcher

"Gaza's most ambitious job-creation scheme has just collapsed. After the withdrawal of Israeli soldiers and settlers last year from the Gaza Strip, millions of pounds were spent on an agricultural project to use 1,200 acres of hothouses to grow flowers and vegetables for export to Europe."

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/exclusions/slideshowindex.xml&menuId=3916&menuItemId=-1&view=DETAILS&grid=&targetRule=0>>

Letters

"Banning religious symbols should not be discriminatory"

"A hunting dog favoured by Muslims"

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/10/16/nosplit/dt1601.xml>>

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The Financial Times

UK

Army chief still facing political attacks

James Blitz

"General Sir Richard Dannatt, the army's chief of general staff, remained under fire from senior politicians yesterday for publicly disagreeing last week with Tony Blair's Iraq policy. Mr. Blair has refrained from sacking the general, who was out of step with Downing Street policy when he said UK troops should leave Iraq "some time soon"."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/b99d0bca-5cb2-11db-9e7e-0000779e2340.html>>

World

Call for Sunni state in Iraq

Stephen Negus

"A video posted on the internet yesterday in the name of one of Iraq's largest insurgent groups called for the creation of a separate Sunni Islamic state in the country.

If authentic, it could indicate a shift in strategy for parts of the Sunni Arab insurgency. "Your brothers in the Mutayibeen Coalition herald the establishment of the Islamic State of Iraq," said a spokesman, whose face was blotted out."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/e50eb90c-5cb2-11db-9e7e-0000779e2340.html>>

Middle East and N Africa

Tunisia cracks down on the wearing of headscarves

Heba Saleh

"Tunisian authorities have launched a campaign against the Islamic headscarf, with senior officials criticising it as a "sectarian" form of dress and police stopping women on the street and asking them to uncover

their hair."

<<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/73e352f6-5cb2-11db-9e7e-0000779e2340.html>>

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The Guardian

UK News

Universities urged to spy on Muslims

Vikram Dodd

"Lecturers and university staff across Britain are to be asked to spy on "Asian-looking" and Muslim students they suspect of involvement in Islamic extremism and supporting terrorist violence, the Guardian has learned. They will be told to inform on students to special branch because the government believes campuses have become "fertile recruiting grounds" for extremists."

<<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,1923325,00.html>>

Muslim leaders 'risking voluntary apartheid' as veil row escalates

Tania Branigan and Vikram Dodd

"The row over religious dress and the integration of communities escalated yesterday as the shadow home secretary, David Davis, attacked Muslim leaders for risking "voluntary apartheid", while the government's race minister said a teaching assistant who refused to remove her veil in the classroom should be sacked."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/religion/Story/0,,1923309,00.html>>

Ashdown rebukes army chief over Iraq

Tania Branigan and Richard Norton-Taylor

"The former Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown has attacked the head of the British army for "a clear constitutional breach", as the fall-out from his outspoken comments on the situation in Iraq continued yesterday."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1923151,00.html>>

World

Israeli police say president should be charged with raping employee

Rory McCarthy

"Katsav is suspected of bugging staff telephones. Scandal-hit leader says he is innocent and won't quit. Police in Israel said last night that the country's president should be charged with raping and sexually assaulting several women who worked for him.

In the most serious allegations faced by an Israeli head of state, Moshe Katsav was also suspected of bugging his staff's telephones and of fraud, police said."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1923452,00.html>>

Iraq cancel peace talks after scores more die

Michael Howard

"The unremitting wave of sectarian violence that has greeted the Muslim holy month of Ramadan claimed scores more Iraqi lives at the weekend, as authorities in Baghdad announced the indefinite postponement of a conference of political leaders seen as crucial to quickly diminishing hopes for national reconciliation."

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,,1923413,00.html>>

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The Independent

UK page

Minister calls for veil-wearing teaching assistant to be sacked

Andrew Grice

"A government minister came under fire last night after saying a school should sack a Muslim teaching assistant for refusing to remove her veil in the classroom. Phil Woolas, the minister responsible for local government and race relations, said Aishah Azmi, 23, had "put herself in a position where she can't do her job". "

<<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/article1876677.ece>>

World page

Death toll passes 23 as Israel hunts down Gaza rockets

Eric Silver

"Israeli infantrymen, backed by tanks, were combing the northern Gaza Strip for Qassam rocket launchers and sabotage tunnels in a search-and-destroy operation that has killed at least 23 Palestinians in five

days." <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article1876670.ece>

Police want Israeli president to be charged with rape

Josef Federman

"Police recommended yesterday that Israeli President Moshe Katsav be charged with rape, aggravated sexual assault and fraud, the most serious charges ever to face an Israeli leader."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article1876834.ece>

Leading articles

Dress Sense

"How long ago it seems that the British were observing the disputes in France over the wearing of veils in schools with a certain detachment, and even smugness.

Convinced, with what now seems naivety, that our traditions of pragmatic accommodation would succeed where France's more ideological approach had not, the belief prevailed that common sense would see us through the Scylla and Charybdis of intolerant secularism and intolerant Islam."

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/leading_articles/article1876637.ece>

Commentators

This is not about a woman's right of dress, it is about the values of our secular society

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

"Yet another chapter opens in the veil controversy, as a primary school classroom assistant is suspended because she refuses to remove her niqab during lessons."

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_l/yasmin_alibhai_brown/article1876699.ece>

A civilian took us to war in Iraq. And it may take an honest soldier to

get us out again

John Rentoul

"Tony Blair has a problem with Iraq. Professor Brian Brivati, contemporary historian and Labour biographer, is possibly the only intellectual in the country who has become more impressed with the Prime Minister because of his foreign policy. "The years since 2001 have radicalised me, but in the opposite direction to most people I know," Brivati wrote in the New Statesman on the fifth anniversary of 9/11, predicting that history would judge Blair's "cause of humanitarian intervention" kindly."

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_m_z/john_rentoul/article1873778.ece>

General Dannatt should be fired forthwith

Andreas Whittam Smith

"The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, should have dismissed General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff, on Friday. Mr Blair would have been entirely within his rights to have done so. Sir Richard had given ample grounds that morning by publicly criticising a series of decisions taken by the Government. He did this both in his interview with the Daily Mail and in his appearance on the Today programme."

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_m_z/andreas_whittam_smith/article1876636.ece>

Talks with Hamas

Palestinians have been punished enough; time to talk to Hamas

"Sir: With the continued refusal of Hamas to meet the requirements of the international community - recognise Israel, cease violence against it, and recognise previous agreements between the PLO and Israel - it is clear that the policy aimed at punishing the Hamas-led Palestinian government through the seven-month aid freeze has failed."

Saluting a brave Army commander

"Sir: I was delighted to see the comments by General Sir Richard Dannatt (article, 14 October) concerning the British involvement in Iraq. As a former Army officer and Iraq veteran, I find it refreshing that a senior commander finally has the courage to stand up to his political masters and reflect the views of the majority of serving soldiers."

"Sir: If the British people are to be protected from a serious constitutional crisis, the government to whom he is accountable should dismiss General Dannatt"

"Sir: General Sir Richard Dannatt is correct over his appraisal of the military situation in Iraq. But a senior military officer voicing truths that most mainstream politicians are eschewing exemplifies what can happen when there is meagre ideological difference between the mainstream parties."

"Sir: General Dannatt is quoted as saying his troops "stood shoulder to shoulder with the Americans". At least, that is a lot safer than having them standing behind you."

<<http://comment.independent.co.uk/letters/article1876667.ece>>

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The Times

Muslim MP backs sacking of school assistant who wore veil
Sam Coats and Dominic Kennedy

"A MINISTER has called for the dismissal of a Muslim teaching assistant who refused to remove her veil in school, as senior Labour and Conservative figures indicated that they were hardening their stance on community relations. Phil Woolas, the communities minister, whose brief includes race relations, told a Sunday newspaper that Aishah Azmi, 23, had "put herself in a position where she cannot do her job". He added that should the head teacher at the school in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire choose to sack Ms Azmi then 'so be it'."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2405791.html>>

UK

Islamic militants face purge in schools and universities

Alexandra Blair and Dominic Kennedy

"Minister will order police and councils to identify hotspots of extremism. HOTSPOTS of Islamic extremism will be identified in schools, colleges and universities under government plans to be announced today. Ruth Kelly, the Communities Secretary, will defy growing anger from Islamic leaders by ordering police and local authorities to root out Muslim extremists."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2406201,00.html>>

World

Police say President should face rape charges

Ian MacKinnon

"AFTER a lengthy investigation in which President Katsav of Israel endured days of questioning over a sex scandal, the police recommended last night that he faces charges of raping and assaulting women."

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2406021,00.html>>

Comment/ cartoon/ Leaders/ Obituaries and Letters

The three guilty men who have failed Iraq

William Rees-Mogg

"Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld all got it terribly wrong - now Britain cannot be ignored in the search for a solution. I DO not take the high constitutional line and blame General Sir Richard Dannatt for speaking his mind. He is speaking for his own troops; they have been treated shamefully by the Government, which decided to fight the Afghan and Iraq wars but did not want to pay for them, in terms of manpower, pay-packets or equipment. It is the Government's responsibility, perhaps particularly Gordon Brown's, that the Army is over committed and under funded. If the Chief of the General Staff does not speak up for his soldiers, who will?"

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,6-2405461,00.html>>

Letters

Right way to express the unease felt in the Army

<<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,59-2405419,00.html>>

Chris Doyle

Director

CAABU (Council for Arab-British Understanding)

"Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance" A lecture by Professor George Saliba - 19 October - for details:

http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=events&article=events&detail=george_saliba

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<http://www.justgiving.com/chrisdoyle>

see the CAABU section on the current Israel-Lebanon conflict

http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=key_issues&article=israel_lebanon

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