

Common Ground News Service Fills Media Void Provides Outlet for Voices of Moderation Triples Publishing Rate in 2007

There is an increasing need for moderate nonpartisan voices in the U.S. and international media. The media's traditional role is to inform. Perhaps it is time to broaden that definition to include the responsibility to enlighten and to play a constructive role in society. The Common Ground News Service (CGNews), run by the Washington and Brussels-based international non-profit Search for Common Ground, is unique in that it disseminates thoughtful and constructive articles in six languages to traditional newspapers and to online outlets throughout the world.



Leena El-Ali,
CGNews Publisher

The Common Ground News Service (CGNews) was created in 2000 to amplify constructive and thoughtful voices on Muslim-Western issues and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It has had nearly 7,000 reprints in 650 publications around the world, and has developed a vast network of contributing scholars, politicians and citizens across the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the United States.

CGNews publishes weekly articles in English, Arabic, Hebrew, French, Indonesian and Urdu, promoting mutual understanding and providing opportunities for dialogue and an exchange of constructive suggestions that facilitate peaceful resolution of conflict. It is read by policy and decision makers, scholars, think tanks and interested readers worldwide and is asserting a growing impact on opinion and informed debate in the US, Middle East region and beyond.

The CGNews editorial board includes individuals in Amman, Beirut, Geneva, Islamabad, Jakarta, Jerusalem, Rabat, Toronto and Washington, with extensive knowledge of the Middle East, Muslim-Western issues and a «common ground» orientation. The board monitors local and regional media daily for articles that:

- Provide constructive solution-oriented perspectives and encourage non-violent resolution of conflicts
- Promote dialogue and cooperation
- Express constructive self-criticism
- Highlight positive experiences between communities and nations that humanize the other and offer hope
- Highlight organizations and people working for a better regional and global environment
- Interpret information, events, polls and analyses in ways that encourage rational, moderate and positive thinking.

CGNews articles are republished internationally in outlets spanning ideological and political spectrums, including Al-Ahram, Al-Ayyam, Al-Hayat, Al-Quds, Daily Star, Ha'aretz, Ynet News, Jerusalem Post, Jerusalem Times, Jordan Times, Middle East Times, Jakarta Post, Le Courier International, L'Orient le Jour, United Press International, International Herald Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Times, Christian Science Monitor, American Muslim, Washington Post/Newsweek Online and The Guardian.

The CGNews Service is amazing because of its global reach and the respect it enjoys in the media community. I have great confidence in the staff's translation skills, I never had to double check or worry about their work; it is superior to what other media outlets offer.

Bilal Y. Saab, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institution.

CGNews achieved a milestone when Sheikh Ali Gomaa, the Grand Mufti of Egypt (the second highest religious authority in that country), and one of the most respected religious authorities in the Muslim World, responded to an invitation from CGNews. He wrote a six-part series on the interpretation of Islamic principles and thought for the modern world, which was published in Al-Ahram in Egypt.

Sheikh Ali Gomaa's series «Questions from America,» are accessible online at the following web address: <http://www.commongroundnews.org/mufti.php?sid=1&lan=en>

We hope that students and specialists in our university, will take note of the effort behind these questions (from CGNews), and how they came to be issued after extensive information-gathering and study that could fill shelves. The (CGNews) questions represent the kind of organized thought that draws connections between various facts and which does not busy itself with the illusions, trifles and pettiness that upend the edifice of knowledge. Indeed, answering these questions from America has given me reason to be both glad and concerned – concerned at the responsibility upon our collective shoulders.

You can subscribe to Common Ground News Service at the following web address:
<http://www.commongroundnews.org/subscribe.php?mode=sub&lan=en>