

2009/10/15 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #11



Informing and Advocating on Israeli/Palestinian Issues

The [home page](#) of the Chicago Faith Coalition website features and retains these email updates. Check out the monthly [calendar](#) for speakers and events scheduled in the Chicago area.

Please email [Ed Thompson](#) with suggested items for inclusion in these weekly updates or with comments about the update.

Action Opportunities

[Sign up](#) for the Freedom Walk for Palestine in Chicago that is scheduled for October 17.

U.S. Foreign Policy

News reports related to the Goldstone Report and the status of "peace negotiations" continued to appear this week. Tony Blair, the Quartet's envoy to the Middle East evidently [weighed in against the report](#). Abbas [changed his decision](#) and now he wants the Security Council to vote on the Goldstone Report. Lieberman, Israel's Foreign Secretary and Peres gave [very different reports about the prospects for peace](#).

Israeli settlement construction also continued in the news. Woolsey's [op-ed](#) in the *Wall Street Journal* argues that stopping settlements is akin to banning Jews from a future Palestinian state. Peace Now published a *Jerusalem Post* [article](#) as well as a [website article](#) indicating that construction starts on new settlement structures are accelerating. The Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad held a two-hour press conference yesterday that was [reported on in The Independent](#).

Just to keep us on our toes, the *Jerusalem Post* references a [French report](#) that Israel will attack Iran after December.

Seidemann and Friedman's [article in Haaretz](#) says the potential for a violent

conflagration in Jerusalem is greater now than at any point since September 2000 and they make recommendations for dampening down the tension. An [American retired guy's blog](#) gives a "man on the street" perspective on the East Jerusalem powder keg.

Must read or must view or must hear
Bernard Avishai has written a [captivating article in Harper's Magazine](#) about Palestinian business that involved interviews with prominent Palestinian business people including Sam Bahour.

An [article about the kindler and gentler IDF](#) in the West Bank was reported to the two million readers of the *Wall Street Journal*. On the other hand, an [article](#) by Yousef Munayyer suggests that the dynamic forces are in place for a new intifada.

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media
A [report](#) authored by B'Tselem and Hamoked entitled "Without Trial" was released but received no coverage in the American media.

Watch or read Professor Richard Falk's [speech](#) about how international law matters in the Israeli/Palestinian peace process.

[Gideon Levy's op-ed](#) in *Haaretz* challenges the notion that Israel has the right to decide another people's fate.

The student newspaper at the University of Chicago published an [article](#) critical of the Harris School's sponsorship and description of Ehud Olmert prior to his speech on October 15.

The [electronic intifada reports](#) on a group who want to exclude Israel from world sporting events similar to what was done to apartheid South Africa.