

11/5/2009 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #14



Informing and Advocating on Israeli/Palestinian Issues

The [home page](#) of the Chicago Faith Coalition website features and retains these email updates. Complete the quiz on the [home page](#) about water in the West Bank and Gaza.

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

Action Opportunities

[Al Jazeera reports](#) (different from the Al Jazeera media organization) that the Israeli High Court of Justice will hold another court hearing on Berlanty Azzam's case next Thursday, November 12, 2009 and that Israeli lawyers will defend her deportation as legal. Her case is summarized [here](#) on the R2E Birzeit University website and [here](#) on CNN. You can also send a protest email to the [Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest](#) and to the American government officials of your choice.

U.S. Foreign Policy

Alerts for citizens to ask their representative to vote no on H. Res. 867 (bury the Goldstone Report) were issued by nearly every peace and human rights organization that focus on Israel/Palestine. However, when the votes were tallied 80% of the House voted for burial. 94% of Illinois representatives voted for burial; only one representative, Gutierrez (District 4) held out on his Illinois colleagues by not voting. Congressman Brian Baird deserves thanks and appreciation for his [no vote explanation](#).

Articles in the *Wall Street Journal* that summarized U.S. foreign policy for the week of November 2-5 puts Obama's Cairo speech into the distant past. An article on [Monday](#) indicated Palestinians were upset about the U.S. zigzagging on settlements, an article on [Tuesday](#) suggested that Arabs see a tilt to Israel, an article on [Wednesday](#) indicated a scaling back of ambitious peace plans and an article on [Thursday](#) indicated that

Mubarak accepted something short of a settlement freeze. Also on Thursday the *Wall Street Journal* reported that [Israeli officials seized a cargo ship carrying weapons believed to be from Iran and destined for Hezbollah](#).

[Al Jazeera reports](#) that Abbas will not seek re-election.

Must read or must view or must hear
Yousef Munayyer [reminds](#) us that humanity was targeted in Gaza.

The *L.A. Times* publishes an [article about Bil'in](#); a rare event in U.S. media.

Henry Siegman explains in a [New York Times op-ed](#) that currying favor with Israelis may be deadly for Middle East peace.

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

Maybe President Obama could follow words with deeds if he watched this [Al Jazeera report](#). He might also find this [IFPB report](#) eye opening. He might also want to watch an [ad for a fund raiser to support Israeli settlements in Hebron](#) and a [video that protests that fund raiser](#). He, the State Department and U.S. tax officials need to read [MONDOWEISS](#) to learn about radical Israeli settlers and how Moskowitz's not-for-profit organizations invest in them.

Since President Obama has an intellectual bent, he should read the [brilliant article written by Sam Bahour](#).

Ed Thompson
Project Manager
Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy
www.chicagofaithcoalition.org