

## 11/19/2009 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #16

### Social Justice and Security for Israelis & Palestinians

#### Action Opportunities

The American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights (AAPER) has prepared a petition to President Obama that you can sign [here](#). You can also [join the Free Bethlehem campaign](#) sponsored by AAPER.

The *Washington Post* ran a [lengthy article](#) last week about Berlanty Azzam indicating that U.S. authorities are "on the case". View a CNN report [here](#).

The Coalition for Justice in the Middle East has provided [information to call officials](#) of the New York Mets to register your concern about the hosting of a fund raising event for Hebron settlers on November 21, 1009. An *electronic intifada* posting [summarizes this situation](#).

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#### U.S. Foreign Policy

Comments continue to lament President Obama's failure to stand up to Netanyahu: [Le Monde](#), [The Economist](#) and [bitterlemons.org](#).

[East Jerusalem settlement plans include 900 units in Gilo](#) but there is silence about permits for the 84-unit Palestinian Mount of Olives Housing Project first proposed in 2006 by Lutheran groups in Jerusalem. This *Wall Street Journal* [article includes an informative slide show](#) about East Jerusalem building and destruction.

[Haaretz reports](#) on Sarkozy's offer to get peace talks started. However, [Hasan Abu Nimah argues persuasively](#) that recycling the same peace agenda of what is on and off the table continues down a dead end path.

The Wall Street Journal on November 19, 2009 included an AP release (page A16 of the print edition) indicating that a Gaza charity headed by the militant Hamas group offered \$1.4 million to any Arab citizen of Israel who abducts a soldier. [An article on the same topic in Haaretz](#) included additional information that positioned this offer as a tit for tat retaliation to actions by Israel. Complete information puts Hamas in a different light. [WGN-TV in Chicago](#) included the retaliatory nature of the abduction

offer.

This [Wall Street Journal article](#) states that a unilateral appeal for recognition of a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip separate from Israel is unlikely to gain Washington's consent. Why? "Any international recognition of a Palestinian unilateral declaration of statehood would essentially make Israel's control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem illegal under international law."

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Must read or must view or must hear  
CNI: *Jerusalem Calling* was started in October 2009 as a weekly one-hour radio program that features discussions about the Middle East. Today's program (11/19/09) featured two speakers fresh from a 17-day CNI (Council for the National Interest) political pilgrimage to the Middle East can be heard [here](#).

[Jim Wall's blog for 11/14/09](#) is a brilliant summary and analysis of recent events in the Middle East.

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Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media  
[Disturbing reports](#) indicate that some soldiers in the Israeli military are openly saying they will refuse orders to evacuate Israelis from West Bank settlements.

Hebron settlers were reported to have [stolen cameras and beaten two Christian Peacemakers](#) in Hebron.

The *electronic intifada* [reports an Israeli judge's decision](#) that potentially opens the door to a new avenue for law suits. The [report about Gaza](#) is "gut wrenching."

Injuries and a death that have resulted from the nonviolent protests in Bil'in are featured [here](#) along with a video from last Friday's nonviolent protest.

Ed Thompson  
Project Manager  
Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy  
[ethompson@dpfinc.com](mailto:ethompson@dpfinc.com)  
[www.chicagofaithcoalition.org](http://www.chicagofaithcoalition.org)