

11/25/2009 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #17



Social Justice and Security for Israelis & Palestinians

The [home page](#) of the Chicago Faith Coalition website features and retains these email updates. Please email [Ed Thompson](#) with suggested items for inclusion in these weekly updates or with comments about the update.

Action Opportunities

[Support Palestinian equal rights](#) by signing the letter/petition that is addressed to President Obama.

Send a message asking President Obama, Secretary Clinton and Special Envoy Mitchell to stop Israel from demolishing Palestinian homes by [signing the petition from the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions](#).

U.S. Foreign Policy

Debating the meaning and the consequences of [Netanyahu's proposed 10-month settlement freeze](#) (in the West Bank but not East Jerusalem) and the [hopes for Hamas to deal on Shalit's return](#) will generate much discussion after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Several authors discuss the potential independence declaration by the Palestinians including [Derfner](#), [Halper](#) and although some in the pro-Palestinian movement are cheering the idea of an independent declaration of statehood, [Virginia Tilley](#) has a different view that restrains if not silences the cheers. An [electronic intifada article](#) describes an independence declaration as a "desperate throw of the dice."

[This article entitled "Israel's Pathology"](#) gives the Obama administration something to think about as they revise their Middle East tactics and strategies. The Obama administration might also seriously consider the charges in this [article](#) about a not-for-profit organization publicly supporting "terrorism" while meeting in a New York Mets facility. Finally, the Obama administration might want to read [this letter from Gaza](#), a letter from the Rev. Bob Tobin about his recent [visit to Gaza](#) and this article about the "[Paucity of Hope](#)".

Must read or must view or must hear

If you believe that freedom of speech is practiced throughout the USA, read about this action at [Goucher College](#), [Hillel-Philadelphia](#) and the [San Francisco Jewish Federation](#).

Amanpour's CNN interview with J Street and the American Jewish Committee can be viewed [here](#).

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

An article in [Haaretz](#) and an [interview](#) suggest that the Israel Lobby is as powerful in the UK as it is in the USA.

The [Israeli military appear to be trying some new tactics](#) in Bil'in.

Several *electronic intifada* reports describe Israeli actions that trample American values: [Israeli military fire](#) on Gazan bird-catchers and farmers, [Bedouins on the road to extinction](#), Israeli officials consider [honoring a terror leader](#) and Israeli practices that make [higher education difficult or impossible](#) for Palestinian youth.

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Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy

www.chicagofaithcoalition.org