

12/3/2009 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #18

Social Justice and Security for Israelis & Palestinians

Action Opportunities

The [US Campaign has an alert to ask the U.S. Energy Department](#) to cancel its \$900,000 joint energy management system contract with Motorola Israel and SmartSync Inc.

Although not a direct action alert, AAPER describes the [Gaza March on December 31, 2009](#) and CODEPINK gives [recommendations for action](#).

If you want to advocate equality for women in Israel, use the New Israeli Fund alert to [contact Transport Minister Katz](#) and ask him to reject public buses with segregated seating.

U.S. Foreign Policy

Although U.S. government officials have been preoccupied this past week by issues other than Israel and Palestine, [Action by the EU](#) may further isolate the United States with its foreign policy that is tilted in favor of Israel.

[Haaretz reports](#) on the status of the deal being worked by a German mediator for Israel to get Shalit from Hamas in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. An Associated Press report on the Israel and Hamas deal can be viewed [here](#). [Emily Hauser grieves the death and destruction](#) that took place in the years since Hamas offered Israel a similar deal. [Britain Israel Communications & Research Centre discusses the possibility and the impact](#) of Marwan Barghouti's release from an Israeli prison as part of the deal for Shalit.

Some members of Congress may want to censure the [United Nations for publishing a damning report on settler violence against Palestinians](#). Netanyahu may have put a ten-month freeze on West Bank settlements but [according to B'Tselem he is also accelerating demolition of Palestinian structures in the West Bank](#).

[Don Rose's op-ed](#) contains a remote but intriguing possibility of Netanyahu

becoming like Nixon in China if the rumors are true that the 67 line may become the core element in the U.S. negotiating strategy.

Must read or must view or must hear

[Jim Wall writes an elucidating response](#) to [Tom Friedman's New York Times op-ed](#).

This [article from the *electronic intifada*](#) is an excellent example of an "unmanicured monster" that passes as a legitimate voice from Israel by American pro-Israeli hardliners.

[Gideon Levy has a "let's get real" perspective](#) for those who champion a united Jerusalem.

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement is discussed by [Omar Barghouti in this radio interview](#) and this article discusses the [boycott of Ahava products](#).

This [report](#) describes an instance in which the Israeli military appear to use race as a basis for further inquiry resulting in interrogation, property confiscation and strip search as well as a twelve hour detention resulting in denied entry to Palestine.

This article [describes the extent to which pro-Israel activists have tried to silence](#) the Rachel Corrie stage play since it premiered in London in 2005.

Grant Smith has published a detailed and disturbing [article about the influence of Israeli spies in the United States](#).

[This Haaretz article exposes some of the injustices](#) that have taken place for decades regarding the property rights of Palestinians who are Israeli citizens.