

12/10/2009 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #19



Social Justice and Security for Israelis & Palestinians

Action Opportunities

J Street posts an action alert to [ask Secretary Clinton to stop tensions from flaring in East Jerusalem](#).

The rebuilding alliance blog site requests [U.S. government officials to ask Israel to cancel the demolition orders on 50 West Bank Palestinian neighborhoods](#).

Sign the letter of support to Bethlehem residents [here](#).

U.S. Foreign Policy

Major news events in Israel/Palestine continue to be Netanyahu's "freeze" announcement ([Oren's op-ed in the Wall Street Journal](#), [Amira Hass's article says the settler is us](#), the [Israeli concession is no concession at all](#)) and one Israeli kidnapped soldier being exchanged for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners ([Marwan Barghouti tops the list, human currency in play even though Israel does not negotiate with terrorists](#)). Both events are reported in [The Economist](#).

Americans for Peace Now [report on a letter being circulated for signatures in the House](#) telling President Obama to keep America safe by robust security spending on aid to Israel. On the other hand, there have been no letters circulating in Congress to tell President Obama to stop USA not-for-profit organizations sending millions of dollars to Israeli settlements as described in [The Guardian](#).

[View two knowledgeable academics](#) discussing Palestinian citizens of Israel as stakeholders in limbo. This group of Palestinians is rarely referenced in discussions of U.S. foreign policy.

Must read or must view or must hear

Rabbi Arik W. Ascherman provides a [gut wrenching account](#) of the situation in East Jerusalem.

[CNI Jerusalem calling on Thursday, December 17, 2009](#): Harvard Professor and co-author of "The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy", Stephen Walt, will join CNI Executive Director and host, Helena Cobban, to discuss how U.S. Middle East policy is formed and implemented.

[View the trailer of the film Budrus](#) that debuts on December 13 in Dubai. The film documents Palestinian unity around nonviolence.

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media
American media fails to cover the Commissioner General of UNWRA in her last month in office as [she pleads for the world community seeking peace to refocus their debate on the dispossession](#).

This [eyewitness report](#) describes Palestinians as "victims of a living holocaust".

Although the media covered influence peddling, they [failed to cover propaganda disguised as academic inquiry at the University of Illinois](#).

One more factor creating tension in Jerusalem is the [increase in the frequency of incidents in which Orthodox Jews spit at or on Christian religious figures](#) who are clearly identified by their clothes and crosses.

Scheduled Event

Cliff Kelly, host of WVON-1690AM's hit show *The Talk of Chicago*, will moderate a panel of African Americans discussing the topic of African American Perspectives on the Struggle for Justice in Israel/Palestine. 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at Austin Boulevard Christian Church, 634 N. Austin Boulevard in Oak Park, Illinois. Part of the 2009-10 Community Education and Dialogue Series organized by the Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine.

Ed Thompson
Project Manager
Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy
www.chicagofaithcoalition.org
ethompson@dpfinc.com