

Chicago Faith Coalition Update #22

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Social Justice and Security for Palestinians and Israelis

Action Opportunities

Jamal Juma' and Mohammad Othman, Palestinian nonviolent resistance leaders, have been released by the Israeli military after a successful international campaign. [Act to continue pressure for the release of Abdallah Abu Rahmah](#), a leader of the anti-Wall protests in Bil'in.

Although the Bethlehem University student, Berlanty Azzam, has been confined to Gaza, [Maan New Agency reported that officials came to her in Gaza and conferred her college degree there.](#)

U.S. Foreign Policy

[As reported in the Christian Science Monitor](#), the relationship between Turkey and Israel is becoming more contentious. On the other hand, Egypt and the United States are [helping Israel pressure Hamas](#) by building a new, 59-foot deep underground barrier. Tariq Ramadan has called this new wall, a [wall of shame](#). The [electronic intifada reports](#) other ways that Israel is ratcheting up the pressure on Gaza. [This article](#) is one of several that suggest Israel is preparing for another assault on Gaza. [Netanyahu announced the construction of a new wall](#) on the Egyptian border.

The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) how Israel's military robotics have influenced the United States military.

[Charlie Rose conducted an interview with George Mitchell](#) who was later

[attacked by Israelis](#) for mentioning that the U.S. could withhold loan guarantees from Israel. [Reuters reports](#) details about current loan guarantees as well as Lieberman/McCain comments.

Public officials in DC could make the world more secure if they read and took seriously the [views of Fawaz A. Gerges regarding the transformation of Hamas](#) and the [views of Henry Siegman about imposing Middle East peace](#). The [Wall Street Journal reported](#) that Israel agreed to pay the U.N. \$10.5 million for Gaza war damage. The meaning and significance of this act are yet to be determined.

Must read or must view or must hear

[This Huffington Post article](#) primarily about the Harman/Winograd Congressional race in California also includes comments and a video that suggest a radical change in American opinions about Israel.

The deep and pervasive intertwining between the Israeli government and West Bank Palestinians is striking in this [Washington Post article](#) about the development of a planned suburb near Ramallah.

[Gideon Levy's article](#) in *Haaretz* entitled *Only Psychiatrists Can Explain Israel's Behavior* puts Israel in an entirely new light.

Israel's standing in the world fell [after being criticized by eight Catholic bishops](#) .

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

[Americans for Peace Now posted an article](#) that addresses the use of 501(c)(3) organizations in the United States to support settlement building in Israel.

[Cecilie Surasky of MuzzleWatch writes](#) that academics' freedom

to criticize Israel without paying a severe personal price has in some instances declined but in some instances continues.

One of [Alice Rothchild's last blogs from the West Bank](#) is not to be missed.

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