

## Chicago Faith Coalition Update #23 January 21, 2010

### Social Justice and Security for Palestinians and Israelis

#### Action Opportunities

The Chicago Faith Coalition is seeking endorsers for a letter that will be sent to all nineteen Illinois Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. If you have not already endorsed this letter about the Illinois delegation's vote on the Goldstone Report, please read the letter and a supporting FAQ document, view endorsers and endorse the letter [here](#).

Ask [here](#) that a new location in Jerusalem be found to build the Museum of Tolerance envisioned by the Simon Wiesenthal Center instead of on a Muslim cemetery.

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#### U.S. Foreign Policy

Israel made news this past week

- by an [article in the Washington Post that accused Israel of silencing political protests](#), by an [electronic intifada article about Israel stepping up arrests of grassroots activists](#) and of [subjecting an American journalist to duress that resulted in him leaving the country](#),
- by [acting to salvage their military alliance with Turkey](#),
- by [having some "technical difficulties" in their joining a prestigious international organization](#),
- by [withholding NGO employees' work permits](#),
- by [demanding their military remain in the West Bank after a peace deal is signed](#),
- by the [action Barak is taking to exert military control over Ariel College becoming a University](#) and
- in a report that [Diskin told Abbas to defer UN vote on Goldstone or face a "second Gaza"](#).

[Congressman Ellison marked the anniversary of the Gaza War.](#)

ADC suggested [that their administrative complaints filed in 2009 influenced the IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman to indicate a willingness to "tackle" tax exempt organizations that support Israeli settlements.](#)

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Must read or must view or must hear  
Americans for Peace Now [advised President Obama to "play hardball" with Netanyahu.](#)

[Frank Barat interviews Ewa Jasiewicz](#) about her experience last year in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead.

Two authors [here](#) and [here](#) raise serious questions about the likelihood of new peace talks having a successful conclusion.

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Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media  
[Haaretz provides contextual backdrop](#) to the attempted assassination of Israeli diplomats as they traveled back to Israel from their post in Jordan.

*Emirates Business* reports on a [study that indicates real per capita income of Palestinians plunged from 2000 to 2008.](#)

Watch video of the Bill'in nonviolent action against the wall last Friday, view photographs and read text describing what occurred [here](#).

[Ali Abunimah elucidates and expands](#) on a recent report from the American think tank Freedom House.

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