

Chicago Faith Coalition Update #24 January 28, 2010



Social Justice and Security for Palestinians and Israelis

Action Opportunities

The American Muslim has joined the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee [asking that appreciation be expressed in phone calls to the 54 members of the U.S. House](#) who signed the letter to President Obama pressing for immediate relief for the people of Gaza.

[Send a cheer or jeer email to your Representative by using this U.S. Campaign webpage.](#)

Americans for Peace Now ask that we [email President Obama and ask him to step up the pressure](#) but to do so without cutting U.S. assistance.

Read, print and download the Kairos Document [here](#). If you are a Palestinian Christian who wants to sign the document endorse [here](#). If you want to support the document but are NOT a Palestinian Christian then endorse [here](#).

U.S. Foreign Policy

Ethan Bronner of the *New York Times* writes that [Israel is completing a rebuttal to the Goldstone Report](#). The *electronic intifada* has published an [article suggesting that Bronner has a conflict of interest](#).

The Economist [encourages the parties to get on with peace talks](#). For a change of pace read *The Economist* [article about Netanyahu's wife being sued by a former housekeeper](#).

[Jim Wall writes a persuasive piece](#) giving President Obama advice about dealing with the "intractable problem" of Israel and Palestine by using Henry Siegman's article published earlier this month.

Joseph Massad has written a [highly provocative article about how surrendering Palestinian rights became the language of peace](#). It should be

required reading for all Obama officials who shape U.S. foreign policy on Israel and Palestine.

Must read or must view or must hear

[Professor Stephen M. Walt's article entitled "Why Mideast Envoy George Mitchell Should Resign"](#) is a must read for all Americans including those in the Obama administration who shape U.S. foreign policy on Israel and Palestine.

Americans can also learn much from the photographs and singing to President Obama created by Gazans in this [You Tube video](#).

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

BBC's Panorama did a report on East Jerusalem on January 18, 2010. However, the video player for viewing BBC programs in their entirety is not available outside the UK. Only two portions of the program can be viewed [here](#) as well as short portions of historical BBC programs on East Jerusalem. The Israeli government is [restricting entry of staffs in East Jerusalem Palestinian hospitals](#). [J Street speaks out](#) against the Israeli arrests of Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Palestinian nonviolence is alive and well In the West Bank as [reported by Joel Beinin in The Nation](#). An [electronic intifada report](#) describes how Israeli authorities have attempted to silence Sheikh Raed Salah through physical violence, movement restrictions and on January 13th jail time.

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Vice President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) joined with Catholic bishops from Europe and Canada in issuing [a communiqué called "The Courage to Achieve Peace in the Holy Land"](#). The Vatican released a [document](#) that announced the convocation of a **Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops** to take place from 10 to 24 October 2010.

Read the story of the [Greek who was not bearing gifts but who returns a gift to Israel](#).

[Dreams Unleashed](#) is a wonderful story about 15 Palestinian women whose dreams are being turned into realities.

Scheduled Events

This Palestinian Life [film by Philip Rizk]

Sunday, February 7, 2010; 2:30 - 4:30 at Oak Park Public Library at 834 Lake Street in Oak Park, IL

Filmmaker Philip Rizk is an Egyptian-German freelance journalist and graduate of Wheaton College. The film focuses on the Palestinians' *sumud* (the Arabic term for steadfastness and perseverance) in the face of Israeli settler violence, Israeli government duplicity and abandonment by the international community.

2009-10 Community Education and Dialogue Series sponsored by the Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

Prayer Service for Peace

Monday, February 15, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Lutheran Church of the Atonement at 909 East Main Street in Barrington, IL.

Anna Baltzer will be speaking after the prayer service. Visit her [website](#) and watch a video of her appearance with Dr. Mustafa Barghouti on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

Additional details about these events [here](#).

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