

## Chicago Faith Coalition Update #25 February 4, 2010

### Social Justice and Security for Palestinians and Israelis

#### Action Opportunities

J Street asks you to fight swiftboating of Israel's democracy by [signing their petition](#).

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#### U.S. Foreign Policy

A [CNN video shows President Obama's response](#) to a student's question why the U.S. has not condemned Israel's and Egypt's human rights abuses. [BBC reports](#) that Israel police not charged over activist shooting. [AAPER describes many examples of Palestinian nonviolent resistance](#). [Amnesty International writes how Palestinian nonviolent resistance has strong roots](#). Seven U.S. based peace groups [sent a letter to President Obama requesting that Israel be asked to lift the closure of Gaza](#). [Jim Wall blogs](#) about 54 House Members risking their careers to support Gaza.

[Avi Shlaim writes in The Guardian](#) about Tony Blair's silent complicity in Israel's continuing crimes against the Palestinian people. [The Independent reports](#) that a high-ranking officer has acknowledged for the first time that the Israeli army went beyond its previous rules of engagement on the protection of civilian lives in order to minimize military casualties. [The Independent](#) also reported that holes were shot in army's denial of an attack from the air on a Gaza flour mill. [Gaza fisherman risk their lives for survival](#). The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) that Israel closes beaches after barrel attacks. [B'Tselem and other human rights groups tell Netanyahu](#) that time is running out for the establishment of an independent inquiry into Operation Cast Lead.

[Hani Almadhoun writes in the Huffington Post](#) about the upsides of the Gaza siege for Hamas. [An Hamas parliamentarian says](#): "We accept existence of Israel within 1967 borders".

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Must read or must view or must hear

[An excerpt from Meron Benvenisti's book](#) describes in compelling and excruciating detail how Israel is in reality a bi-national regime masquerading as a temporary state of affairs.

[Robert Fisk reports that the annual Herzliya Conference](#) in Israel was infected with a climate of unprecedented insecurity and paranoia.

[Counterpunch reviews Shahid Alam's book \*Israeli Exceptionalism\*](#) in which the author explicates the cold logic and deep passions that have driven Zionism.

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Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media  
The Israeli military continues to [violently suppress the Friday nonviolent protests](#) in Bil'in and to [raid the village on other days of the week](#). The *Jewish Daily Forward* [reports that the Israeli military is planning to comply two and one-half years after the Israeli Supreme Court ordered them to move the wall/fence/separation barrier at Bil'in](#).

[APN and Peace Now condemn attack on NIF.](#)

[Grant Smith reported](#) that AIPAC officials duplicated a stolen classified policy document before returning it to U.S. government officials.

[Yousef Manayyer writes](#) that lavish, unrealistic plans for Palestinian development are a dangerous alternative to the struggle for independence.

[Carleton University \(in Canada\) students launch a campus divestment campaign.](#)

[The Presbyterian \(USA\) News Service cites some recommendations](#) of a soon to be released report by a Middle East study team.

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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  
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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