

Chicago Faith Coalition Update #27 February 18, 2010

Social Justice and Security for Palestinians and Israelis

Action Opportunities

Churches for Middle East Peace invites you to sign their petition [asking President Obama to address humanitarian needs in Gaza.](#)

U.S. Foreign Policy

Roger Cohen has some powerful advice to Obama in his [New York Times op-ed](#). The Obama Administration might learn much from a [World Bank study](#) that assesses the impact of the movement and access regime in the period 2000-07 on the economy and the working lives of Palestinians, explores the gender dimension of restrictions on labor force participation, and how new tensions in the arena of work resulting from movement and access restrictions have affected relations between women and men. [Hagit Ofran's article about the situation in East Jerusalem](#) might also provide useful information to the Obama Administration. Perhaps the U.S. State Department could compare their rhetoric about human rights with the facts presented in an article entitled [Israel Wields Iron Fist Against Nonviolent Resisters](#).

The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) that the U.K. is investigating the use of fraudulent British passports by the alleged killers of a Hamas leader in Dubai. The [Associated Press reports](#) "sharp exchanges" between Israel and its Arab neighbors. [An Israeli writes in the Jerusalem Post](#) about whether Israel can survive its current coalition government.

Must Read, See or Hear

[Mondoweiss reports](#) that Avindav Begin, grandson of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and son of current Likud Knesset member Benny Begin has written a startling new book and has said "Murderous

blood flows in Israeli arteries".

[George Giacaman's article from a Palestinian perspective](#) and the three other articles on this Palestinian - Israeli crossfire site suggest that direct peace negotiations have little chance of success.

[Grant Smith reports that Israel violates economic sanctions against Iran.](#)

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

[On February 12, the Bil'in weekly demonstration reenacted the Avatar film](#); about that same time bulldozers began to reroute the wall! The [Washington Post reports](#) details of the Israeli military compliance with the 2.5 year-old High Court order to move the separation barrier.

[Israel has destroyed Gaza's agricultural sector](#) near if not into oblivion. Two Israelis who served in the military during the siege of Gaza say "[Talk to Hamas.](#)"

A [CNN opinion piece](#) exhorts Americans to accept and honor Palestinian peaceful protests as consistent with King's and Gandhi's nonviolent philosophy. [Ali Abunimah writes](#) about a new Israeli strategy to sabotage and attack the global justice movement. [Jewish Voice for Peace officials counter Israel's crackdown on pro-democracy activists.](#)

Joel Beinin provides many details about [settlement expansion in East Jerusalem](#). [Palestinian citizens of Israel fight Jewish only housing in Jaffa.](#)

An [electronic intifada article](#) provides disturbing details about how detained Palestinian children are treated by the Israeli military court system. [Amira Haas writing in Haaretz](#) reports an Israeli military arrest of a Palestinian child that was so ridiculous even the judge smiled.

[Badil offers a PDF document](#) that details the action taken to stop the government of Israel and the Simon Wiesenthal Center from further desecration of the Ma'man Allah (Mamilla) Muslim cemetery in the holy city of Jerusalem.

Scheduled Events

Neve Gordon -- Jewish-Arab Coexistence in Israel: Barriers and Opportunities

Monday, February 22, 2010; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Oak Park Public Library, 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

Which Way Forward for Palestinian Liberation?

Tuesday, February 23, 2010; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at International House, 1414 E. 59th Street in Chicago, Illinois

Hussein Ibish, Senior Fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine and Joel Kovel, Professor Emeritus of Social Studies at Bard College.

Hosted by University of Chicago Platypus Affiliated Society and cosponsored by Students for Justice in Palestine (University of Chicago), the International House Global Voices Lecture Series and the University of Chicago Student Government. Free and open to the Public. RSVP online at the Facebook event.

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

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