

## Chicago Faith Coalition Update #28 February 25, 2010

### Social Justice and Security for Palestinians and Israelis

#### Action Opportunities

[Write a letter to your Senator and your Representative](#) and let them know that you oppose the \$3 billion being sent to Israel because of Israeli human rights abuses and because the money is needed for domestic priorities.

#### U.S. Foreign Policy

Some details about the assassination in Dubai of an Hamas leader were reported in [The Economist](#), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#). [Uri Avnery's article about the Dubai incident](#) provides some historical perspective and suggests that Thomas Jefferson spoke truth when he said that no nation could ignore the opinion of mankind. [Jim Wall's blog](#) provides additional details about the Dubai incident and raises the question of why the Obama Administration and Israel are abandoning their common heritage of moral values.

[Jamal Juma' describes how Palestinians who nonviolently protest the separation barrier are in the crosshairs of Israeli repression](#). Smear campaigns and the proposed legislation discussed in this [article by Jonathan Cook](#) show "McCarthy techniques" of the 1950s are realities in Israel in 2010.

An [article in the Boston Globe](#) describes the Israeli government's selective use of property expropriation--Palestinians in East Jerusalem are removed from their homes based on 1948 ownership by Jews but Jews in other locations in Israel are not removed from their homes based on 1948 ownership by Palestinians. [Amira Hass's article](#) questions whether Israel

is severing East Jerusalem from the West Bank.

U.S. policymakers need to read carefully the [report of Jeremy Ben-Ami](#) on J Street's recent educational trip to Israel/Palestine. These policymakers should also investigate recent Israeli settler and Israeli military actions at the [Tent of Nations](#) before the Israeli government expropriates the land and expels the inhabitants as they have done in East Jerusalem and in other parts of the West Bank.

Articles in the [Guardian](#) and [Haaretz](#) indicate that the U.S. government put pressure on Israel to grant visas for witnesses in the civil suit that Rachel Corrie's family have brought against the Israeli military.

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Must Read, See or Hear

An [article in the Financial Times](#) by Henry Siegman entitled "For Israel, defiance comes at the cost of legitimacy" states that the "prospects for a two-state accord are dead in the water." Jerome Segal in a [New York Times article](#) offers the option of "Declare a Palestinian State."

If you missed the Neve Gordon's presentation on Monday, you can hear some of his thoughtful and substantive thinking in this [Worldview radio interview](#).

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Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

[Brief comments by Martin Kramer](#) at an annual gathering of the Israeli military and political elites were [characterized by the electronic intifada](#) as advocating genocide but [Harvard officials dismissed such characterizations](#).

Ad hominem arguments are alive and well in [statements from the Associate Dean from the Simon Wiesenthal Center](#) and in the [recent attacks on the Democratic candidate](#) for the seat currently occupied by Illinois Senator Burris. Juxtapose the words of [Jim Wall](#) or of [Emily Hauser](#) on the words from the two previous links and the dissonance screams. Evidently the [Associate Dean from the Simon Wiesenthal Center is unwilling or unable to confront the serious human rights issues](#) that liberal

Protestant churches are raising but can only dismiss their statements as "adopting the Palestinian narrative".

The [Gaza realities described by Sara Roy](#) turns the disappointment that only 54 U.S. House Members signed the recent Gaza letter to President Obama into piercing pain. The Republican Jewish Coalition attacked the letter as anti-Israeli and Jews from J Street and Americans for Peace Now [argue that enough is enough](#). [Gaza fishermen now fight to survive](#) whereas ten years ago the industry was thriving.

[Nadia Hijab discusses how the battle over Mamilla](#) (Muslim cemetery on which the Museum of Tolerance is planned to be built) encapsulates many aspects of Israel's approach to Palestinian rights.

[This article](#) reports the increasing number of European fiduciaries that have divested the Israeli company Elbit for moral reasons.

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### Scheduled Events

Brookfield Faith Lutheran Church has scheduled a Lenten speaker series entitled "Faith in the Midst of Strife" that focuses on the situation in Israel/Palestine. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM and the speakers start at 6:30 PM every Wednesday from March 3 through March 24. For more information, [view this website announcement](#) or call (708) 485-0096.

The [Trib Local edition in Barrington published a story about Anna Baltzer's speaking engagement](#) at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement for their "Prayer around the Cross" event scheduled on the 15th of every month at 7:30 PM.

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