

Chicago Faith Coalition Update #34 April 10, 2010

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Social Justice and Security for Palestinians and Israelis

Action Opportunities

J Street and the New Israel Fund ask Jewish Americans to [sign a letter](#) that tells Netanyahu that a democratic and pluralistic Israel is wanted.

U.S. Foreign Policy

Congress returns from recess on Monday. While they were gone the Israeli/Palestinian situation was reported in the Main Stream Media including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* with articles by [Reuters](#) and [Ignatius](#). The *Wall Street Journal* [reports](#) that U.S. ex-officials met recently with Hamas. Netanyahu's cancellation of his trip to the U.S. nuclear summit was reported by the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) reported on terminating financial aid to Israel and on other means to pressure Israel on the settlement building dispute. [Jim Wall's blog](#) gives much detailed evidence that the settlement issue is much more than the Main Stream Media has reported.

Many social justice advocates were outraged by [Ethan Bronner's use of less violent rather than nonviolent in his New York Times article title](#). [Bronner also reported](#) that the IMF would be releasing a report suggesting that the West Bank situation is not as economically robust as some have suggested.

This [YouTube video](#) shows how effective AIPAC is at capturing the

hearts and minds of college student leaders.

Mark Perry who first wrote about the Petraeus testimony has written another [article reporting that Petraeus was not the first military official to challenge U.S. foreign policy; General George Marshall did in 1948.](#)

[Walt posted an excellent article about dual loyalty.](#) [Yousef Munayyer writes about the two narratives](#) on Mid East Policy.

[Uri Avnery's article sheds much light on an Israeli military attack on Iran.](#)

Must Read, See or Hear

[Americans for Peace Now have posted a must read article](#) if you want to arm yourself to counter the six bogus excuses for East Jerusalem settlement expansion. [Under the beautiful valley](#) describes some details that you should know about the Israeli government's plans.

Gila Svirsky, an Israeli activist, [reports how Israel's attempt to hide their action only resulting in it gaining more media exposure.](#) This was also reported in the [New York Times](#).

[Pogrebin writes an article](#) in *The Nation* about the Palestinian Authority's Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

This article identifies a [Palestinian legal challenge to the systemic inequality in the Israeli legal system.](#) [B'Tselem reports](#) on the Palestinian water shortage.

Grant Smith continues his individualistic, tireless and persistent efforts [outside the Main Stream Media](#) to register AIPAC as a foreign agent and to stop not-for-profit organizations funding Israeli "illegal activities".

A [member of the Presbyterian Church \(USA\) Middle East Study Committee has written an article](#) that details some of the nuances their

attackers have failed to recognize.

[Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi's article](#) states: "When Washington fails to act decisively towards this festering conflict, it is in fact acting decisively. Billions of American taxpayers' dollars continue to flow to Israeli coffers. And American diplomatic capital is still spent to shield Israel from world censure."

There are two disturbing but compelling internet videos that deserve viewing: [Children of Gaza](#) and [Sleepless in Gaza](#) (posting 90 videos in 90 days (today on # 40) of Palestinian life in the Occupied territories).

Recently having returned from Israel/Palestine, Rev. Cotton Fite, an active participant in the Chicago Faith Coalition, has posted a [video on YouTube of Archbishop Elias Chacour discussing the Kairos Palestine Document](#).

Scheduled Events

Does U.S. policy on Israel and Palestine uphold our values? The Chicago Hearing, an initiative of the American Friends Service Committee, Chicago, will address this question. The Hearing is modeled after a Congressional fact-finding meeting. Witnesses and a listener panel will have a moderated discussion on the topics of property rights, freedom of movement, speech and association and military aid. Attend or view a live webcast on Sunday, April 18 from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Details at www.chicagohearing.org.

April in Chicago is teeming with speakers and events focused on the situation in Israel and Palestine. Check the calendar menu on www.chicagofaithcoalition.org to see details for some of the upcoming events. The Chicago Faith Coalition is sponsoring an event featuring **Mark Braverman** on April 21. Download a flyer for the event from our website home page.

Hear Jeremy Ben-Ami, J Street Executive Director on Monday, April 12 at 6:30 PM. [Details here](#).

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