

2009/08/26 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #4

Informing and Advocating on Israeli/Palestinian Issues

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You are receiving this Chicago Faith Coalition Update email because you have endorsed a Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy (CFCMEP) letter, attended (or were invited to) a CFCMEP meeting or have requested being added to this distribution list. The Chicago Faith Coalition will be the sole user of your email. You can unsubscribe at any time.

The **new** Chicago Faith Coalition website is www.chicagofaithcoalition.org. The home page will feature and archive these updates. In addition, every two weeks, we will post a new poll about the Israeli/Palestinian situation.

Please email [Ed Thompson](mailto:Ed.Thompson@chicagofaithcoalition.org) with suggested items for inclusion in these weekly updates or with comments about the update.

Action Opportunities

On Thursday, August 20 the LA Times published an op-ed by Professor Neve Gordon, a prominent political scientist at Ben Gurion University and long-time peace activist (view [here](#)). The President of the University was quoted in the Jerusalem Post as saying that the "university may no longer be interested in his services." Go to the Jewish Voice for Peace website [here](#) and help generate "massive international pressure" to keep him from being fired.

Americans for Peace Now are asking for endorsements to a petition that protests an Israeli official calling Peace Now activists in Israel a "virus." Endorse the petition [here](#).

The American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights is organizing its First Annual Palestine Freedom Walks on October 10, 2009. Details can

be found [here](#).

Meet with your Senators and your Representative during their August recess to speak out for justice, security, peace and reconciliation in Israel/Palestine. Find contact information for your elected representative [here](#).

U.S. Foreign Policy

View the video [here](#) that J Street put together that includes many prominent Israelis, including a number of former military and security officials, talking about the importance of a two-state solution and J Street's work supporting the President's efforts to achieve such a resolution.

Last week Muna Shikaki of Al Arabiya caught Department of State Spokesman Ian Kelly off guard with a very pointed question about Israeli treatment of American citizens. Read and watch [here](#) the interplay of questions and answers and gain additional background on these Israeli violations provided by the Arab American Institute.

Several freshmen Representatives were treated to an all expense paid visit to Israel during the August recess. Read about the curious origin of these junkets [here](#).

It appears that the U.S. is expecting Middle East peace talks to resume soon according to a report [here](#) in the Global News Service of the Jewish People.

Must read or must view or must hear

Sam Bahour (view [here](#)) published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal that was written to counter an op-ed written the previous week by Israel's new ambassador to the United States (view [here](#)).

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad released a government plan (view Wall Street Journal article [here](#)) that threatens to declare statehood unilaterally by the end of 2011.

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

Watch a video and read about [here](#) a nonviolent protest by the children of Bil'in. Watch another video [here](#) about a night raid that occurred the evening following the children's nonviolent protest.

Silwan may overtake Hebron as a place with the most radical, hate-filled settlers. Read [here](#) an ePalestine article (translated from Hebrew) for Wednesday, August 26, 2009 entitled "A Hate-Filled Morning".

Read [here](#) the press release from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee that welcomes Ramadan and joins President Obama's call to change Treasury Department guidelines.

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