

## 2009/09/02 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #5



### Informing and Advocating on Israeli/Palestinian Issues

#### Introduction

The new Chicago Faith Coalition website is [www.chicagofaithcoalition.org](http://www.chicagofaithcoalition.org). The home page will feature and retain these updates. In addition, every couple of weeks, we will post a new quiz 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.

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#### Action Opportunities

[Join ADC](#) (American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee) in calling on the United States to reciprocate the Israeli stance against U.S. citizens.

[Join J Street](#) telling Obama and Mitchell to hit the gas on a two-state solution.

Rabbi David Forman, a founder of Rabbis for Human Rights wrote a vicious attack on the Jewish Fast for Gaza in the [Jerusalem Post](#). Rabbi Brant Rosen (Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston) and Rabbi Brian Walt have responded to his attack [here](#). They encourage you to read these two articles and then [write a letter](#) to the *Jerusalem Post* or [post a comment](#) to Rabbi Forman's article. You can also contribute by [joining](#) the Jewish Fast for Gaza, if you have not already done so, and by persuading others to join.

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#### U.S. Foreign Policy

[Grant Smith reports](#) that the brothers of Senator Ted Kennedy had some fierce, behind-the-scenes battles with the Israel Lobby. Grant Smith also published an [article](#) today stating that two former AIPAC employees might reveal to the world in court proceedings that AIPAC is a "hotbed of espionage and covert action".

American media has reported that the Obama administration expects Israel to freeze settlements. Hagit Ofran from Peace Now identifies the criteria for a settlement freeze [here](#).

An [editorial](#) in the *Financial Times* entitled "Netanyahu's Peace is a Cynical Evasion" is a scathing attack on the Prime Minister's intentions.

A [Newser Summary](#) states that Israel President Shimon Peres tells Fox News that President Obama will play moderator to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas in a meeting at the UN before the end of next month.

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**Must read or must view or must hear**

Roger Waters, a Pink Floyd founding member, narrates two videos on the wall entitled "Walled Horizons" [Part I](#) and [Part 2](#).

The controversy of the Israeli Professor, Neve Gordon, who advocates boycotts against Israel, continues as Gideon Levy silences critics in his *Haaretz* op-ed entitled "[The Last Refuge](#)." Meanwhile, the President of Ben Gurion University wrote an [op-ed](#) in the *LA Times* explaining her condemnation of Professor Gordon. Sydney Levy counters her op-ed, sentence by sentence, in [MuzzleWatch](#).

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**Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media**

The Elders visit to Israel/Palestine has received little coverage in U.S. media. However, the *New York Times* published an [excellent article](#) about the Elders visit to Bil'in. Several short videos of The Elders visit can be viewed [here](#). For a change of pace, read [Richard Branson's comments](#) to *Haaretz* about his first trip to Israel as he accompanies The Elders.

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