

2009/09/23 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #8



Informing and Advocating on Israeli/Palestinian Issues

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The [home page](#) of the Chicago Faith Coalition website features and retains these email updates. Check out the monthly [calendar](#) for speakers and events scheduled in the Chicago area.

Please email [Ed Thompson](#) with suggested items for inclusion in these weekly updates or with comments about the update.

Action Opportunities

[Call or snail mail Ambassador Susan Rice](#) before September 29 and urge the United States to vote for the recommendations of the Goldstone Report at the UN Human Rights Council.

[Vote](#) for the action over the next two years that you believe will be most likely to bring security, peace and reconciliation to Israeli's and Palestinians.

U.S. Foreign Policy

In the [Wall Street Journal article](#) describing Tuesday's meeting of President Obama with Netanyahu and Abbas, it was reported that "Netanyahu said the Palestinians need to recognize Israel as a Jewish state". The *Wall Street Journal* failed to mention that recognizing Israel as a **Jewish** state is a new demand that most Palestinians would vehemently reject.

[Democracy Now with Amy Goodman for September 23, 2009](#) includes a 20-minute report on the Obama called meeting with guests Palestinian attorney Diana Buttu and Israeli historian Avi Shlaim.

The UN Goldstone 575-page report on Israel's war in Gaza and responses to it have inundated our mainstream media during this past week. Ambassador Susan Rice will have the

opportunity to endorse the Goldstone Report recommendations when the UN Human Rights Council votes on these recommendations on September 29. The *Economist* published two articles entitled "[Israel in the dock](#)" and "[Opportunity Missed](#)". [Philip Weiss's blog on September 17, 2009](#) focused on the "persecution" charge in the report. *Newsweek* [published an article on September 22, 2009](#) reprinting a story from the pro-Israeli Council on Foreign Relations website "blasting" the U.N. Human Rights Council without reference to the Goldstone report. [Yossi Alpher in his September 21, 2009 Americans for Peace Now](#) column mostly rejects the fairness of the Goldstone report but agrees that the economic blockade of Gaza constitutes forbidden collective punishment and then implicates Egypt, the Quartet and the PLO as parties who gave their blessing.

Must read or must view or must hear

The [September 22, 2009 Chicago Public Radio show Worldview with Jerome McDonnell](#) featured a compelling three-guest discussion of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment & Sanction) movement. Omar Barghouti, a leader of the Global BDS Movement and Naomi Klein, an organizer of the protest against the Toronto Film Festival gave the rationale for BDS. Alon Pinkas, Ambassador-at-Large for the State of Israel basically dismissed the BDS movement as unworthy of serious, thoughtful engagement. The Middle East discussion continues on [September 23, 2009](#) with Naomi Klein, Omar Barghouti and Gil Troy.

The Oprah Magazine includes an [article in the October issue](#) that highlights the "feel good" story of the Hope Fund that provides financial support for the college education of impoverished Palestinian refugees.

Realities rarely reported in U.S. news media

The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation reported on their Annual National Organizers' Conference [here](#). Although the mainstream news media failed to cover this conference, three media reports included [Laura Flanders' interview on GRITtv](#), an Electronic Intifada article entitled "[A Turning Point for the US Solidarity Movement](#)" and a Forward.com article entitled "[Palestinian-Led Movement to Boycott Israel Is Gaining Support](#)."

After selecting Ariel University as one of the top 20 universities in an international contest, the Spanish Housing Ministry [disqualified the architecture department of Ariel University](#) from further consideration because the university is located on occupied territory in the West Bank.

On September 19, [International boycott Ahava protests](#) occurred in Amsterdam, London and

Washington, D.C.

U.S. media continues to be silent about the night raids in Bil'in. [This video](#) provides an excellent picture of how locals and international observers interact with and record the behavior of Israeli masked soldiers.

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www.chicagofaithcoalition.org