

## 2009/10/01 Chicago Faith Coalition Update #9



### 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.

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#### Action Opportunities

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

Rabbi Brant Rosen published an [op-ed](#) in *The Chicago Tribune* entitled "A Call to Moral Accounting." You can support Rabbi Rosen by sending a [supportive letter](#) to the *Tribune* and by joining the [Fast for Gaza](#).

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#### U.S. Foreign Policy

There are a plethora of articles about the meeting that Obama "orchestrated" with Netanyahu and Abbas. Uri Avnery says in a [Counterpunch article](#) that Obama was beaten. Professor Stephen Walt (co-author of *The Israel Lobby*) speaks out in a [Washington Post op-ed](#) entitled "Will Obama Settle for Failure in the Middle East?". [An article](#) in *The Economist* suggests that Obama needs to get "tough" and consider reducing aid to Israel. This magazine also suggests in [another article](#) that the U.S. let Israel off the hook. On the other hand, [Daniel Levy's article](#) suggests that the trilateral meeting was more than a photo-op and that view was echoed in an email from Jeremy Ben-Ami of J Street.

Yousef Munayyer puts the settlement freeze in context in [Palestine Center Brief No. 180](#).

If you need to be reminded of what some Representatives in the House believe about Israel, then [read items 2 through 4 in APN's legislative round-up](#). An *Investors Business Daily* [editorial](#) continues its hard-line, pro-Israeli commentary and positions Netanyahu as the "liberator" of ordinary Iranians.

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

In addition to Goldstone Report, there are other articles that add to negative press and raise serious questions for Israel about Operation Cast Lead. Amira Hass has written a [devastating article in Haaretz](#) about the Samouni family. The *Christian Science Monitor* [reported](#) that Israel has blocked human rights groups from advocating for Gazans. The *Wall Street Journal* [reported today](#) that Israel will free 20 female Palestinian prisoners for proof that a captured Israeli soldier is alive. (This happened even though Israel does not negotiate with Hamas.) [Watch a report on BBC](#) about the increased influence of military rabbis in the Israel Defense Forces.

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

[This article](#) describes a surprising fact few Americans know about marriage in Israel.

[This article](#) describes some activity in Petah Tikva, Chicago's sister city in Israel. If this activity happened in Chicago, there would be moral outrage.

There has been much criticism of Muslims who advocate theocracies. Yet, the American press is silent about [what is happening in Israel with the Haredim](#).

The [report by B'Tselem](#) that Israel has put a construction freeze on the separation barrier east of Jerusalem may be a ray of hope.

Ed Thompson  
Project Manager  
Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy  
[www.chicagofaithcoalition.org](http://www.chicagofaithcoalition.org)