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CMEP affirms the October 21st statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.

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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the October 21st statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms and echoes the call of The Patriarchs and the Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem's condemnation of the attack against a sacred place at the Orthodox Church compound of Saint Porphyrios in Gaza on the night of October 19, 2023. CMEP furthermore supports their call upon the international community to immediately enforce protections in Gaza for Sanctuaries of Refuge, such as hospitals, schools, and houses of worship. For an immediate humanitarian ceasefire so that food, water, and vital medical supplies can safely be delivered to the relief agencies ministering to the hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians in Gaza. And, that all warring parties would de-escalate the violence, and cease indiscriminately targeting civilians on all sides.

See below for the full text of the letter.
Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of more than 30 national church communions and organizations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions that works to encourage US policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. CMEP works to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East.

Recent CMEP statements:
October 20, 2023: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Condemns Attack Against St. Porphyrius Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza. CMEP reiterates that even during times of active hostilities, all efforts must be made to protect religious institutions.

October 19, 2023: CMEP Calls for a Ceasefire and Issues Desperate Plea: President Biden’s Humanitarian Relief is Not Getting to People in Gaza. While the United Nations reports the convoy includes ready-to-eat food, development experts on the ground in Gaza have communicated to CMEP concerns that at least some of the food in the trucks waiting in convoy in Egypt would need to be cooked, requiring water, gas, and/or electricity to which displaced people in Gaza do not have access. . . . Water is not getting to people in Southern Gaza because there is no electricity to pump water through the system and because there is so much damage to pipelines because of extensive bombing. Read more.

October 19, 2023: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the October 17th statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, “mourning civilian victims of the massacre in Gaza and extending solidarity to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.” CMEP issued a statement expressing sadness and outrage at the bombing of Al Ahli Hospital and agrees this attack is a “profound transgression against the very principles held by humanity.” We stand in solidarity with the churches of the Holy Land and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and call for people to respond through Prayer, Giving, and Action.

October 17, 2023: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Expresses Sadness and Outrage at Bombing of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Today, Christians around the world followed the call of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem for a day of prayer and fasting for peace and reconciliation and an end to the war between Israel and Hamas. Even as we pray, we find ourselves confronting immense pain and a devastating death toll after the bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, an Anglican hospital in Gaza. Al-Ahli Arab Hospital has provided a critical and courageous ministry of health care provision to serve the people of Gaza for many years.

See the full list of CMEP statements here.