



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. - May 28, 2024

Media Contact:

Logan Bayroff, West End Strategy Team
lbayroff@westendstrategy.com
516-965-5159

Joint Statement: NGOs demand UN Security Council enforce ICJ orders on Israel's actions in Rafah

First published by [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC) on 27 May 2024.

The undersigned NGOs urgently call on all permanent and elected members of the UN Security Council to enforce the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) orders regarding Israel's actions in Rafah, Gaza. Immediate action is required to uphold international law and ensure the Government of Israel meets its obligations as mandated by the ICJ.

The ICJ has determined that Israel's military operations in Rafah have created a catastrophic humanitarian situation, in line with the repeated predictions and warnings of the humanitarian community in the build up to the offensive. The Court has ordered an immediate halt to military operations in Rafah, the opening of the Rafah border crossing for unhindered humanitarian relief, and access for UN fact finding bodies to investigate potential violations of the Genocide Convention.

Since the hostilities began, Gaza has faced unprecedented destruction and suffering:

- Over 35,800 Palestinians have been killed and 80,200 injured since 7 October 2023, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza.
- More than 800,000 people have been displaced from Rafah since 6 May 2024, with thousands living among rubble without essential services.
- Food distributions in Rafah have been suspended due to severe supply shortages and insecurity, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

Despite the ICJ's order for Israel to halt military operations, the bloodshed has continued, with recent attacks on a displacement camp near UN aid facilities in Rafah reportedly killing dozens of people, including children, and injuring many more.

Failure to comply with these orders may prompt South Africa to address the issue to the Security Council, which has the authority under the UN Charter to enforce the ICJ's binding decision.

We call on the UN Security Council to take decisive action to ensure the ICJ's orders are implemented, allowing humanitarian aid to reach those in need and enabling thorough investigations into violations of international law. The Security Council must act now to uphold justice, protect human rights, and maintain international peace and security. Failure to do so would further compromise the conditions to sustain human life in Gaza and would undermine global trust in the primacy of international law.

Signed,

ActionAid
Action Corps
American Friends Service Committee
Anera
Avaaz
CARE International
Churches for Middle East Peace
DanChurchAid
Danish Refugee Council
Democratic Socialists of America
Humanity & Inclusion - Handicap International (HI)
Médecins du Monde France, Spain and Switzerland
Medical Aid for Palestinians
Mennonite Central Committee
Middle East Children's Alliance
Norwegian Church Aid
Norwegian People's Aid
Norwegian Refugee Council
Oxfam
Plan International
Première Urgence Internationale
War Child Alliance

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 and Press Releases:

May 17, 2024: [CMEP Calls on Biden Administration to Advance Efforts Toward Peace](#). As an organization of Christian denominations and organizations committed to peace, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) calls on President Biden and his administration to do all that he can to advance efforts toward peace instead of war and further militarization that increases violence and causes immeasurable death and destruction. The United States government must do all that is possible to protect and preserve human life, especially innocent civilians, to honor and protect the humanity of all people who are created in the image of God instead of enabling more actions that will inevitably lead to more suffering, inhumanity, and pain.

May 10, 2024: [CMEP Welcomes President Biden's Assurances that U.S. Weapons Will Not Be Used in a Rafah Ground Invasion](#). Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes recent remarks from President Biden indicating he would stop the transfer of offensive U.S.-sourced arms to Israel, should they proceed with an invasion into Rafah's population centers. This follows the decision by the Biden Administration to pause at least one shipment of U.S. weapons slated to be delivered to Israel over concerns they could be used in an invasion of Rafah. For months, CMEP – along with Christian leaders from across the country and globe – has called for a demilitarization of the conflict and for halting arms sales to Israel. [Human rights groups](#) have already documented how Israel has used U.S.-supplied weapons in violation of humanitarian and human rights law throughout Gaza.

May 9, 2024: [CMEP Calls for Protection of Student Protestors](#). As the deadly violence in Gaza stretches into the seventh month, student protests are sweeping college campuses across the country, calling on college administrations and universities to divest from companies that profit from Israel's military campaign in Gaza. Many of the groups are also using their encampments to highlight that: many Palestinians in Gaza have been killed or injured including students and academics, most Palestinians in Gaza are displaced and living in tents, all of Gaza's universities have been destroyed, and Palestinian academics in Israel are being [targeted for harassment](#). Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) admires the students' commitment to highlighting the realities unfolding in Gaza.

See all of our [CMEP Statements](#) and [Press Releases](#).

Contact Us

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 505

Washington, District of Columbia 20002

(202) 543-1222 info@cmepe.org

Follow Us

[DONATE](#)

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[BLOG](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)