



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. - December 22, 2023

Media Contact:

media@cmep.org

202-543-1222

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the statement by The Episcopal Church in response to the Israeli military's closure of the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza

December 22, 2023

Washington, D.C.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the statement by [The Episcopal Church](#) in response to the Israeli military's closure of the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. A vital ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, Al-Ahli has remained open, providing care even as it has faced several bombings and lack of water, fuel, or medicine. Despite the challenging circumstances, "At times, Al-Ahli has been the only hospital functioning in all of northern Gaza, serving many more patients than the staff are equipped to adequately care for. The medical staff have done all they can to continue to carry out the mission of the hospital and serve those in need despite impossible circumstances."

CMEP calls on the Biden Administration to do everything in its power to ensure the safe reopening of the Al-Ahli hospital. CMEP joins the Episcopal Church in condemning "the repeated attacks on hospitals and targeting of medical workers, just as we condemn all actions throughout this conflict that kill and wound innocent civilians, especially babies and children, the elderly, and other medically vulnerable people." CMEP and our member communions continue to call for a comprehensive ceasefire, the release of hostages, and the flow of immediate and adequate humanitarian assistance into Gaza. See the full The Episcopal statement below.

###

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.

Episcopal Church Statement on Al-Ahli Arab Hospital

December 22, 2023

Office of Government Relations

Earlier this week, the [Israeli military forced the closure](#) of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, [a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#), as well as detained medical staff. On Wednesday, [WHO and UN staff visited Al-Ahli](#) and determined that northern Gaza is without a functioning hospital. They described [horrifying circumstances](#) at Al-Ahli, with patients dying slowly and in pain, crying out for water and without medical care.

Throughout this conflict, Al-Ahli has endured multiple bombings, a lack of fuel, water, and medicine, and the most dire circumstances imaginable. At times, Al-Ahli has been the only hospital functioning in all of northern Gaza, serving many more patients than the staff are equipped to adequately care for. The medical staff have done all they can to continue to carry out the mission of the hospital and serve those in need despite impossible circumstances.

The Episcopal Church condemns the repeated attacks on hospitals and targeting of medical workers, just as we condemn all actions throughout this conflict that kill and wound innocent civilians, especially babies and children, the elderly, and other medically vulnerable people. We call for the immediate release of those detained, and [an end to the targeting of hospitals](#) and the detention of medical staff. We ask for immediate humanitarian access to ensure patients have the care they need including trained staff, food, water, and medicine.

The Episcopal Church grieves with all who suffer during this conflict and laments the daily devastation and human suffering. We continue to offer our prayers, our solidarity, and resources to support the vital mission of the work of Al-Ahli, other institutions of the Diocese, and all medical facilities in the region.

We pray fervently for peace, for the peacemakers, and urge our leaders to do everything possible to advocate for a ceasefire, release of hostages, and urgently needed humanitarian care.
