

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms The Episcopal Church statement on Layan Nasir and detained Palestinians**

June 21, 2024  
Washington, D.C.

The Episcopal Church is one of the founding members of CMEP's 30-plus member communions committed to pursuing an end to the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. As the war on Gaza continues, we must not ignore the ongoing pressures Palestinians continue to face in other parts of the occupied Palestinian territories. CMEP stands with The Episcopal Church in advocating for the release of Layan Nasir, the Palestinian Christian woman who continues to be held unjustly in Israeli prison. We also call for an immediate end to the war on Gaza and for an immediate and sustained ceasefire, full humanitarian access, and the release of all hostages.

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*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.*

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## Episcopal Church statement on Layan Nasir and detained Palestinians

June 18, 2024

Office of Public Affairs

The following [statement](#) was released today by the [Office of Government Relations](#).

On April 6, Layan Nasir, a 23-year-old Anglican Palestinian woman, was taken from her home in the early morning hours at gunpoint by Israeli forces; since that time, she has been detained, without charge and without a timeline for charges, trial, or release. The Episcopal Church has been in touch with her priest and her family, and along with other Anglicans around the communion, is advocating for her release and praying for her, her family, and her community. We are also advocating that her priest, Fr. Fadi Diab, be able to visit her and that she be able to communicate with her family.

We are deeply concerned about the manner in which Layan Nasir was taken, her ongoing detention, and the broader system that means many thousands of Palestinians are kept in administrative detention for months.

In April, the Executive Council urged "[the end of the continued detention of thousands of Palestinians without charge, as particularly highlighted by the case of Layan Nasir](#)". We echo [the Archbishop of Canterbury's concern about her detention](#) and the prayers of other bishops around the Anglican Communion who call for her release, and for us to acknowledge the plight of all detained Palestinians.

We continue to call for an immediate and sustained ceasefire, full humanitarian access, and the release of all hostages.

Please [reach out to the Biden Administration](#) and urge them to do all they can to call for Layan Nasir's release and the release of all unjustly detained Palestinians.

[Episcopal News Service Article on Layan Nasir](#)

[The Guardian on Layan Nasir's Detention](#)

[The Church Times: Archbishop of Canterbury voices concerns](#)

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Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

**June 12, 2024: [CMEP to Hold Special Briefing About the War on Gaza at Westminster Presbyterian Church](#).** Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, the executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), will host a briefing and community conversation in Delaware on Christian responses to current events in Gaza and broader Israel/Palestine. The briefing will follow morning worship and is open to the Westminster community and the general public.

**May 28, 2024: [Joint Statement: NGOs demand UN Security Council enforce ICJ orders on Israel's actions in Rafah](#).** 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.

**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 15, 2024: [World leaders fail to act as Israeli invasion of Rafah worsens humanitarian catastrophe](#).** As the main weapon provider for Israel's military effort, the United States bears a significant responsibility for Israel's IHL violations. In addition to halting the transfer of high payload bombs, the US should also use all its leverage to halt the ongoing military operation in Rafah. In fact, All suppliers of arms have to respect the Human Rights Council resolution voted on April 5 calling on them to cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Israel. All states must act now to ensure an immediate and sustained ceasefire.

See all of our [public statements](#) and [press releases](#).

## Contact Us

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