



Working Together:
Justice Can Prevail.
Peace Is Possible

August 2018

Summer at Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) kicked off with a bang with our 2018 advocacy summit, *And Still We Rise*, taking place at the end of June and our summer giving campaign, *Demand Child Justice: Document Detention in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)*.

Catch up on the latest news, events, and opportunities with CMEP now.



Following the success of last summer's campaign, we have launched our Summer 2018 giving campaign: Demand Child Justice: Document Detention in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).

[Learn more about this issue and how you can make a difference today!](#)



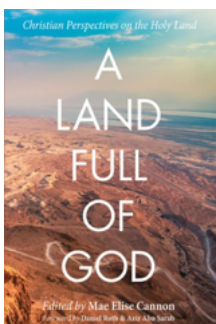
And Still We Rise Advocacy Day: On the final day of the June Advocacy Summit, CMEP hosted 58 delegations - totaling 81 constituents - to their Senators' and Representatives' offices to advocate for the release of [U.S. funding to UNRWA](#) and [H.R. 4391, Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act](#).

Events | Upcoming & Recent

Super Early Bird Registration for CMEP's 2019 Summit Now Open!

Join us June 23-25, 2019, in Washington, D.C. for our annual Advocacy Summit. 2019's topic will be: Persistent Hope: 35 Years of Pursuing Peace and Restorative Justice in the Middle East.

[Register Today!](#)



Author Talk: Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon

On September 4, CMEP executive director Rev. Dr. Cannon will host an Author Talk at The Potter's House Cafe and Bookstore in Washington, D.C. about her book, *A Land Full of God*. Her talk endeavored to help listeners better understand the political, historical, religious, and geographical tensions that have led to the dynamics which disrupt peace today in Israel/Palestine, and engage the resulting issues in practical and beneficial ways in their respective spheres of influence.

Fall 2018 Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) Tour

Join CMEP's executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, October 25-November 7 as she and Palestinian Christian, Sami Awad, and Israeli Human Rights Activist, Jessica Montell, travel around the country on Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P). Cities and regions confirmed include Delaware; Grand Rapids, MI; Seattle, WA; and Colorado Springs, CO. [Contact us](#) if you have meetings or communities or churches with whom you'd like for us to meet!

[Learn More](#)

Watch: "Document Detention: Justice for Palestinian Children"

As part of CMEP's Summer 2018 joint campaign with Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCI-P), Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon facilitates a conversation with DCI-P's Brad Parker and Farah Bayadsi. The discussion is a unique opportunity to hear from legal experts on the subject of child justice and the mistreatment of Palestinian youth in Israeli military detention centers. You will also learn about opportunities to advocate on behalf of Palestinian youth with your congressional representatives.



[Webinar Replay](#)

Watch: "What's Next for Palestine Refugees and UNRWA"

Kyle Cristofalo, CMEP's Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, hosts a webinar interview with Elizabeth Campbell, the U.S. Director of UNRWA. Elizabeth provides an introduction to UNRWA services and an update on the funding crisis after the U.S. announced it would freeze U.S. aid to the agency by 83%. Kyle and Elizabeth also discuss what's next for Palestinian refugees and UNRWA.

[Webinar Replay](#)

Rundown: June 2018 Advocacy Summit: *And Still We Rise: Transforming U.S. Policy Toward a Just Middle East*

CMEP hosted our annual advocacy summit, this year titled *And Still We Rise*, between June 17-20 in Washington, D.C. 130 participants attended the summit, which featured female-only presenters, including more than 15 delegates from the Middle East, and listened to key-note speakers, panel discussions, and other presentations focused on issues ranging from child detention to advocacy.

[View Gallery](#)

Rundown: June 2018 Pilgrimage to Peace

Delegates from our Washington, D.C. Advocacy Summit joined a representative from CMEP at locations across the country for conversations focused on peacebuilding and constructive conflict in Israel, Palestine, and the broader Middle East.

[View Gallery](#)



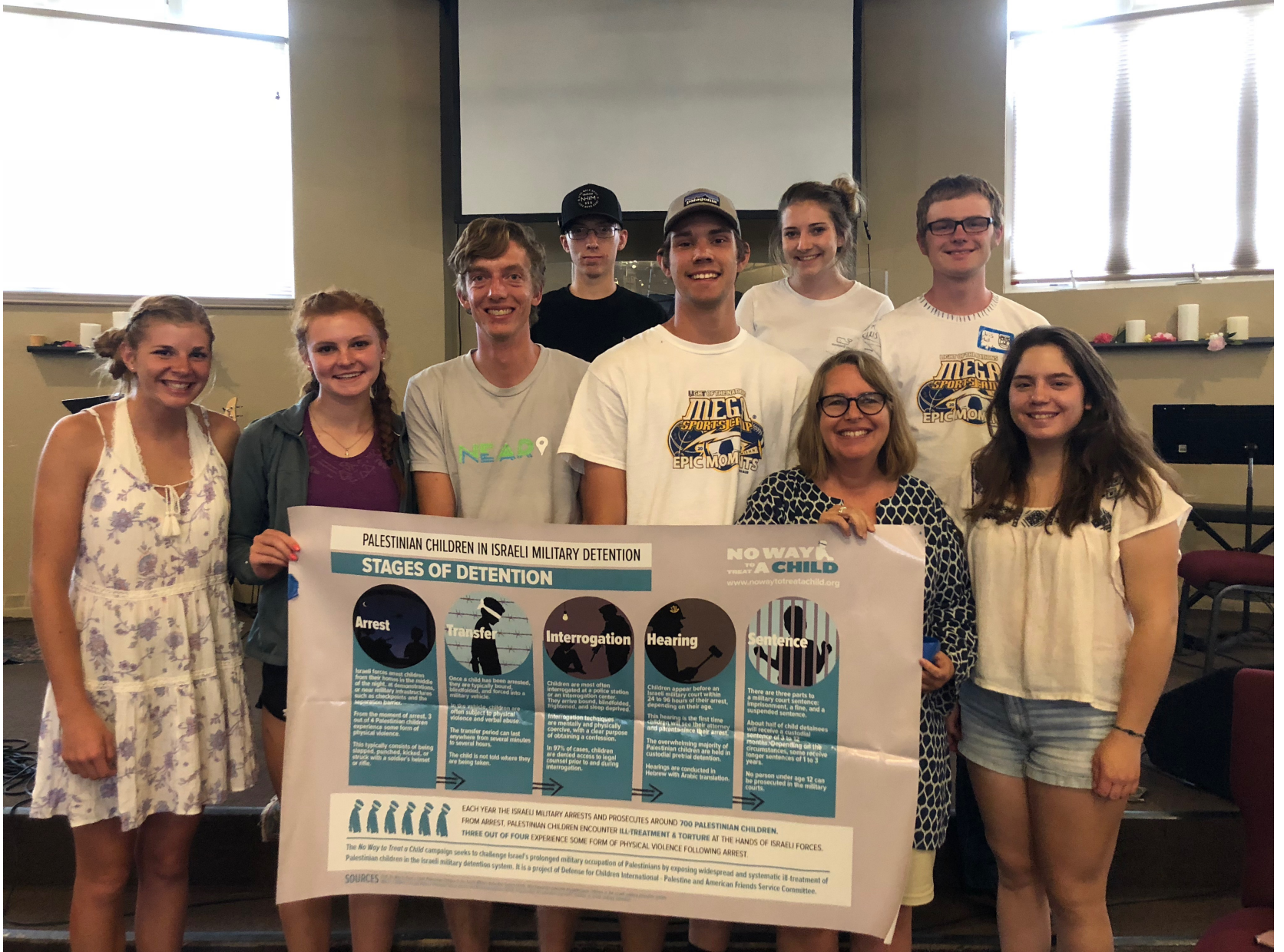
And Still We Rise Pre-Summit: The pre-summit was a time for more than 15 of our Middle East Delegates and other women engaged in CMEP's networks to come together for networking, prayer, listening, creative brainstorming, mutual encouragement, and discernment regarding ways to collaborate more effectively towards peacebuilding efforts.

Press Releases & Public Statements | **Reactions to Recent Events**

Nation-State Bill Raises Concerns

On Thursday, July 19, Israel's parliament, the Knesset, passed the "Israel as a Nation-State of the Jewish People" bill, one of many Basic Laws that collectively serve as Israel's constitution. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), while reiterating its support for Israel as a democratic state, expresses its gravest concern over the harm that this new Basic Law will inflict upon Israel's cultural, ethnic, and religious minorities, which account for 20% of Israel's population. This law will have devastating effects on the rights of Palestinians with Israeli citizenship and Palestinians with resident status living in Jerusalem.

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ASWR Pilgrimage to Peace: On June 22, 2018, CMEP brought Jennifer Bing of American Friends Service Committee on a Pilgrimage to Peace speaking event to the Faith Lutheran Church youth group from Castle Rock, CO. She taught a 101 overview of the conflict, showed the Detaining Dreams documentary, and did interactive exercises around the issue of child detentions. The 10 youth in attendance were highly engaged and curious to learn more!

[Upcoming P2P Events](#)

[Prayers for Peace](#) | Stories from the blog

Nadeem Nawara and Mohammad Mahmoud Odeh Abu Daher: Fatalities



On Nakba Day in 2014, in the West Bank town of Beitunia, local Palestinians decided to gather around Ofer military court and prison to protest in solidarity with over 100 prisoners on a hunger strike against their administrative detention by Israeli authorities. Among those to join the protest were 17-year-old Nadeem Siam Nawara and 16-year-old Mohammad Mahmoud Odeh Abu Daher. Ahmad Badwan of the Palestinian Medical Relief Committee: The protest “began peacefully” and “turned into violence when the Israeli army used live fire to disperse stone throwers.

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Alaa Balata: Right to a Childhood

On July 28, 2014, 17-year-old Alaa Balata moved with his family to his uncle's house deep inside Jabalia refugee camp and farther from the Israeli tanks shelling everywhere along Gaza's border. "[My father] thought we would be safer here." Alaa's uncle, Abdel Karim Balata, recalled the day the shells reached his neighborhood. "It was after lunch, around 3:30 in the afternoon," he said. "Alaa had just stepped outside to get water when the shells hit."

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Fadel Abu Odwan: Injuries

...Fadel was stopped by three Palestinian officers stationed at their usual spot. The officers took Fadel's slingshot, which he carries for hunting birds, and began to play with it. Suddenly, Fadel saw two Israeli military jeeps speeding toward them from the other side of the border. "I started running so fast because I was scared of them and thought they would shoot us. I ran for about 100 meters [328 feet], away from the fence." The soldiers opened fire, injuring Fadel in his groin and leg. Fadel was left bleeding on the ground, unable to move, for three hours.



[Read More](#)

Women Shaping the Future for Children of the Holy Land

The importance of women in leadership positions in the Messianic Jewish and Christian faith communities is often undervalued. However, when the voices of women are uplifted and heard, incredible strides are made towards peace and reconciliation. This is the reality these two inspiring women, Hedva Haymov and Shireen Awwad have been working diligently toward. Despite come from diverse backgrounds – Hedva, an American-born Israeli Messianic Jew, and Shireen, a Palestinian Christian living in Bethlehem – they both have found shared faith and passion for advancing peace in the Holy Land.

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Farah Bayadsi: Representing Palestine's Future Leaders



If you were aware that there was an issue in your society regarding the arrest and detention of children, how would you respond? Palestinian human rights lawyer, Farah Bayadsi, has decided that this is a critical issue she cannot walk away from. Growing up near Haifa in a town called Baqa al-Gharbiyye, Farah grew up a citizen of Israel with Arabic as her mother tongue. She studied for her Bachelor of Law degree at Shaarei Mishpat College in Hod Hasharon near Tel Aviv, where she became aware of the growing gap between the theoretical aspect of law and its application; that what is on paper is not necessarily what is practiced, especially regarding criminal law and political arrest cases. This led her to move to Jerusalem to pursue her LLM in International Law and Human Rights at Hebrew University.

[Read More](#)



Our work is not possible without the help of our hardworking interns.

[Support their work towards peace and justice today!](#)

CMEP in the News | **Mentions and Publications**

Corinne Whitlatch's "Middle East Peace Process Carousel"

Delinda C. Hanley, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs

A Capital Offense: Why Christians in the Middle East aren't celebrating the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and Andrew Wickersham, Sojourners

Demand Child Justice, Everywhere

Celia Riley, Sojourners

Ambassadors of Reconciliation: General Assembly Ecumenical Worship

Joanna Hipp, The Presbyterian Outlook

La Crosse Presentation to Highlight Both Israeli, Palestinian Efforts for Peace

Mike Tighe, La Crosse Tribune



CMEP Congressional Award: Rep. Betty McCollum: Churches For Middle East Peace's Congressional Award is presented annually to a member of Congress who best exemplifies CMEP's commitment to work for just and lasting resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East with special attention to Israel Palestine.

[Learn More](#)

Miscellaneous Updates | Other News from CMEP

CMEP Welcomes Sara Burback as Director of Outreach

Sara Burback served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan as an English teacher. Her experience there led her to the University of Denver's Korbel School of International Studies, where she earned her MA in International Human Rights and served as an intern in World Vision's Advocacy office, where she focused on addressing advocacy work within the faith-based community regarding Israel and Palestine. She recently worked as a Program Coordinator at the United States Energy Association in Washington, DC, creating workshops and exchanges addressing capacity-building and energy access needs in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. She's served as a volunteer with CMEP for the *And Still We Rise* Summit, is a regular contributor to the online periodical *Shared Justice*, and participates annually in Bethlehem's Right to Movement marathon in defense of the basic human right to movement.



Remembering Ambassador Warren Clark

Warren Clark, 81, a retired foreign service officer and ambassador, who lived in Mystic and Washington, D.C., died of cancer on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 with family by his side. Between 2008 to 2016



he was executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of national church groups that conducts political advocacy in support of the two-state solution for ending the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

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Connect with Us



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