



**For Immediate Release:**

## **U.S Bombing in Syria: Escalating Violence Will Not Bring Peace**

*Washington, D.C. - April 7, 2017* - Earlier this week there was a chemical weapons attack against the Syrian people. In response to this attack the U.S. launched cruise missiles at a Syrian military airfield on Thursday night, April 6, 2017.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is deeply grieved by the deaths of all Syrians in both of these attacks. We respect the human rights of all people in the region, including refugees and displaced people, based on full observance of the Geneva Conventions and other international law agreements.

As we witness this escalation in violence we ask President Trump and the administration to not employ further military action. We ask the American government to increase humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees and to increase efforts to resolve the conflict through political means. In this and all conflicts CMEP encourages negotiated, just, and peaceful resolutions in the region and the demilitarization of conflict.

CMEP represents a broad coalition of Christian denominations with diverse perspectives toward the role of military intervention in the case of conflict. In recent press releases, CMEP denominations have shared their perspectives:

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) said, "Forgive us Lord for Syria. What we have done to the least of these we have done to you."

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) said, "We are heartbroken by the deaths of Syrians, including many children. But while bombs may seem for some like a response to the images coming from Syria, the U.S. attacks will only escalate the crisis and increase the devastation and suffering of its people."

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men said, "We denounce this use of violence which only exacerbates the habits and structures of violence."

In response to the U.S. bombing, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, the Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) said, "The ongoing horrors of violence in Syria must be brought to an end by a means other than further escalation of the conflict."

CMEP is a coalition of 27 national church denominations and organizations in the Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Evangelical traditions that works to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a just, lasting, and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights

and religious freedom for all the people of the region.

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If you would like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview, please contact: Nicole Morgan at [info@cmep.org](mailto:info@cmep.org) or call 202-543-1222

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Formed in 1984, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) is a [coalition of 27 national church denominations and organizations](#), including Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions. It works to encourage U.S. government policies that actively promote a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights and religious freedom for all people of the region. [Click here to unsubscribe](#).

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