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Church coalition welcomes talks breakthrough

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) congratulates Secretary Kerry, as well as courageous Palestinian and Israeli leaders, for the announcement that negotiators are expected to meet in Washington in the near future to resume direct negotiations on terms for the establishment a viable Palestinian state alongside a secure and democratic State of Israel. While important details still need to be determined it is an immense achievement for all parties to have arrived at this point.

Amidst general skepticism, a history of failed negotiations, dashed hopes, deep distrust, and interests on both sides that embrace conflict, progress towards agreement will be slow. But agreement is still not impossible. This time the United States must be truly an impartial mediator, making both sides aware of the great costs of failure and the great benefits of a lasting agreement.

As people rooted in a faith of resurrection and hope beyond hope, we believe that peace is possible if we have the will to make it happen! As Secretary Kerry and others negotiate, CMEP will join the cloud of witnesses urging them to run with perseverance the course to a durable peace that can free two peoples from the injustice and violence they have endured too long.

We must not allow ourselves or them be diverted from this task.

Formed in 1984, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) is a [coalition of 25 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.

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