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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Responds to Jerusalem Church Attack

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) strongly condemns the arson attack on December 4 on the Church of All Nations in Jerusalem. Police reported the suspect arrested was a Jewish Israeli motivated by criminal intent. CMEP is grateful no one was injured and the damage was minimal. Located on the Mount of Olives, the Church of All Nations, also known as the Church or Basilica of the Agony, is visited every year by millions of pilgrims wanting to worship and commemorate Jesus' prayer and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. CMEP is grateful for the witness and celebration of mass that occurred on Sunday, December 6th a few days after the attack that was attended by His Beatitude the Latin Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

CMEP Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon: "During this time of Advent when Christians prepare to remember the birth of the Prince of Peace, we know that God is with us even in times of trial. CMEP stands in solidarity with the Christian community in the Holy Land, and with the Roman Catholic congregants of the Church of all Nations, as well as other religious minority groups, as they face attacks and discrimination. We are committed to working toward a future in which all people in the Middle East can worship without fear of persecution."

Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of 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.