



**WORKING TOGETHER:**  
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is  
Possible.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C. - December 12, 2023**

**Media Contact:**

[media@cmep.org](mailto:media@cmep.org)

202-543-1222

### **Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Denounces Yet Another US UN Veto for Ceasefire in Gaza**

December 12, 2023

Washington, D.C.

On Friday, December 8th, the United States vetoed a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) draft resolution, co-sponsored by 97 member states, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza in response to the [UN General Secretary's invocation of Article 99 of the UN Charter](#). The U.S. was the only country to veto. Article 99 allows for the General Secretary to "inform the council of matters he believes threaten international peace and security." Aside from the United Kingdom, which abstained, all other members of the Security Council voted in favor.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) strongly denounces the United States' persistent and shameful opposition to a comprehensive ceasefire. Sadly, this is yet another example of the United States actively preventing the United Nations from taking action in support of a ceasefire, having already vetoed several resolutions concerning Israel's war in Gaza since October 7th.

As of December 11, more than 17,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed—the vast majority women and children—since Israel began its military campaign. With the resumption of the bombing and ground invasion, these numbers will only continue to rise. Yet the United States government, while claiming to care for the lives of Palestinian civilians, continues to actively support their ongoing killing. By vetoing another UN resolution calling for a ceasefire, the United States provides political

and diplomatic cover and further delays a peaceful end to Israel's ongoing continued military assault on the people of Gaza. These actions fly in the face of global sentiment and must be called into account.

As if to emphasize its support for Israel's military assault and rejection of the global call for a ceasefire, the [Department of State bypassed Congress](#) to approve the sale of more than \$106 million worth of tank ammunition. This step is a further signal that the US disregards the human toll that the Israeli assault on Gaza has taken.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) calls on the United States to reverse course immediately and use its immense power and leverage to pressure Israel to end the violence. Only a ceasefire will stop the loss of civilian life in Gaza, allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need, many of whom are injured, sick, and starving; fend off the likelihood of increased regional violence; and create an atmosphere to resume negotiations for the release of remaining hostages held by Hamas, as well as Palestinian prisoners held without due process of law. CMEP reiterates there can be no military solution to the conflict.

As the General Assembly convenes on Tuesday, December 12, for further debate, the United States must end its opposition to a ceasefire and support the United Nations' taking meaningful action to end the ongoing loss of civilian life in Israel/Palestine and to avoid greater calamity by upholding its responsibility as a signatory to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Otherwise, the United States will continue to be complicit in the ongoing killing of thousands of civilians, including children, in Gaza.

---

###

*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.*

---

Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

**December 11, 2023: [CHRISTMAS CEASEFIRE SERVICE IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHURCHES IN BETHLEHEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST FOLLOWED BY PRAYER WALK](#).** We are praying that the ongoing violence between Hamas and the government of Israel might come to an end. This Christian service is being held in solidarity with Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem and throughout the Middle East who are calling for a ceasefire and an end to all violence. Christians throughout the

Middle East have canceled Christmas celebrations to stand in solidarity with their neighbors suffering in Gaza.

**December 7, 2023: [CHRISTMAS CEASEFIRE SERVICE IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHURCHES IN BETHLEHEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST FOLLOWED BY PRAYER WALK](#).** We hope and pray that the ongoing violence between Hamas and Israel will come to an end before this event on December 11, 2023. This Christian service is being held in solidarity with Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem and throughout the Middle East who are calling for a ceasefire and an end to all violence. Christians throughout the Middle East have canceled Christmas celebrations to stand in solidarity with their neighbors suffering in Gaza.

**December 2, 2023: [A Ceasefire Is the Only Way Forward to Prevent Mass Killing, Further Death, and Destruction](#).** With the temporary pause in violence having ended, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns the escalating violence in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza that is having devastating effects on civilians. The Biden Administration's reluctance to support a comprehensive ceasefire and its consistent practice of publicly articulating empty rhetoric about the protection of civilians is abhorrent as Israel continues its destructive bombardment on the Gaza Strip and more than 170 have died in the first 24 hours.

**December 1, 2023: [CHRISTIANS FROM HOLY LAND COME TO DC TO ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AND COMPREHENSIVE CEASEFIRE](#).** Three Palestinian Christians from Jerusalem and Bethlehem came to D.C. this week. One of their key purposes was to hand deliver a letter signed by several Palestinian Christian pastoral leaders from across denominations from the West Bank city of Bethlehem addressed to President Joseph Biden.

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

## Contact Us

Follow Us

### Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 505  
Washington, District of Columbia 20002  
(202) 543-1222 [info@cmep.org](mailto:info@cmep.org)

[DONATE](#)

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[BLOG](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)