



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Stands with Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem on the Urgent Need to Conclude the Present War and Turn from the Pursuit of Death and Destruction toward the Promotion of Life and Peace

Washington, D.C.

August 26, 2025

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) and our 35 member communions stand in solidarity with the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in the urgent need of calling for an end to war, death, and destruction and moving towards the promotion of life and peace. We pray alongside our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and especially those who continue to take refuge in the St.Porphyrus Orthodox Church and the Latin Family Catholic Church in Gaza after more than ten months of nearly constant bombardment, deprivation, and massive civilians deaths in Gaza.

We, stand in agreement with the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, in their call to implore the leaders of the warring parties to “heed our calls and those of the international community (UNSC Resolution 2735) to reach a rapid agreement for a ceasefire resulting in the end of the war, the release of all captives, the return of the displaced, the treatment of the sick and wounded, the relief of those who hunger and thirst, and the rebuilding of all public and private civilian structures that have been destroyed.”

In addition, the United States and all international parties should demand positive movement toward a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire without delay, while promoting a constructive diplomatic pathway forward to address longstanding grievances and core issues of the conflict that have gone long unaddressed such as the decades long occupation of the Palestinian people.

We remain committed in prayer and advocacy to standing alongside our siblings in Christ in the Holy Land and in supporting a vision of life and peace for all in the region.

Read the statement by the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem Below:



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

STATEMENT ON THE URGENT NEED TO CONCLUDE THE PRESENT WAR AND TURN FROM THE PURSUIT OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF LIFE AND PEACE

26 August, 2024

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
Matthew 5:9

As we rapidly approach the twelfth month of the present devastating war, We, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, feel compelled to once again express our grave concerns over its dire direction. For despite repeated calls for the de-escalation of violence from ourselves and the international community, the situation in our beloved Holy Land has only continued to deteriorate.

Millions of refugees remain displaced, their homes inaccessible, destroyed, or beyond repair. Hundreds of innocents are weekly killed or severely wounded by indiscriminate attacks. Countless others continue to endure hunger, thirst, and infectious disease. Among these are those languishing in captivity on all sides, who additionally face the risk of ill-treatment from their captors. Still others, far from the battlefields, have suffered unchecked attacks against their villages, pastures, and farmlands.

Throughout this all, ceasefire negotiations have dragged on interminably, with the leaders of the warring parties seemingly more concerned with political considerations than bringing an end to the pursuit of death and destruction. These repeated delays, coupled with other provocative acts, have only served to heighten tensions to the point where we stand at the precipice of a full-blown regional war.

In view of these alarming developments, We, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, once again implore the leaders of the warring parties to heed our calls and those of the international community (UNSC Resolution 2735) to reach a rapid agreement for a ceasefire resulting in the end of the war, the release of all captives, the return of the displaced, the treatment of the sick and wounded, the relief of those who hunger and thirst, and the rebuilding of all public and private civilian structures that have been destroyed.

Just as importantly, we call upon the leaders of these peoples, in concert with the international community, to take up without delay diplomatic discussions addressing longstanding grievances between them, leading to concrete steps that promote a just and lasting peace in our region through the adoption of an internationally legitimate two-state solution.

While issuing these calls in the best interests of all who inhabit the region, we express our special concern for those Christian communities under our pastoral charge. These include those taking refuge in Gaza at St. Porphyrios Orthodox Church and Holy Family Catholic Church, as well as the courageous staff of al-Ahli Anglican Hospital and the patients under their care. We pledge to them our continued prayers and support both now and at the conclusion of the war, when we will labor together to rebuild and strengthen the Christian presence in Gaza, as well as throughout the Holy Land.

Finally, we appeal to Christians and all those of goodwill around the world to promote a vision of life and peace throughout our war-torn region, recalling Christ’s words, quoted above: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). During this time of extreme crisis, let us all recommit ourselves towards working and praying together in the hope that, by the grace of the Almighty, we might begin to realize this sacred vision of peace among all God’s children.

—The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem

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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:

[August 20, 2024: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) joins Aid Agencies and Medical Professionals in Warning of Dangers of Mass Polio Outbreak without Urgent Action, endangering a generation of children in Gaza](#)

Aid agencies and medical professionals have joined forces to call urgently for a ceasefire to allow life-saving polio vaccinations to be administered to about 640,000 children aged under 10 following confirmation of the first case of polio in Gaza in 25 years, with reports of other suspected cases emerging. At least 50,000 children born during the past 10 months of hostilities are highly unlikely to have received any immunizations due to the collapsed health system, while older children among the one million children in Gaza will have had their regular vaccine schedules disrupted or halted by violence and displacement.

[August 16, 2024: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Stands with Greek Patriarchate of Jerusalem and all Christians in calling for Religious Freedom in Israel](#)

CMEP stands with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in its criticism of the decision by the Israeli police to close and ban Christian worshipers from participating in the sacred services of the Feast of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor in Israel. The protection of religious practices and the freedom to worship for all people regardless of creed or belief is a fundamental principle of a democratic society.

[August 14, 2024: Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #3](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) and leading humanitarian agencies outline how new 'evacuation orders' and relentless airstrikes have forced the displacement of over 200,000 Palestinians since mid-July, many of whom had already been displaced multiple times. Israel's ongoing blockade has only tightened, leaving aid convoys stranded and essential supplies inaccessible to the millions in need.

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

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