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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Washington, D.C. - September 10, 2024

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#### Churches for Middle East Peace Condemns the Killing of U.S. Peace Activist Aysenur Ezgi Eygi

Washington, D.C.

September 10, 2024

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) mourns the tragic killing of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, a 26-year-old unarmed U.S. peace activist, by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) during a weekly protest against increased Israeli settlements in the West Bank town of Beita. According to [eyewitness accounts](#), the shooting took place 30 minutes after the protest had disbanded. Aysenur, along with other international volunteers, were about 200 yards from the Israeli military when she was shot twice. Aysenur's death is not an isolated incident; it is part of a disturbing pattern of U.S. citizens being killed or targeted by the IDF, with no justice or accountability in sight.

This tragic loss only adds to a growing list of Americans, whose lives were taken by Israeli forces, such as Palestinian-Americans [Shireen Abu Akleh](#), Tawfic Abdel Jabbar, and Mohammad Khadour. In each case, there has been no meaningful accountability from Israel, and this systemic lack of justice only perpetuates further violence.

We are deeply disappointed by the U.S. government's ongoing failure to adequately protect its citizens from such unjust killings. While condolences and statements are important, they are not enough. We call on the Biden administration to take immediate action and demand full accountability from the Israeli government. The U.S. must ensure an independent investigation into Aysenur's killing, as we cannot rely on internal Israeli investigations to bring about justice for this unlawful and senseless act. Additionally, the U.S. administration must immediately halt the transfer

of weapons to Israel in light of the credible reports that U.S. sourced weapons have been used in contravention of U.S. and international laws.

We also join Aysenur's family in their grief. As they shared publicly, "Aysenur felt compelled to travel to the West Bank to stand in solidarity with Palestinian civilians who continue to endure ongoing repression and violence. A U.S. citizen, Aysenur was peacefully standing for justice when she was killed by a bullet that video shows came from an Israeli military shooter. We call on President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary of State Blinken to order an independent investigation into the unlawful killing of a U.S. citizen and ensure full accountability for the guilty parties." [Their statement](#) speaks to the extraordinary person she was, someone who embodied compassion and fierce advocacy for human rights. As they rightly note, Aysenur's life was taken unlawfully and violently by the Israeli military, and they demand justice for the loss of their beloved daughter, sister, and friend.

We pray for peace and justice, and we demand accountability so that tragedies like this will not continue.

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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.*

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Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

**September 6, 2024: [CMEP Mourns Death of Hostages and Massive Civilian Deaths in Gaza](#)**

Since October 7, CMEP has continually called for the release of hostages taken captive into Gaza, as well as thousands of Palestinian prisoners held without due process of law. Our hearts go out to all families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives over the past ten-plus months. The value of every human life is sacred, and we mourn the loss of all lives caught in this ongoing conflict. We continue to demand the release of hostages who are held in Gaza and to call for an end to all violence between combatants and the Israeli military.

**August 29, 2024: [Churches for Middle East Peace Condemns the Escalation of Settler Violence and Illegal Land Confiscation in the West Bank](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) unequivocally condemns the escalating violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank and the ongoing illegal confiscation of Palestinian land. We stand in solidarity with Palestinian families facing dispossession and violence, as well as with those who have been wrongfully detained for defending their internationally recognized human rights.

**August 26, 2024: 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**

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 in calling for an end to war, death, and destruction toward 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.

**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.

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

## Contact Us

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