



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

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Churches for Middle East Peace calls on the UNGA Resolution Calling for an End to Israel's Occupation of Palestine to be Upheld

Washington, D.C.

September 25, 2024

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) supports last week's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution, which affirms the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) advisory opinion that calls for Israel to end its decades-long occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip within one year. This resolution represents the minimum required for any meaningful steps toward justice, peace, and reconciliation in the region.

The Israeli occupation, which has persisted for over half a century, is at the heart of the ongoing suffering and struggle for rights. It must be addressed if there is ever to be a just and lasting peace. The UNGA resolution represents the will of the international community to confront core issues, including the rights and sovereignty of the Palestinian people and the need to end the cycles of violence that continue to devastate Palestinians and Israelis alike. All communities in the Middle East, whether they be Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or Druze, require an end to this conflict in order to live in peace and safety, allowing future generations to build a shared future in which trust and equality have been returned to these shared communal relationships.

CMEP urges the United States administration to abide by and uphold U.S. and international law by ceasing the provision of weapons to Israel and ending the diplomatic cover that has for decades enabled Israel's military occupation to become more entrenched with the construction and

expansion of settlements, the appropriation of more and more land, the construction of the separation barrier (also deemed illegal by the ICJ), and the violation and diminishment of Palestinian rights living on land their families have inhabited for centuries. Only through a commitment to justice and accountability, followed by concrete actions, can the region move toward a peaceful and secure future.

If the occupation continues, the threat not only to Palestinians and Israelis but also to neighboring countries grows ever more severe. As the war spills over to Lebanon where in recent days Israeli airstrikes have so far killed over five hundred people, the risk of a greater regional confrontation grows exponentially. This moment presents an opportunity for de-escalation and a chance to move toward a future of peace and security for all people in the region.

CMEP calls on all parties to respect this resolution and international law and take the necessary steps to end the occupation as part of a broader commitment to justice.

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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:

September 10, 2024: [Churches for Middle East Peace Condemns the Killing of U.S. Peace Activist Aysenur Ezgi Eygi](#)

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.

September 10, 2024: [Gaza Humanitarian Snapshot #5](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) and leading humanitarian agencies outline the death toll of the recent Israeli military operations including the largest and longest incursion into the West Bank in two decades as well as the September 10th strike on the designated “humanitarian” zone in Al-Mawasi which so far has killed 40 people.

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.

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

Contact Us

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