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Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CMEP Affirms Joint Statement by Patriarchs in Syria Regarding the Recent Increase in
Violence

11th March 2025 Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) stands in solidarity with the Patriarchs in Syria as they raise their voices against the horrific escalation of violence that has swept across portions of the country in recent days. CMEP unequivocally condemns these acts of violence and calls for an immediate end to the bloodshed.

We join the Patriarchs in urging all parties to seek peaceful solutions that uphold human dignity and preserve national unity. As they have stated, it is imperative to “establish an environment that facilitates the transition to a state that respects all its citizens and lays the foundation for a society based on equal citizenship and genuine partnership, free from the logic of vengeance and exclusion.” The path to peace in Syria must be built on reconciliation, justice, and the protection of all communities.

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon Executive Director of CMEP states, “The Christian communities of Syria, along with other minority groups, have long played a vital role in the country’s rich and diverse social fabric. Their presence and contributions must be safeguarded, and efforts must be made to ensure their protection and full participation in

shaping Syria's future." Any attempt to sow division or weaken the unity of Syrian society must be firmly rejected.

CMEP calls on all actors—both within Syria and in the international community—to work urgently to end the suffering of the Syrian people. It is time to prioritize dialogue over destruction, peace over war, and justice over violence. We pray that God may protect Syria and its people and that a just and lasting peace may prevail throughout the land.

The full statement from the Patriarchs can be found below:

Joint Statement by the Patriarchs in Syria
Damascus, 8 March 2025

In recent days, Syria has witnessed a dangerous escalation of violence, brutality, and killings, resulting in attacks on innocent civilians, including women and children. Homes have been violated, their sanctity disregarded, and properties looted—scenes that starkly reflect the immense suffering endured by the Syrian people.

The Christian Churches while strongly condemning any act that threatens civil peace, denounce and condemn the massacres targeting innocent civilians, and call for an immediate end to these horrific acts, which stand in stark opposition to all human and moral values.

The Churches also call for the swift creation of conditions conducive to achieving national reconciliation among the Syrian people. They urge efforts to establish an environment that facilitates the transition to a state that respects all its citizens and lays the foundation for a society based on equal citizenship and genuine partnership, free from the logic of vengeance and exclusion. At the same time, they reaffirm the unity of Syrian territory and reject any attempts to divide it.

The Churches call on all concerned parties within Syria to assume their responsibilities, put an end to the violence, and seek peaceful solutions that uphold human dignity and preserve national unity.

We pray that God may protect Syria and its people and that peace may prevail throughout the land.

JOHN X

*Greek Orthodox Patriarch of
Antioch and All the East*

MOR IGNATIUS APHREM II

*Syriac Patriarch of Antioch
and All the East, and
Supreme Head of the
Universal Syriac Orthodox
Church*

YOUSSEF ABSI

*Melkite Greek Catholic
Patriarch of Antioch and All
the East*

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:

Feb 28, 2025 [Humanitarian Snapshot #10](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) raises the alarm alongside 42 other humanitarian aid and advocacy organizations about the escalating violence and restrictions in the occupied West Bank and the unprecedented obstruction as Israeli forces and settlers intensify violence and movement restrictions. Since the pause in hostilities in Gaza on January 19, 2025, aid workers have encountered direct threats, while aid deliveries are routinely delayed or blocked by newly established checkpoints.

Feb 21, 2025 [CMEP's Cover Letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio](#)

In a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) highlights the ongoing challenges faced by Christian communities in Jerusalem, particularly the renewed pressures surrounding the Arnona tax dispute and the breaking of the historic status quo. CMEP also affirms the concerns raised by the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem regarding the foreclosure threats against the Armenian Patriarchate. CMEP warns that these actions threaten the Christian presence in the Holy Land and urges U.S. and international intervention to protect religious freedom and the sacred nature of Jerusalem for all faiths.

Feb 14, 2025: [CMEP Expresses Deep Concern Over Escalating Israeli Military Operations in the West Bank](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is deeply alarmed by the ongoing Israeli military operations in the West Bank, including the recent large-scale offensive, the most extensive since the Second Intifada. According to the United Nations, these operations have displaced over 40,000 Palestinians. Additionally, the destruction of 11 buildings in Masafer Yatta is part of a continued effort to forcibly remove Palestinian communities from their land, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation.

Feb 6, 2025: [CMEP Condemns President Trump's Call for the Forced Displacement of Palestinians from Gaza](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) vehemently opposes President Donald Trump's recent comments advocating for the forced removal of the Palestinian population from Gaza. This is an open call for ethnic cleansing and a blatant violation of international and humanitarian law, as well as a fundamental affront to the sanctity of human life. Additionally, such language further undermines the current ceasefire, which the Trump Administration worked hard to secure and is directly responsible for ensuring all parties continue to adhere to its tenants through the completion of phase three of the deal.

Jan 28, 2025 [Humanitarian Snapshot #9](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), along with dozens of international humanitarian organizations, urgently calls upon the international community to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This comes as findings reveal the failure to implement critical provisional measures outlined by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) a year ago, resulting in unprecedented suffering among Palestinians.

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

Contact Us

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