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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins International Aid Agencies in Issuing Alarming Report on Humanitarian Access in Gaza and the West Bank

Gaza Humanitarian Snapshot #11

23rd April 2025 Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), alongside dozens of international aid and development agencies, released its latest Humanitarian Access Snapshot, covering the period from January 19 to April 15, 2025. The report offers a sobering update on the continued restrictions on humanitarian assistance in Gaza and the West Bank amidst ongoing conflict and military operations.

The snapshot documents the deeply concerning deterioration of conditions for civilians, particularly in Gaza, where access to life-saving aid remains severely limited. During this reporting period, United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners faced extraordinary barriers to delivering food, medical supplies, and other critical assistance. Since October 7, 2023, over 2.2 million people in Gaza—more than 90% of the population—have faced extreme deprivation due to military bombardments, displacement, and a devastating blockade on aid.

“Humanitarian access is not a political issue—it’s a moral and legal obligation,” said Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of CMEP. “The international community must

demand unfettered access to all those in need, uphold international humanitarian law, and prioritize the protection of civilians.”

Among the report’s key findings:

- More than 1.1 million people in Gaza face catastrophic food insecurity, with famine-like conditions spreading in the north.
- Humanitarian aid convoys continue to be denied or delayed, especially in areas deemed “inaccessible” by the Israeli military.
- Settler violence in the West Bank has escalated, often targeting aid workers and compounding the suffering of displaced Palestinian communities.
- Access constraints have led to the breakdown of health services, water infrastructure, and shelter provision, deepening the humanitarian crisis.

As a coalition of 36 national church denominations and organizations, CMEP remains steadfast in its advocacy for a just peace in the Holy Land and an end to the violence and occupation that fuel such humanitarian catastrophes.

[Read Report Here](#)

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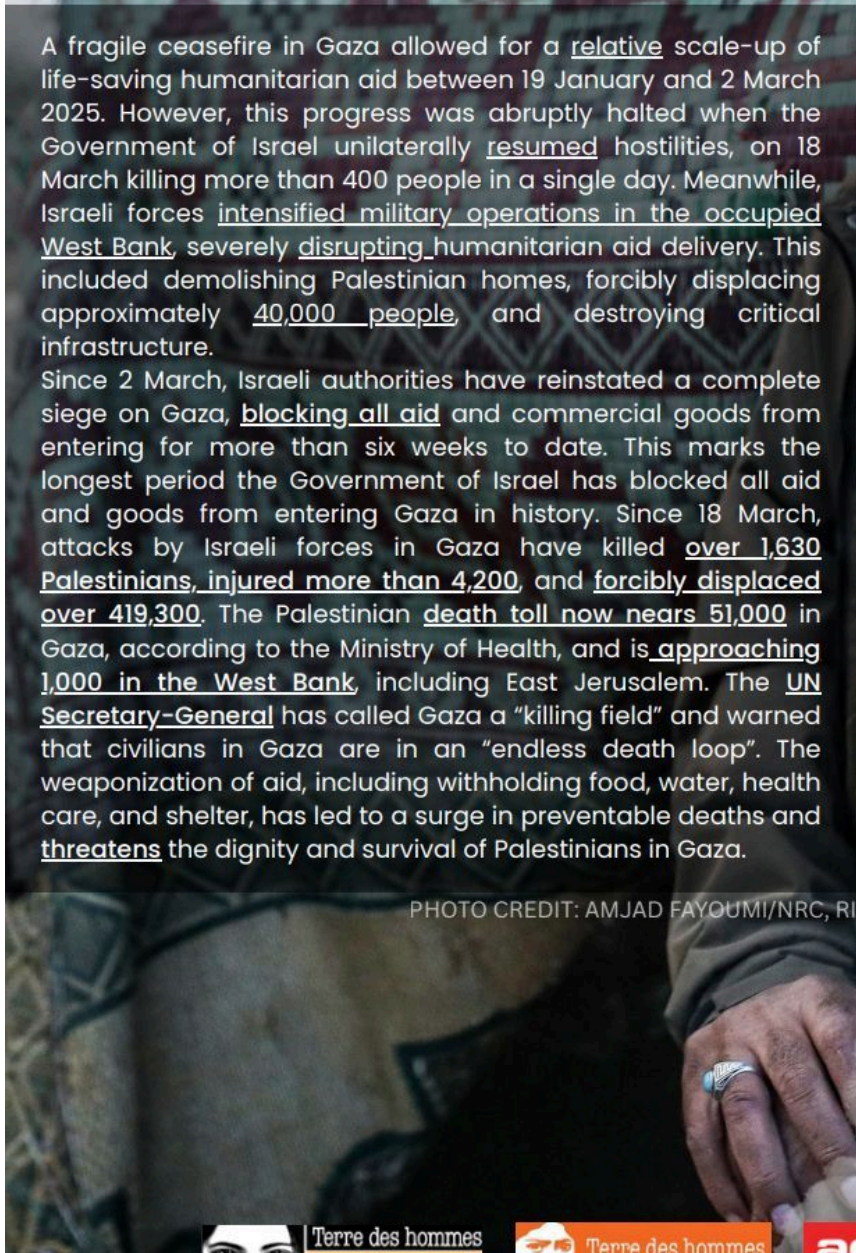
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS SNAPSHOT #11 OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

19 JAN - 15 APR 2025

A fragile ceasefire in Gaza allowed for a relative scale-up of life-saving humanitarian aid between 19 January and 2 March 2025. However, this progress was abruptly halted when the Government of Israel unilaterally resumed hostilities, on 18 March killing more than 400 people in a single day. Meanwhile, Israeli forces intensified military operations in the occupied West Bank, severely disrupting humanitarian aid delivery. This included demolishing Palestinian homes, forcibly displacing approximately 40,000 people, and destroying critical infrastructure.

Since 2 March, Israeli authorities have reinstated a complete siege on Gaza, blocking all aid and commercial goods from entering for more than six weeks to date. This marks the longest period the Government of Israel has blocked all aid and goods from entering Gaza in history. Since 18 March, attacks by Israeli forces in Gaza have killed over 1,630 Palestinians, injured more than 4,200, and forcibly displaced over 419,300. The Palestinian death toll now nears 51,000 in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health, and is approaching 1,000 in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The UN Secretary-General has called Gaza a "killing field" and warned that civilians in Gaza are in an "endless death loop". The weaponization of aid, including withholding food, water, health care, and shelter, has led to a surge in preventable deaths and threatens the dignity and survival of Palestinians in Gaza.

PHOTO CREDIT: AMJAD FAYOUMI/NRC, RI



Terre des hommes

Terre des hommes

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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:

[Apr 21, 2025 Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Stands in Solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land, Condemning the Egregious Violations of Religious Freedom during Holy Fire Saturday in Jerusalem](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon reports from her experience at the Holy Fire Service in Jerusalem on Saturday, April 19, 2025 in which Israeli authorities denied thousands of Christian pilgrims the right to worship. CMEP stands in solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land, condemning the egregious violations of religious freedom and amplifying the statement by the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem on the assaults against worshippers during Holy Fire Saturday.

[Apr 18, 2025 Humanitarian Snapshot #11](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins 26 humanitarian aid and advocacy groups to shed light on the besieged state of Gaza and the West Bank. No aid has been allowed to enter Gaza in over six weeks. Increased military operations in the West Bank have displaced over 40,000 people, destroyed countless homes and businesses, and disrupted the flow of aid. The UN Secretary General referred to Gaza as an “endless death loop”. Along with a report detailing the conditions in Gaza and the West Bank, this snapshot calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

[Apr 17, 2025 CMEP Executive Director Leads Delegation in Jordan for High-Level Religious and Diplomatic Meetings](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, led a small interfaith delegation of Christian and Muslim leaders to Jordan between April 9-10, 2025. His Excellency Bishop Mpumlwana Malusi, the former General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), and Imam Dr. Yahya Hendi, Director of Muslim Life at Georgetown University, joined Rev. Dr. Cannon as they met with high-level political and religious leaders to discuss the most recent events in the region with an emphasis on what can be done to end the war on Gaza. In addition to meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Safadi and other leaders, the delegation was honored to participate in a gathering with the Nobel Women's Initiative hosted by His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal.

[Apr 13, 2025 CMEP condemns bombing of Al-Ahli Hospital and demands Protection for the Christian Community and all in Gaza](#)

CMEP condemns in the strongest possible terms the bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. Al-Ahli is an Anglican institution and one of the oldest, continuously operating hospitals in Gaza. It is Gaza's only Christian hospital and its only cancer treatment center. The bombing of the Anglican Al-Ahli Arab Hospital is a violation of the sacredness of life and it is especially abhorrent during this sacred time for Christians.

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

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