Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns bombing of Al-Ahli Hospital and demands Protection for the Christian Community and all in Gaza

On this blessed day of Palm Sunday, Christians around the world gather to worship and commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem during one of the most sacred times of year as Holy Week begins.

Churches for Middle East Peace (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.

The deliberate targeting of a medical facility is a clear violation of international law—a war crime and a crime against humanity.

This attack has significantly damaged the facility. Already functioning under immense strain due to repeated attacks, the genetic laboratory was completely destroyed, the emergency department building and pharmacy significantly damaged, in addition to other collateral damage in surrounding buildings including the St. Phillip's Church building.

According to reports, three patients have died from the bombing, including a 12-year-old child. The destruction of this vital medical facility not only threatens the lives of those currently

seeking treatment but also imperils the thousands who will be injured or fall ill in the days and weeks ahead due to the continued bombardment of northern Gaza.

CMEP's executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon says, "We stand in solidarity with Al-Ahli Hospital and all Christians in Gaza who must be protected alongside their Muslim neighbors. The people of Gaza - just as Israelis and all people in the Middle East and world - are precious in the eyes of God. In Gaza, the Christian community has decreased by more than three percent because of the deaths of Christians and is being eradicated as a result of the past 18 months of war and violence. The atrocities and violence must be brought to an end for the sake of all people of the Holy Land!"

The closure of Al-Ahli means that cancer patients and others with chronic or life-threatening conditions may now die from entirely preventable causes. This is not only a humanitarian catastrophe—it is an affront to our shared human dignity and to the values that bind us as people of faith.

We call on the Trump Administration and the U.S. government to withhold all weapons from Israel. They are being used to cause decimation of the civilian population in Gaza and in violation of international law. We call on Christians, Americans, and all people of goodwill to demand a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire, an end to all violence, the release of Israeli and international hostages held in Gaza and Palestinian prisoners held unjustly, and to pursue a negotiated settlement that will bring lasting resolution to the ongoing cycles of violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

On this Holy Palm Sunday, as Christians around the world remember the Prince of Peace entering Jerusalem in humility, we call on all people of faith to stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza. We must raise our voices against the destruction of this sacred place of healing and demand that attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure come to an end. The *imago Dei* (image of God) must be recognized in Palestinians in Gaza and all of the occupied Palestinian territories, just as our common humanity should be respected in all people regardless of their religion, culture, or ethnicity. For 555 days, the violence has continued. We must do more to ensure it does not continue for one day longer to preserve life and hope for a future.

Our faith calls us not only to speak out against injustice, but to act against it. Let us honor that call today and every day until peace and justice prevail. We stand alongside the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and pray and call for an end to this horrific war and the suffering of so many.

Palm Sunday Statement on the Bombing of the Anglican Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza

13/4/2025

Photo this morning from inside and outside St. Philip's Church at Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza

The Diocese of Jerusalem condemns in the strongest terms today's missile attacks on the Ahli Arab Hospital, an institution run by the Anglican Church in Jerusalem. The twin strikes demolished the two-storey Genetic Laboratory and damaged the Pharmacy and the Emergency Department buildings. It also resulted in other collateral damage to the surrounding buildings, including the church building of St. Philip's.

A mere twenty minutes prior to the attack, the Israeli army ordered all patients, employees, and displaced people to immediately evacuate the hospital premises prior to its bombing. We thank God that there were no injuries or deaths as a result of the bombing. However, one child who previously suffered a head-injury tragically died as a result of the rushed evacuation process.

The Diocese of Jerusalem is appalled at the bombing of the hospital now for the fifth time since the beginning of the war in 2023—and this time on the morning of Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. We call upon all governments and people of goodwill to intervene to stop all kinds of attacks on medical and humanitarian institutions. We pray and call for the end of this horrific war and the suffering of so many.

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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 11, 2025: CMEP Executive Director Leads Delegation for High-Level Interfaith and Diplomatic Meetings in Cairo to Address Atrocities in Gaza

Churches for Middle East Peace's (CMEP) executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, led a small interfaith delegation of Christian and Islamic leaders to Egypt between April 5-8, 2025. Meetings in Egypt included conversations with religious and political leaders for the purpose of discussing the role international religious leaders can play in calling for an end to all violence, especially the devastating toll of ongoing bombing and military incursions by the Israeli military in Gaza and the West Bank.

Apr 11, 2025: CMEP Public Statement on the Killing of 14-Year-Old American Palestinian Amir Rabee in the West Bank

CMEP condemns the tragic killing of 14-year-old American Palestinian Amir Rabee by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank on April 6 and calls for an investigation into his death. The loss of this young life is an unspeakable tragedy and a devastating reminder of the human cost of ongoing violence and occupation. Such actions must never be accepted or normalized. The killing of children must stir moral outrage, not silence.

Mar 11, 2025: **CMEP Affirms Joint Statement by Patriarchs in Syria Regarding the Recent Increase in Violence**

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.

See all of our **public statements** and **press releases**.

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