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Press Release: 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.

On Wednesday, April 9, His Excellency Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, met with the CMEP delegation. In the course of the meeting, Mr. Safadi underscored the dire necessity to end Israeli hostilities on the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Strip is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and requires the opening of crossing points to receive much-needed aid. Rev. Dr. Cannon and the delegation raised concerns regarding the escalating violence in the West Bank and Israeli violence against holy sites in Jerusalem, expressing grave concern about the disappearing Christians in the Holy Land. Mr. Safadi reiterated Jordan's ongoing commitment to peace in the region.

The delegation also met with representatives from the Jordanian Council of Churches. The U.S., South African, and Jordanian religious leaders talked about the great value of Christianity in the Middle East and the support of the Royal Palace in affirming the necessity for Christians to remain in the land. Challenges include Christian emigration because of ongoing war and economic difficulties,

if not directly in Jordan, in neighboring countries that affect the economy and opportunities of the state. The group discussed the shared role of religious leaders to encourage society to live in harmony and honor the lives of all people, opposing war and violence in Gaza and wherever it may be.

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. Various distinguished women attended, including Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tawakkol Karman, Dr. Shirin Ebadi, and Jody Williams. For almost twenty years, the Nobel Women's Initiative has worked in solidarity with women's movements and activists to build peace and preserve justice around the world. The CMEP delegation presented to the women's initiative about the power of interfaith efforts in seeking an end to violent conflict and the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Gaza and the West Bank.

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon says about the gathering, "What an incredible privilege to be hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan and to meet women who have literally changed the course of history with their courageous actions toward peace. Meeting such committed and incredible women inspired me in our work at CMEP to not give up in seeking to end the ongoing bombing and Israeli invasion of Gaza, the ongoing consequences and human rights abuses resulting from the occupation in the West Bank, and to work toward a lasting and comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians."

CMEP is committed to elevating women's voices in peacebuilding through And Still We Rise (ASWR), CMEP's women's empowerment initiative. CMEP is eager to expand on the success of our 2024 ASWR gathering in Jericho, Palestine, by building relationships with women in Jordan to increase the reach of this critical program.



Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, His Excellency Mpumlwana Malusi, and Imam Dr. Yahya Hendi meet with His Excellency Ayman Safadi to discuss the ongoing Israeli military attacks throughout the region.

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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:

[April 13, 2025: 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 as one of the most sacred times of year as Holy Week begins. 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.

[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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