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Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CMEP Public Statement on the Killing of 14-Year-Old American Palestinian Amir Rabee in the West Bank

Churches for Middle East Peace (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.

Amir is the first American killed by Israeli forces in 2025. In 2024, five American citizens — including multiple children — were killed in the West Bank and Gaza. Not a single case has resulted in accountability, justice, or meaningful investigation. The silence and inaction from the U.S. government in response to these deaths are unacceptable and betray the most basic obligations to protect its citizens and uphold human rights. President Trump should have used the meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu as an opportunity to call for accountability on behalf of Amir Rabee. If the Trump Administration is unwilling to pursue the matter, Congress must step in to ensure the perpetrators of Amir's murder are held accountable.

CMEP also strongly condemns the renewed promotion of the plan by President Trump's administration for the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Gaza and the forcible displacement of over forty thousand Palestinians in the West Bank— a plan reaffirmed during the April 7, 2025 meeting between Prime Minister Netanyahu and the President at the White House. Forcibly removing Palestinians from their homeland is a grave violation of international law and a moral outrage that must be unequivocally rejected.

Furthermore, CMEP urges the United States to pursue diplomatic engagement with Iran rather than resorting to military action. Escalation and warfare will only serve to plunge the region into deeper chaos, destruction, and loss of life. What is needed now is courageous diplomacy rooted in justice, accountability, and the protection of all people in the region.

We lift up Amir's grieving family in prayer, and we recommit ourselves to the pursuit of peace, dignity, and security for all who call the Holy Land home.

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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:

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.

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 Affirms Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem responding to foreclosure against Armenian Patriarchate](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) stands in solidarity with the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem and their defense of the Armenian Patriarchate. The Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem faces a foreclosure order posing a significant threat to their ongoing sustainability. The threat against the Armenian Patriarchate reflects a broader challenge facing the Christian community in Jerusalem relating to taxation issues. CMEP remains committed to advocate for the continued sustainability of the churches in Jerusalem whose presence and ministry provide vital services to the greater community.

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.

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

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