



**WORKING TOGETHER:**

Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is  
Possible.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C. - May 20, 2025**

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### **CMEP Affirms Statement by Israeli Civil Society Groups calling for Ceasefire and entry of Aid into Gaza**

Washington, D.C. – May 20 2025, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) expresses its full support for the recent statement issued by Israeli human rights organizations calling for the immediate and unconditional end to Israel’s blockade on humanitarian aid to Gaza. Prime Minister Netanyahu’s decision to allow “basic amounts of food” into Gaza resulted in only five aid trucks entering the besieged territory on the first day, Monday, May 19, 2025. While this gesture has been cited as a measure of relief, this token action falls woefully short amid the spiraling famine and widespread nutritional deficiencies facing the vast majority of Gaza’s population. CMEP calls on the U.S. government and the international community to exert urgent and sustained pressure on the Israeli government to end its policy of starvation and to immediately open all crossings for the unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. We reject the U.S.-Israeli proposal to oversee limited aid distribution, as it fundamentally fails to meet the scale of need and does not adhere to internationally recognized humanitarian principles. The time for partial solutions has long passed—comprehensive, unimpeded aid access is both a moral and legal imperative.

The full statement by Israeli Civil Society Groups can be read [HERE](#) and found by clicking on the image below.



**CEASEFIRE AND  
ENTRY OF AID  
NOW!**

## **Joint statement by Israeli civil society organizations**

**May 19, 2025**

During the past several days, Israel has intensified its attacks on Gaza, following more than ten weeks during which it blocked all entry of aid and other goods to the Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement last night that Israel will allow entry of "a basic amount of food for the population" in order to continue the war demonstrates that Israel has no intention to stop its unlawful use of aid as a lever of political pressure.

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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.*

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Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

**[Apr 30, 2025 CMEP Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon Spends Holy Week in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories](#)**

CMEP's executive director traveled to the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem for Holy Week from April 11 to 20, after leading a multi-faith delegation in Jordan and Egypt. Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), visited numerous local church leaders to stand in solidarity with the Christian community in the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel during Holy Week. Her visits included high-level meetings with Christian, Muslim, and Jewish community leaders and focused on ending the devastation and destruction in Gaza.

**[Apr 25, 2025 CMEP Elevates the Statement of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) emphasizes the recent statement from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, which affirms their deep commitment to solidarity with Christian partners in the Holy Land. During this historic Holy Week delegation, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of CMEP, was honored to meet with Bishop Dr. Sani-Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Their time together included meaningful dialogue about the ongoing witness of the Christian church in the region and how our respective ministries might deepen partnership in our shared mission to embody the love of Christ and pursue a just and lasting peace for all people in the Holy Land.

**[Apr 24, 2025 CMEP calls for preservation of the Armenian Christian Community While Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) calls for the preservation of the Armenian Christian community in Jerusalem, Nagorno/Karabakh, and around the world, as today marks 110 years since the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, during which 1.5 million Armenians were systematically killed by the Ottoman Empire. In addition, leaders of the

Turkish Empire killed Greek, Assyrian, and other Christian minorities living under the Ottoman Empire during the early 20th century. On this solemn anniversary, CMEP joins the global Armenian community and Christians worldwide in remembrance and mourning. We honor the victims and their enduring legacy, remembering not only the lives lost but also the resilience of survivors and their descendants. More than a century later, the Armenian people are still awaiting full acknowledgment and accountability from the perpetrators of this crime against humanity.

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

## Contact Us

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