

#### **WORKING TOGETHER:**

Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is Possible.

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#### **Media Contact:**

media@cmep.org

925-766-9050

Press Release: CMEP Stands with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem: CMEP Condemns and Abhors the Attack on Al-Ahli Hospital and Calls for Accountability and Peace

June 5, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) stands in solidarity with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and elevates its powerful statement condemning the Israeli military's attack on Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City on June 5th, 2025. This egregious assault, resulting in the deaths of five individuals, including three journalists and a father escorting his injured child, and injuring dozens more, underscores the urgent need for the international community to uphold the protections afforded to medical facilities, journalists, and civilians under international humanitarian law. CMEP echoes the Diocese's call for accountability, for the safeguarding of Gaza's remaining hospitals, and for urgent international action to bring an end to the violence. As people of faith, we join in collective prayer and advocacy for the healing of the wounded, the release of all captives, and a just and lasting peace for all in the Holy Land.

There have been numerous attacks against Al-Ahli Hospital over the past 600 days. International law demands that hospitals and medical facilities be protected and

safeguarded during times of conflict and war. This is not an isolated incident.

The following statements have been issued by CMEP regarding Israeli attacks on medical facilities in Gaza since October 7, 2023:

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

December 31, 2024: CMEP Calls for the Protection of Healthcare Facilities in Gaza

July 8, 2024: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Stands with the Diocese of Jerusalem in Expressing Dismay at the Closure of Al Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital in Gaza

December 22, 2023: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the statement by

The Episcopal Church in response to the Israeli military's closure of the Al-Ahli Arab

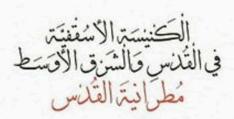
Hospital in Gaza

October 17, 2023: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Expresses Sadness and Outrage at Bombing of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza

You can read the statement by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem <u>HERE</u> and below.

### The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East The Diocese of Jerusalem





#### STATEMENT BY THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM CONDEMNING TODAY'S ATTACK AT AHLI HOSPITAL, GAZA CITY

June 5, 2025

This morning at about 10:20 am local time, Israeli forces fired inside the compound of our Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, killing three journalists, as well as two others, including a father who was escorting his son to our surgical unit for treatment from previous injuries. In addition, this unprovoked assault against civilians wounded thirty other bystanders, among them four of our hospital staff.

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem condemns this attack in the strongest possible terms, calling upon the Israeli Army to respect the internationally protected sanctity of Ahli Hospital and all other hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip, as their beleaguered doctors, nurses, and medical staff seek to treat those innocents, mostly women and children, who have been severely injured in continued military assaults. We further call upon the leaders of the international community to enforce the combatants' adherence to the Fourth Geneva Convention with respect to its provisions for special protections for hospitals, medical personnel, journalists, and civilians in general.

Finally, we bid Christians and others of goodwill around the world to join us in their continued prayers and efforts to bring this conflict to a speedy end, leading to the release of all captives, the more comprehensive treatment of the wounded, the feeding of the desperately hungry, and the rebuilding of the tens of thousands of homes and hundreds of public facilities that have been destroyed. Only in this way, we believe, can the healing begin, and the pathway towards a just and lasting peace open for all of those living in our beloved Holy Land.

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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:

#### Jun 4, 2025: CMEP Elevates the Statement of Archbishop Elpidophoros on the Threat to the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine in Egypt

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, in expressing deep concern and sorrow over the recent judicial decision by Egyptian authorities that threatens the property and spiritual mission of the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine at Mount Sinai. Elevates the Statement of Archbishop Elpidophoros press release.

#### May 30, 2025: Press Release for Humanitarian Snapshot #12

Nearly three months into Israel's total siege on Gaza, humanitarian conditions have deteriorated beyond crisis levels. A recent survey of NGOs found widespread obstruction of aid, with two-thirds unable to reach communities in need and one-third reporting staff killed or injured. In the West Bank, escalating settler violence and military restrictions have made nearly half of aid delivery efforts impossible, deepening an already catastrophic, man-made crisis.

## May 20, 2025: CMEP Affirms Statement by Israeli Civil Society Groups calling for Ceasefire and entry of Aid into Gaza

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.

See all of our <u>public statements</u> and <u>press releases</u>.

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**Churches for Middle East Peace** (CMEP)

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 505 Washington, District of Columbia 20002 (202) 543-1222 info@cmep.org

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