



**WORKING TOGETHER:**  
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is  
Possible.

---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Washington, D.C. - June 24, 2025**

**Media Contact:**

[media@cmeep.org](mailto:media@cmeep.org)

925-766-9050

#### **Statement: CMEP Welcomes Iran-Israel Ceasefire and Urges U.S. to Prevent Further Escalation; Calls for Immediate Focus on Ending the War in Gaza**

June 24, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire between Iran and Israel, and we urge all parties to uphold this fragile but essential step toward de-escalation. We commend efforts by regional and international actors who helped broker this cessation of hostilities and strongly encourage all parties, including the United States, to ensure the ceasefire holds. Any further provocations or violations risk reigniting a dangerous new round of violence that could engulf the region in wider war.

The United States must now act as a responsible stakeholder and diplomatic leader by using its influence to reinforce the ceasefire and prevent either side from breaking it. This moment must not be wasted as it is a critical opportunity to step back from the brink of full-scale war and pursue long-term diplomatic solutions to the root causes of conflict in the region.

While we are grateful for the ceasefire, the United States should not have attacked Iranian nuclear facilities to start with. These actions were not only reckless and deeply

destabilizing but also in violation of international law. This escalation nearly ignited a regional conflict with consequences that could have reverberated across the Middle East and the world for generations.

If this back and forth violence had continued, the United States risked being drawn into yet another catastrophic war in the Middle East. We say clearly: No more war. Past U.S. military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in the loss of millions of lives, economic devastation, widespread sectarian violence, famine, and the rise of violent extremism. These wars have inflicted immense suffering on the people of the region, while U.S. soldiers have borne the unbearable burden of sacrificing their lives in endless, misguided conflicts. We cannot allow this tragic history to repeat itself.

The threat of war with Iran has also dangerously diverted global attention from the ongoing atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank. While headlines shifted to Tehran, Palestinians in Gaza have continued to be killed, often while seeking humanitarian aid at distribution centers run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Starvation, displacement, and mass civilian casualties persist.

We urge the U.S. and the international community to immediately refocus their attention on ending the war on Gaza. The ceasefire between Iran and Israel must now be matched with a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Justice, security, and peace cannot be selectively applied. The lives of Palestinians matter, and the ongoing devastation in Gaza must not be normalized or ignored.

We call on the Trump administration to take bold steps to preserve peace, uphold international law, and support diplomatic efforts. Another way forward is possible, a path rooted in justice, accountability, human dignity, and peace.

---

###

*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 23, 2025: CMEP Calls for Protection of Syria's Christian Communities following a suicide attack on a Church in Damascus](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) mourns the devastating suicide bombing that took place at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Prophet Elias in Damascus, Syria, on June 23, 2025. We stand in deep solidarity with Syria's Christian community—our brothers and sisters in Christ—who have endured generations of hardship, especially over the past 14 years of war, displacement, and persecution. We lift our prayers for the victims and their families, and for the safety of all Christians in Syria who, despite enormous challenges, continue to courageously keep the faith alive in the very land where Jesus walked. The presence of the Christian community is a sacred and vital part of Syria's cultural and religious fabric. Christians and all minority groups must be protected.

**[Jun 13, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Condemns Israeli Strikes Against Iran and Urges De-escalation of Regional Aggression](#)**

CMEP condemns in the strongest possible terms Israel's recent attacks on Iran, including reported strikes near nuclear facilities and within civilian areas. These reckless and unlawful actions risk the lives of hundreds of millions of people across the Middle East and escalate the threat of a catastrophic regional war. We also call on Iran to cease its counterattacks against Israel. Military solutions are not the answer and will only cause more death, destruction, and harm. Such escalations not only cause civilian deaths but further destabilize the entire peace and security of the region.

**[Jun 5, 2025: CMEP Condemns and Abhors the Attack on Al-Ahli Hospital and Calls for Accountability and 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.

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

## Contact Us

Follow Us

### Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

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

**DONATE**

HOME

ABOUT

BLOG

EVENTS

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your  
Preferences](#)