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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement: CMEP Joins more than 200 Humanitarian Organizations in Condemning Israel's Militarized Aid Distribution Scheme in Gaza

July 8, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins more than 200 humanitarian organizations in calling for the immediate end to Israel's deadly, military-controlled aid distribution scheme in Gaza and the restoration of a unified, UN-led humanitarian coordination mechanism. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, now responsible for food delivery, has replaced 400 community-based distribution points with only four militarized sites, turning the desperate pursuit of food into a death sentence. Since the scheme's implementation, over 500 Palestinians have been killed and nearly 4,000 injured while simply trying to survive.

"This is not a humanitarian response," said the signatories in a joint statement. "Concentrating more than two million people into further confined areas for a chance to feed their families is not a plan to save lives."

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of CMEP, decried the horror of the current crisis: "What we are witnessing in Gaza is unconscionable. Starving families are being brutally killed at militarized food distribution sites. This system is not only a failure, it is a violation of international humanitarian law and a moral outrage. The international community must act immediately to end this man-made catastrophe and ensure that the people of Gaza are fed!"

You can read the full statement [here](https://cmeep.salsalabs.org/prjuly82025).

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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:

[July 1, 2025: CMEP Calls for Release of Unlawfully Detained Palestinian Medical Personnel](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins twenty four other civil society organizations in calling for the release of the unlawfully detained Palestinian medical workers in Gaza and the West Bank. This includes doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals working for international humanitarian organizations such as MedGlobal and Children Not Numbers.

[June 24, 2025: CMEP Welcomes Iran-Israel Ceasefire and Urges U.S. to Prevent Further Escalation; Calls for Immediate Focus on Ending the War in Gaza](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes the ceasefire between Iran and Israel and urges all parties, including the U.S., to ensure it holds and leads to long-term de-escalation. The U.S. attack on Iranian nuclear facilities was unlawful and reckless, bringing the region dangerously close to another devastating war. As we step back from the brink, the U.S. must now prioritize a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and renewed focus on ending the ongoing atrocities against the Palestinian people.

[June 23, 2025: CMEP Calls for Protection of Syria's Christian Communities following a suicide attack on the Church of the Prophet Elias in Damascus 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. CMEP stands in deep solidarity with Syria's Christian community and calls for the international community and the Syrian government to safeguard the rights and protections of all minorities in Syria.

[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](#).

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