
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Washington, D.C. - July 29,
2025**

Media Contact:

media@cmep.org

925-766-9050

**CMEP Statement: Churches for Middle East Peace
Condemns the Second Israeli Settler Attack on the
Christian Palestinian Town of Taybeh in a Month**

July 29, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) strongly condemns the renewed settler attack on the Christian village of Taybeh in the occupied West Bank on July 28, 2025, just three weeks after the July 7 arson attempt near the Church of Saint George. We affirm and elevate the powerful statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem and the Forum of Holy Land Christians, who have once again sounded the alarm about the ongoing campaign of settler violence, this time involving masked men torching cars and defacing property with hateful graffiti. These repeated assaults are not isolated incidents but part of a systematic effort to terrorize the last all-Christian town in the West Bank and drive Palestinian Christians from their ancestral homeland. [As CMEP stated](#) following the July 7 attack, this escalating violence threatens the future of Christianity in the Holy Land and demands an urgent response. CMEP's executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon exhorts churches and all people of good will

to not be silent, saying, “We must not only raise our voices in speaking out against these horrific attacks against Christians and the broader Christian community, but must also take actions to ensure that our brothers and sisters in Christ are able to live in peace alongside of their Muslim neighbors, who suffer the same oppressive policies of occupation and the consequences of unfettered settler violence by extremist Israelis.” Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) echoes the calls of the Christian leadership of the Holy Land for an international investigation, accountability for perpetrators and inciters alike, and immediate action from all who care about justice and peace.

You can read the statement by the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem [HERE](#) or below.

You can read the statement of the Forum of Holy Land Christians [HERE](#) or below.

You can read CMEP’s July 7th statement [HERE](#).



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM

Statement on the attack perpetrated in the Christian town of Taybeh Jerusalem, 29 July 2025

We, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, express our profound concern and unwavering condemnation following yet another violent assault that targeted the West Bank Christian town of Taybeh. Several vehicles were set ablaze, and hateful graffiti was sprayed—an unambiguous act of intimidation directed at a peaceful and faithful community rooted in the land of Christ.

This grievous incident is not an isolated occurrence. It forms part of an alarming pattern of settler violence against West Bank communities, including their homes, sacred spaces, and ways of life. Only days ago, settlers forcibly entered Taybeh, herding livestock into the heart of the town. Masked individuals—some armed, others on horseback—roamed the streets, spreading terror and threatening the sanctity of daily life. Fire reached the very walls of the ancient church, a living testament to the Christian faith's enduring presence in the Holy Land.

We regret that official Israeli police statements reduced the matter solely to property damage, omitting the broader context of systematic intimidation and abuse. These omissions distort the truth and fail to address violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the right to religious freedom and the protection of cultural heritage.

Of additional concern is the reactionary disinformation campaign by Israeli settler-affiliated groups, launched in response to recent diplomatic visits to Taybeh. Rather than addressing the grave violations occurring, these narratives seek to discredit victims and diminish the significance of international solidarity. Such distortions aim to deflect scrutiny and sanitize criminal conduct in violation of international norms.

We are gravely troubled by the prevailing climate of impunity, which undermines the rule of law and jeopardizes peaceful coexistence in the land of the Resurrection. The lack of accountability not only threatens Christian communities but also weakens the moral and legal foundations that uphold peace and justice for all.

We demand the Israeli government to act with moral clarity and commitment:

- To hold accountable those responsible for these crimes without delay;
- To ensure effective and consistent protection for the people of Taybeh and all vulnerable communities;
- To uphold its obligations under international law and guarantee equality before the law.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to the diplomatic missions and international partners who have visited Taybeh and stood in solidarity with its people. Your presence offers hope and moral strength. We urge you to continue your support. The aggression persists—and so must our united vigilance and prayer for peace rooted in justice.

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem



"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8: 32)

July 28, 2025

Condemnation and demand following terrorist attack on Taybeh

About 2:30 AM of today early morning, some masked men broke into the Palestinian Christian town of Taybeh, to the east of Ramallah, torched cars and sprayed hostile graffiti in Hebrew. This incident comes twenty days after some settlers broke into the town and set fire near the ancient Church of Saint George.

Thanks be to God, as in the previous incident, also in this case, nobody was hurt; though while fields were torched last time; this time cars were torched.

Unfortunately, these attacks come amid clear rise of settlers' violence across the West Bank, not only against Palestinians, but also, in some cases, even against the Israeli security systems!

While condemning this terrorist attack, we make three main demands:

First, there is a need for an in-depth investigation by a neutral international body.

Second, it is important to hold the terrorists accountable, since apology alone won't guarantee that such attacks won't be repeated in the future!

Third, it is not enough to act against the terrorists, but it is important to act also against those who incite them.

In the meantime, we encourage Palestinian Christians in specific and people of good will in general not to lose hope, since we are confident that the vast majority of those who live in the Holy Land, from all religions and denominations, want to live in peace, while respecting the right of each other to live in security and dignity in his/her homeland.

We urge all those who have some influence to act firmly before it is too late, since such incident contributes negatively not only for increased fears among Palestinian Christians, but also for reducing the belief in the chances for reconciliation and peace between Israelis and Palestinians, for which we continue to pray and work despite ALL challenges!

- The Forum of Holy Land Christians is a group of prominent Israeli Palestinian Christian personalities.

Christian personalities.

- For any inquiry, you may contact Mr. Wadie Abunassar, the Forum's Coordinator: 0544959450

###

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:

Jul 23, 2025: Joint Statement: As Mass Starvation Spreads Across Gaza, Our Colleagues and Those We Serve Are Wasting Away

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins more than 100 humanitarian and human rights organizations in sounding the alarm over the catastrophic starvation crisis in Gaza. This joint statement urges governments to take immediate and decisive action to end Israel's aid siege, open all land crossings, restore the full flow of humanitarian aid, and demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire. CMEP condemns the killings of Gazans seeking aid, of which the death toll now reaches 875. Immediate access to life-saving aid is imperative as children, the elderly, and the most vulnerable suffer from disease, malnutrition, and starvation. The ongoing, deliberate starvation of civilians amounts to an international war crime and elicits global moral outrage. This must end now.

July 17, 2025: CMEP Condemns Attack on Gaza's Holy Family Catholic Church, Calls for Immediate

Ceasefire and Protection of All Civilians and Religious Sites

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) denounces in the strongest possible terms the Israeli military attack today on the Holy Family Catholic Church in Gaza City, the only Catholic church in Gaza. The strike killed at least three civilians and caused extensive damage to the parish complex, which has been sheltering approximately 700 displaced civilians, mostly children, since the beginning of the war. This most recent attack marks the sixth assault on churches in Gaza since October 2023. Each of these attacks is in clear violation of international law, as humanitarian refuges and holy sites are both protected, and an attack on human dignity and freedom of worship.

July 16, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Condemns the Israeli Plan to Forcibly Relocate Palestinians to Camps in Rafah

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) rejects the Israeli government's plan to forcibly establish

humanitarian camps atop the ruins of the city of Rafah. This proposal would displace and confine more than 600,000 Palestinians, restricting their freedom of movement and removing them from Gaza. Forced displacement is a clear violation of international law. CMEP calls upon the global church, the international community, and the U.S. government to hold the Israeli government accountable and stop the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

July 15, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Condemns the Killing of Palestinian-American Sayfollah Musallet

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns the violent July 11, 2025 settler attack in the West Bank. Tragically, Sayfollah Musallet, a 20-year-old Palestinian American, and Mohammad Shalabi, a 23-year-old Palestinian were brutally killed. This deadly settler attack is not an isolated incident. Attacks in the West Bank have only been increasing, leading to the deaths of at least 7 American citizens.

CMEP demands accountability, justice, and the immediate launch of an investigation by the American government.

July 14, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Elevates Statement by the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem Regarding the Latest Settler Attack on Taybeh

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) elevates the recent statement made by the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem condemning the latest settler attack against the Christian community of Taybeh. We mourn the lives lost and the homes and churches burned.

Intimidation and violence against Christian communities in the Holy Land has been steadily increasing due to intensified Israeli efforts to establish settlements. CMEP urges the international community to act against these atrocities and support the continued presence of Christians in the Holy Land.

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

Contact Us

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

110 Maryland Ave NE,
Suite 505

Washington, District of
Columbia 20002

(202) 543-1222

info@cmep.org

Follow Us

DONATE

HOME

ABOUT

BLOG

EVENTS

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