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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Condemns the Killing of
Palestinian-American Sayfollah Musallet**

July 15, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns the brutal settler attack in the West Bank on July 11, 2025 where Sayfollah “Saif” Musallet, a 20-year-old Palestinian-American, was beaten to death, and Mohammad Shalabi, a 23-year old Palestinian was fatally shot. Saif was in the village of al-Mazra’a ash-Sharqiya visiting family and defending his ancestral land when he was assaulted. Israeli settlers reportedly also attacked the ambulance that was dispatched to save him, delaying medical care for several hours and ultimately contributing to his death.

This tragic killing is not an isolated incident; it is part of a larger and alarming pattern of settler violence carried out with impunity and often with the complicity of Israeli security forces. Since the start of the war in Gaza in October 2023, at least seven American citizens have been killed in the West Bank. In every case, there has been a complete absence of accountability or justice. These fatal attacks on U.S. citizens demand immediate and decisive action from the United States government.

CMEP calls on the U.S. State Department to launch a thorough and transparent investigation into Saif’s death and to ensure that all Americans can travel safely throughout the West Bank. We further urge the Trump administration and Congress to reexamine U.S. funding and military aid to Israel, which enables the militarization of settler groups and fuels a system of violence and occupation.

American taxpayers must not be made complicit in these human rights abuses and pay for the very guns that are turned against them.

Saif's death is a heartbreaking reminder of the growing danger facing Palestinians, including U.S. citizens, in the occupied territories. We grieve with his family, demand justice in his name, and call on all people of faith to raise their voices against this injustice and to pray for peace rooted in dignity, accountability, and equal rights for all.

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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 14, 2025: 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.

[July 9, 2025: CMEP Condemns the Israeli Settler Attack Against the Palestinian Christian Village of Taybeh](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns the most recent attack by Israeli settlers on the Palestinian Christian village of Taybeh, where on July 7, 2025, settlers deliberately set fire near the town cemetery and the historic Church of Saint George, dating back to the 5th century. This violent act, thwarted only by the intervention of local residents and firefighters, is part of what local Christian clergy describe as “a series of dangerous, systematic attacks” against the village’s land, holy sites, and people. Taybeh, historically known as Ephraim, is the last entirely Christian town in the West

Bank, and these assaults represent not only a grave threat to its security but a direct effort to undermine the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

July 8, 2025: CMEP Joins more than 200 Humanitarian Organizations in Condemning Israel's Militarized Aid Distribution Scheme in Gaza

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.

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.

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

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