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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement: 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

July 14, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) elevates and stands in full support of the recent statement by the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem, mourning the latest attack in Taybeh and calling attention to the increasing pattern of violence and intimidation against Christian communities throughout the Holy Land. The desecration of sacred land, destruction of farmland, and repeated harassment of residents in Taybeh are not isolated incidents, but part of a broader, systematic campaign of erasure. CMEP condemns these targeted attacks and the impunity with which Israeli settlers act, often with the knowledge or complicity of Israeli authorities. We echo the call for international action, accountability, and protection. In the face of this violence, we urge Christians around the world to lift their voices in prayer and advocacy for the Christian community of Taybeh and all those seeking peace, safety, and dignity in the land where our faith began. Last week, CMEP issued its own statement about the recent settler attack on Taybeh, you can read it [here](#).

You can read the full statement by the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem below:



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM

We, the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem, are here today in Taybeh in solidarity with the local community following an intensifying trend of systemic and targeted attacks against them and their presence. We ask for the prayers, attention, **and action** of the world, particularly that of Christians globally.

On Monday, 7 July 2025, radical Israelis from nearby settlements intentionally set fire near the town's cemetery and the Church of Saint George, which dates back to the 5th century. Taybeh is the last remaining all-Christian town in the West Bank. These actions are a direct and intentional threat to our local community first and foremost, but also to the historic and religious heritage of our ancestors and holy sites. In the face of such threats, the greatest act of bravery is to continue to call this your home. We stand with you, we support your resilience, and you have our prayers.

We give thanks for the local residents and firefighters for extinguishing the fire before our holy sites were destroyed, but we join voices with the local priests - Greek Orthodox, Latin, and Melkite Greek Catholic - issuing a clear plea for support in the face of repeated, systematic attacks from these radicals, which are only growing more frequent.

In recent months, the radicals have led their cattle to graze on the farms of Christians on the east side of Taybeh - the agricultural area - rendering them inaccessible at best but at worst damaging the olive groves that families depend on. Last month, several homes were attacked by these radicals, lighting fires and erecting a billboard that said, translated into English, "there is no future for you here".

The Church has had a faithful presence in this region for nearly 2,000 years. We firmly reject this message of exclusion and reaffirm our commitment to a Holy Land that is a mosaic of different faiths, living peacefully together in dignity and safety.

The Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches calls for these radicals to be held accountable by the Israeli authorities, who facilitate and enable their presence around Taybeh. Even in times of war, sacred places must be protected. We call for an immediate and transparent investigation into why the Israeli police did not respond to emergency calls from the local community and why these abhorrent actions continue to go unpunished.

The attacks by the hands of settlers against our community, which is living in peace, must stop, both here in Taybeh and elsewhere throughout the West Bank. This is clearly part of the systematic attacks against Christians that we see unfolding throughout the region.

Furthermore, we ask diplomats, politicians, and church officials worldwide to provide a prayerful and outspoken voice for our ecumenical community in Taybeh, that their presence may be secured and that they can live in peace to worship freely, grow crops without danger, and live in a peace that seems to be in far too short of supply.

We join our fellow clergy in Taybeh in reiterating this of hope in the face of a persistent threat: "truth and justice will ultimately prevail". And we recall the words of the Prophet Amos, which become our prayer

during this challenging time: "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream".

Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem.

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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 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.

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.

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

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