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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Statement on UN Declaration of Famine in Gaza

August 25, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) laments the famine conditions in Gaza and uplifts the [UN official declaration of famine](#) announced on Friday, August 22, 2025. This is not a natural disaster; this famine is entirely man-made. It is the direct result of the Israeli government's systematic restriction of humanitarian aid, a policy that amounts to the deliberate starvation of a civilian population. Friday's famine confirmation shows the world has failed to act.

Hundreds of tons of humanitarian aid are sitting just across the Rafah border, poised to flood Gaza with desperately needed food and medicine, yet are blocked from reaching those who need it most. This is a moral outrage, an affront to God, and a violation of everything humanity holds sacred. The democratic governments of the world have failed. The international institutions charged with protecting human life have failed. There can be no more condemnations without action, the time to act is now.

CMEP calls on the global community to take proper and immediate action. This must include urgent pressure, including the complete halting of arms sales to the State of Israel until it ends its destructive policies, lifts its restrictions on humanitarian aid, and agrees to a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Anything less is complicity in mass starvation.

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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:

[Aug 19, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace Calls for the Safeguarding of Healthcare Facilities Following Attacks on Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City](#)

CMEP stands in solidarity with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem following the horrific attacks on Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City by “local outlaw bands” and an Israeli drone strike, which resulted in 7 casualties. CMEP affirms that healthcare facilities must be protected as areas of refuge and decries Israel’s systemic targeting of these facilities. The international community must act decisively to uphold the sanctity of healthcare in Gaza.

[Aug 14, 2025: Joint Statement: Gaza: Israel threatens to ban major aid organizations as starvation deepens](#)

Together with more than 100 organizations, CMEP is calling for an end to Israel’s weaponization of aid. Despite claims by Israeli authorities that there is no limit on humanitarian aid entering Gaza, most major international NGOs have been unable to deliver a single truck of lifesaving supplies since 2 March.

[Aug 12, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace Opposes the Israeli Plan to Occupy Gaza City](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) strongly condemns reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is advancing plans for a full military takeover of Gaza City. Such an operation would deepen an already unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, devastate what remains of civilian life in northern Gaza, and place the remaining hostages in grave danger.

[Jul 29, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace Condemns the Second Israeli Settler Attack on the Christian Palestinian Town of Taybeh in a Month](#)

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.

[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.

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

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