



**WORKING TOGETHER:**  
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is  
Possible.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Washington, D.C. - August 27, 2025**

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#### **Churches for Middle East Peace Elevates the Joint Statement by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem**

August 27, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace affirms the joint statement from the Greek Orthodox and Latin Patriarchates of Jerusalem as a cry from the heart of the Christian community in the Holy Land, a prophetic voice of truth spoken amid unbearable suffering. Their words remind us that what is unfolding in Gaza is not an abstraction, but the lived reality of hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children, including the faithful who have sought refuge within the very walls of the Church. The Patriarchates' declaration that there can be "no future based on captivity, displacement of Palestinians or revenge" is both a moral compass and a summons to the global conscience.

At a time when governments and institutions have failed to protect the vulnerable, the Patriarchs stand as witnesses, echoing the Gospel's call to uphold the dignity of every human person. Their refusal to abandon the most fragile, the elderly, the disabled, the malnourished, the displaced, is a testimony to faith that does not flee from suffering but remains steadfast in solidarity. Their appeal is clear: this war must end, forced displacement must cease, and the international community must act. To ignore their voice is to turn away not only from the people of Gaza but from God's own command to choose life, justice, and peace.

You can read CMEP's Statement on the Israeli Plan for Gaza City [HERE](https://cmep.salsalabs.org/st-aug272025).

CMEP also released a joint statement with 20 other Church based organizations, urging the reversal of the Israeli invasion that can be read [HERE](#).

You can read the Joint Statement by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem [HERE](#) or below.

**Joint Statement by  
the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem  
and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem**

**Jerusalem August 26th, 2025**

*"In the path of righteousness there is life, in walking its path there is no death" (Proverbs 12,28).*

A few weeks ago, the Israeli government announced its decision to take control of Gaza City. In recent days, the media have repeatedly reported a massive military mobilization and preparations for an imminent offensive. The same reports indicate that the population of Gaza City, where hundreds of thousands of civilians live — and where our Christian community is located — is to be evacuated and relocated to the south of the Strip. At the time of this statement, evacuation orders were already in place for several neighborhoods in Gaza City. Reports of heavy bombardment continue to be received. There is more destruction and death in a situation that was already dramatic before this operation. It seems that the Israeli government's announcement that "the gates of hell will open" is indeed taking on tragic forms. The experience of past campaigns in Gaza, the declared intentions of the Israeli government with regard to the current operation, and the reports now reaching us from the ground, show that the operation is not just a threat, but a reality that is already in the process of being implemented.

Since the outbreak of the war, the Greek Orthodox compound of Saint Porphyrius and the Holy Family compound have been a refuge for hundreds of civilians. Among them are elderly people, women, and children. In the Latin compound we are hosting since many years people with disabilities, who are under the care of the Sisters Missionaries of Charity. Like other residents of Gaza City, the refugees living in the facilities will have to decide according to their conscience what they will do. Among those who have sought shelter within the walls of the compounds, many are weakened and malnourished due to the hardships of the last months. Leaving Gaza City and trying to flee to the south would be nothing less than a death sentence. For this reason, the clergy and nuns have decided to remain and continue to care for all those who will be in the compounds.

We do not know exactly what will happen on the ground, not only for our community, but for the entire population. We can only repeat what we have already said: There can be no future based on captivity, displacement of Palestinians or revenge. We echo what Pope Leo XIV said a few days ago: *"All peoples, even the smallest and weakest, must be respected by the powerful in their identity and rights, especially the right to live in their own lands; and no one can force them into exile."* (Address to the group of refugees from Chagos, 23.8.2025).

This is not the right way. There is no reason to justify the deliberate and forcible mass displacement of civilians.

It is time to end this spiral of violence, to put an end to war and to prioritize the common good of the people. There has been enough devastation, in the territories and in people's lives. There is no reason to justify keeping civilians as prisoners and hostages in dramatic conditions. It is now time for the healing of the long-suffering families on all sides.

With equal urgency, we appeal to the international community to act for an end of this senseless and destructive war, and for the return of the missing people and the Israeli hostages.

*"In the path of righteousness there is life, in walking its path there is no death" (Proverbs 12,28).* Let us pray that all our hearts may be converted, so that we may walk in the paths of justice and life, for Gaza and for the whole Holy Land.

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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.*

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Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

**[Aug 26, 2025 Joint Statement: The Latest Planned Israeli Military Offensive in Gaza City Must Be Halted](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joined twenty church-based organizations in calling for Israel to halt its planned military offensive in Gaza City. With famine already declared in Gaza, further military operations will only cause further suffering and death for a civilian population without anywhere else to go. As the letter reads, “this displacement will result in a modern-day death march that is clearly intended to ethnically cleanse half of the Gaza Strip and compress all of Gaza’s population into a tiny sliver of territory incapable of sustaining life.” The letter calls on all parties, including the United States, to use all leverage available to call upon the Israeli government to reverse its plans for a military offensive in Gaza City and to instead pursue a durable and lasting ceasefire.

**[Aug 25, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Statement on UN Declaration of Famine in Gaza](#)**

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.

**[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.

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

## Contact Us

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