



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CMEP Condemns the Jerusalem attack by Hamas and the Israeli attack on Qatar as further escalations in the ongoing Israel/Hamas War

September 15, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is appalled by the alarming escalation of violence across the Middle East over the past week in the ongoing battle between Israel and Hamas. Civilians pay the highest price, including in the most recent attack at a bus stop in Jerusalem on September 8th that killed six people and injured many others, a tragedy we unequivocally condemn. The violence must stop, and the ongoing killing must be brought to an end. The cycle of brutality continues to devastate lives, fueling greater insecurity and suffering for all.

In Gaza, the ongoing ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people, which experts around the world have called [genocide](#), includes ongoing massacres and indiscriminate bombardments by the Israeli military that continue to claim the lives of countless Palestinian civilians, deepening an already unbearable humanitarian crisis. The minimum number of those killed has now exceeded [64,600 people](#). In the West Bank, violent settler pogroms against Palestinian communities sow fear, destruction, and further injustice. And most recently, Israeli airstrikes on Qatari soil targeted members of Hamas's negotiating team, striking at the very heart of fragile diplomatic efforts. Such an assault represents a grave violation of Qatar's sovereignty, a nation that has been central in brokering talks aimed at ending this devastating war.

CMEP affirms that violence begets violence and that military escalation, terrorism, and repression will never deliver peace or security. Only diplomacy, rooted in justice and accountability, can bring an end to this war and the suffering it continues to inflict.

The futures of Palestinians and Israelis are inextricably linked. The ongoing suffering and oppression of Palestinians must be brought to an end for Israelis to be free from fear of violence. Palestinians must be delivered from decades of brutal military occupation and other restrictions on their human rights. A sustainable peace requires an immediate ceasefire, the resumption of serious negotiations, and a pathway toward a viable political solution that guarantees security, dignity, and freedom for all who call the land home.

CMEP calls on the international community to intensify diplomatic efforts, press all parties to end all violence, and commit to a future in which all people in the land - including Palestinians and Israelis - can flourish.

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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:

[Sep 12, 2025: Joint Statement: “A Death Sentence” – Aid Agencies Warn of Israel’s Assault on Gaza City](#)

45 Humanitarian and civil society organizations warn that Israel’s assault on Gaza City amounts to a death sentence. Intensified Israeli military attacks on Gaza City and forced displacement orders for the entire city are leaving families with an impossible dilemma: flee and risk death on the road and in overcrowded displacement areas, or stay and face relentless bombardment in their shelters.

[Aug 27, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace Elevates the Joint Statement by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem](#)

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.

[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.

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

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