



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

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C. - October 3, 2025**

**Media Contact:**

[media@cmep.org](mailto:media@cmep.org)

(202) 543-1222

### **CMEP Condemns the Attacks Against the Sumud Gaza Flotilla**

October 3, 2025, Washington D.C.- On the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and the International Day of Nonviolence, the Global Sumud Flotilla, consisting of nearly 50 ships and 500 people from 44 countries, set sail to deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people and to call for an end to the brutal siege of Gaza. This peaceful initiative has been met with violent aggression, as Israeli forces have now attacked the flotilla and arrested hundreds of activists in international waters.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns these attacks as both illegal and immoral. Targeting humanitarian aid vessels is a grave violation of international law and an affront to the principles of human dignity and nonviolence. We call on all governments, including the United States, to urgently act and communicate to Israeli authorities that:

Israeli attacks on humanitarian boats seeking to break the siege constitute war crimes. Under international humanitarian law, civilian and humanitarian missions must be protected, and deliberately targeting those carrying aid is a criminal act that violates the most basic norms of justice.

All those detained, as well as the ships and humanitarian supplies, must be released without delay. Arresting peaceful activists, seizing their vessels, and withholding aid destined for desperate civilians in Gaza is unlawful and morally indefensible. Immediate release is essential to prevent further injustice.

The siege of Gaza and the nearly two years of massacres against its people must end immediately. For almost two decades, the blockade has deprived Palestinians in Gaza of freedom of movement, access to essential goods, and fundamental human rights. The international community must act now to bring this collective punishment to an end and to protect the lives and dignity of the Palestinian people, and to protect the rights of all people in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

As people of faith committed to peace and justice, we urge the international community to uphold the principles of nonviolence, protect those bringing aid, and take immediate action to end the suffering in Gaza by calling for a comprehensive permanent ceasefire that includes a release of all hostages and those held unjustly in Palestinian prisons, supporting unfettered access to aid and humanitarian assistance, and addressing the root causes of decades of violence and atrocities.

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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:

**[Sep 30, 2025: CMEP Echoes Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem on Armenian Patriarchate Foreclosure Threat](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the call of Jerusalem's church leaders and stands in solidarity with the Armenian Patriarchate. The renewed foreclosure threat is a direct challenge to the centuries-old Status Quo that safeguards Christian communities in the Holy Land and risks undermining Jerusalem's religious diversity and heritage.

**[Sep 18, 2025: CMEP Statement on the Freezing of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem's Bank Accounts](#)**

On August 6, 2025, the Jerusalem Municipality froze the bank accounts of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This action is deeply troubling, both in its immediate impact and in its broader implications. It constitutes a direct violation of the historic Status Quo that has governed Jerusalem for centuries and threatens the ability of the Churches to provide vital spiritual, educational, charitable, and social services to their communities.

### **Sep 15, 2025: CMEP Condemns the Jerusalem attack by Hamas and the Israeli attack on Qatar as further escalations in the ongoing Israel/Hamas War**

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. 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.

### **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.

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

## **Contact Us**

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### **Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)**

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 505

Washington, District of Columbia 20002

(202) 543-1222 [info@cmepe.org](mailto:info@cmepe.org)

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