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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CMEP Welcomes Ceasefire Implementation with Cautious Hope and Calls for a Permanent End to the War on Gaza

October 9, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes the implementation of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas with cautious optimism. After nearly two years of relentless warfare, widespread destruction, and devastating loss of life, we pray this agreement marks a turning point toward peace, justice, and healing for all who call the Holy Land home.

We welcome the news of the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, the pullback of Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) from parts of Gaza, and the renewed entry of humanitarian aid and UN relief operations. These developments offer a long-awaited lifeline to the people of Gaza, who continue to face catastrophic levels of hunger, preventable disease, and medical shortages. The immediate priority must be to avert famine, restore clean water access, and ensure adequate medical supplies, especially for those with injuries, chronic health conditions, and newborns dependent on incubators and other lifesaving care.

Yet we know this plan will not bring true and lasting peace and self-determination to the Palestinian people. More work needs to be done to ensure the root causes of the occupation are addressed in order to pave the way for a comprehensive peace. This ceasefire deal cannot act as a political cover that shields or distracts from the continued ethnic cleansing and illegal settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank. It must act as a catalyst to halt these damaging acts and lead to a comprehensive solution that upholds the dignity and safety of all Palestinian people.

CMEP urges all parties to respect and uphold the ceasefire agreement fully. Once the initial phase is completed, we call for the full implementation of subsequent stages, including a permanent cessation of hostilities, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, the establishment of a Palestinian-led civil administration, and the launch of reconstruction and rebuilding efforts.

The United States and the broader international community must apply sustained diplomatic pressure on Israel to honor the ceasefire and prevent a repeat of previous unilateral violations. Pressure should also be applied to Hamas and other militants to end all violence and commit to peace. We recall with deep concern the repeated breakdowns of ceasefires in Gaza and continued ceasefire violations in Lebanon, including Israel's unilateral breach in March, which derailed the previous negotiation process.

This ceasefire must not be a temporary pause before renewed violence; it must be the beginning of the end of this war, which must end swiftly. CMEP calls on global leaders and people of faith to ensure this truce paves the way for a durable political solution, one that upholds the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, guarantees security and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians alike, and fosters a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East.

As followers of Christ, we affirm that every human life bears the image of God. We mourn the immeasurable suffering of the past two years and pray this moment of fragile peace becomes the foundation for restoration, justice, and hope for generations to come.

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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:

[Oct 8, 2025: Churches Unite to Say: "Let Children Live" New campaign calls Christians worldwide to pray for and protect Palestinian children](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) has launched Let Children Live, a growing international campaign calling Christians to pray for and protect Palestinian children. Partnering with denominations, congregations, and faith-based organizations, the campaign invites churches to lift

up Palestinian children by name, affirming their God-given dignity and right to live, dream, and thrive. Already embraced by over 200 churches and organizations, Let Children Live unites believers across traditions in a shared cry for compassion and justice.

Oct 3, 2025: CMEP Condemns the Attacks Against the Sumud Gaza Flotilla

The Global Sumud Flotilla, nearly 50 ships carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza, has been violently attacked by Israeli forces in international waters, with hundreds of peaceful activists arrested. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns these illegal assaults, calls for the immediate release of all detainees and aid, and urges an end to the siege and ongoing massacres in Gaza.

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.

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

Contact Us

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