



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Welcomes Implementation of the Peace Deal, the Release of Hostages, and the Exchange of Detainees

October 13, 2025, Washington D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes the news that hostages and Palestinian prisoners are being released as part of the current ceasefire agreement. Since the tragic events of October 7, 2023, CMEP has called daily for the release of all hostages and prisoners held without due process, an end to the violence, and a commitment to protecting every human life. We acknowledge this development as a positive step in the right direction and as a sign that progress toward peace remains possible, even in the midst of immense suffering. We celebrate alongside families reunited who have longed to have their loved ones home.

We urge all parties to honor the full terms of the ceasefire agreement, including the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid, the cessation of hostilities, and the protection of civilians in Gaza and Israel alike. Every effort must be made to prevent further bloodshed and to ensure that this fragile moment of calm becomes a foundation for lasting peace, justice, and security for all.

CMEP also welcomes the convening of the peace forum in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, and is encouraged by the broad participation of nations and partners working toward a peaceful and just future for Israelis and Palestinians. The engagement of the international community is essential to fostering a durable resolution to this devastating conflict and to addressing the root causes of the occupation that has prevented reaching a sustainable and lasting peace.

We continue to pray for all who are suffering and for courageous leadership, among governments, faith leaders, and civil society, that can turn this moment of fragile hope into a sustained journey

toward peace and reconciliation.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

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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 10, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Launches Armenian Advisory Council at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) proudly announces the launch of its Armenian Advisory Council, inaugurated on September 16, 2025, at the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York City. The launch event, titled “From Ararat to the World,” brought together church leaders, ecumenical representatives, and members of the Armenian-American community for an evening of fellowship, cultural celebration, and shared commitment to justice and peace.

[Oct 9, 2025: CMEP Welcomes Ceasefire Implementation with Cautious Hope and Calls for a Permanent End to the War on Gaza](#)

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.

[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.

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

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