

WORKING TOGETHER:

Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is Possible.

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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) upon the Release of Kairos Palestine 2

November 17, 2025, Washington, D.C.-

If one member [of the body] suffers, all suffer together. (1 Corinthians 12:26).

The Scriptures remind the Church that our lives are bound together - and thus, we must live in costly solidarity, supporting and sacrificing for one another. When our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters cry out from the depths of suffering, we are called not to turn away, but to listen, lament, repent, and take action in response.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) acknowledges the release of Kairos Palestine 2 as a profound theological testimony written in the rubble of Gaza, in the dust of demolished homes, in the tears of mothers, and in the refugee camps of Palestine. It is a theology of the cross, born of suffering, endurance, and deep faith, yet also a theology of hope: faith and love from the heart of suffering.

As we receive this new Kairos Document, we do so with humility and sobriety. We hear the pain, the longing for liberation, and the steadfast conviction that justice and peace are aligned with God's purposes for the holy land. We also recognize that Kairos Palestine 2 challenges all of us, especially churches and Christians in the West, to confront unjust systems that deny human liberty and freedom.

In this moment, CMEP acknowledges our own moral failures. We repent of the silence, the inaction, and the complicity that have contributed to the suffering of the Palestinian people. We confess the ways American policy, Western power, and segments of the global Church, including our own communities, have enabled oppression, displacement, discrimination, and the ongoing devastation in Gaza and the West Bank. With God's help, we commit ourselves to a path of repentance, repair, and renewed solidarity.

CMEP affirms the right of the Palestinian people to freedom, justice, equality, and self-determination. We support their calls for liberation and for the restoration of dignity to all who have endured decades of occupation and dispossession. We also hear the urgency of this clarion call after decades of ethnic cleansing and more than two years of what many experts around the world have called genocide. We hear, in the witness of Kairos Palestine 2, the biblical vision of a future in which "mercy and truth meet, and righteousness and peace kiss" (Psalm 85:10). This is a vision we long for, a vision of a land where all people live in security, justice, and peace.

We therefore commit to a season of reflection, prayer, and discernment as we continue engaging the text of Kairos Palestine 2. We will listen deeply to our Palestinian Christian partners, wrestle with the challenges it presents, and allow its message to shape our advocacy, our conversations, and our witness. Guided by our faith, we will work to dismantle structures that perpetuate violence and inequality, and we will labor for a future rooted in justice, healing, and the flourishing of all who call the land holy.

May Christ, who meets us in suffering, lead us toward courageous love, truthful repentance, and the costly solidarity to which the gospel calls us.

You can read the full Kairos Palestine Release HERE.

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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:

Nov 12, 2025: Joint Statement by U.S. Organizations concerning the potential inclusion of Azerbaijan in the planned International Security Force for Gaza

We, the below-listed U.S. nongovernmental organizations are deeply concerned by media reports that the International Security Force (ISF) planned for Gaza under President Trump's 20-Point Plan may include a military contingent from Azerbaijan, and urge the United States and other partners to reject such a presence. International third party security or peacekeeping forces can be an important element of post-conflict stabilization, but as the performance of certain militaries operating under the MONUSCO mission in Congo and the MINUSTAH mission in Haiti demonstrate, it is vital that such forces bring both impartiality and a track record of respect for human rights.

Nov 4, 2025: 2025 Multi-Faith Global Letter

We, leaders representing Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, come together united by the profound belief that all human beings are created in the image of God. In this conviction, we affirm the inherent dignity, equality, and worth of every person, regardless of religion, nationality, or ethnicity. This belief calls us to speak with urgency, compassion, and moral clarity in response to the ongoing devastation in Gaza and the broader Middle East.

Nov 4, 2025: CMEP's Cover Letter to the 2025 Multi-Faith Global Letter

Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Leaders Demand Intervention, Accountability, an End to the Atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, and an End to All Violence.

Oct 20, 2025: Joint Statement: US Sanctions on Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Erodes International Law

As organizations committed to civil society and open civic space, we, the undersigned, are gravely concerned by the U.S. government's (USG) decision to impose sanctions under Executive Order (EO) 14203 against three leading Palestinian human rights organizations — Al-Haq: Law in the Service of Man (Al-Haq), Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al-Mezan), and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) — for engaging with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to seek investigations into war crimes committed by Israel in Gaza. These sanctions create a chilling effect on humanitarian and human rights work in Gaza and undermine the abilities of civil society actors to pursue accountability under international law.

Oct 14, 2025: CMEP is deeply honored to be named the 2025 recipient of the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Award by 21Wilberforce

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is deeply honored to be named the 2025 recipient of the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Award by 21Wilberforce. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Wissam al-Saliby and the 21Wilberforce Forum for this recognition of CMEP's commitment to advancing peace and protecting religious freedom in the Middle East.

See all of our <u>public statements</u> and <u>press releases</u>.

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