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Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. - December 15, 2025

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Public Statement: CMEP Statement on the Terrorist Attack at Bondi Beach

December 15, 2025, Washington, D.C.- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem in strongly condemning the horrific terrorist attack at Bondi Beach in Australia, which targeted the Jewish community on the first night of Hanukkah. We echo their unequivocal rejection of this violence and stand in deep solidarity with the Jewish community in Australia and across the world.

On Hanukkah, a night meant to celebrate light, resilience, and faith, violence sought to instill fear and darkness. Our hearts grieve for the victims, for those fighting for their lives, and for families and communities now bearing profound loss and trauma.

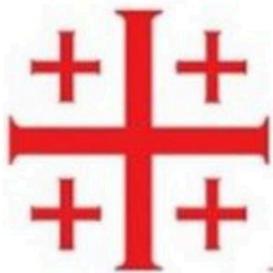
CMEP affirms, alongside the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem, that respect for the dignity and sanctity of every innocent human life is a shared conviction of all the Children of Abraham. Yet respect alone is not enough. We are called to stand with and protect one another in moments of danger and vulnerability. We therefore also lift up and honor the courageous actions of Ahmed al Ahmed who wrestled the gun from one of the attackers and thereby saved countless lives.

We pray for healing for the wounded, strength for medical professionals, and comfort for those mourning lives lost. We also pray that the people of New South Wales and all Australians respond with compassion, unity, and support for the Jewish community.

In a world too often fractured by hatred and fear, CMEP recommits itself to the work of interfaith solidarity, the rejection of antisemitism and all forms of religiously motivated violence, and the

pursuit of a future where all people can worship freely and live in peace.

You can find the full statement by the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem below and [HERE](#).



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.” Psalm 38:18

The Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches strongly condemn the attack at Bondi Beach in Australia, which targeted the local Jewish community on the first night of Hanukkah.

Moreover, our hearts break for the victims and the Jewish community in New South Wales, whose festival of light has now been shrouded in violence.

God commands us to respect all innocent human beings-this is a belief shared by all the Children of Abraham the father of the prophets. We must also move beyond respect, as we are called to seek out ways to help one another. We

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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:

[Dec 12, 2025: Humanitarian Snapshot 13 Reveals Dire Post-Ceasefire Conditions in Gaza and the West Bank](#)

Humanitarian Snapshot 13 exposes the grim realities facing Palestinians in the wake of the recent ceasefire deal. Drawing on testimonies from 45 NGOs and signed by more than two dozen leading aid and humanitarian organizations, the report documents ongoing Israeli obstruction of life-saving assistance, the deepening hardship on already-devastated communities, and the continued pattern of Israeli airstrikes despite the ceasefire framework. It also chronicles a sharp escalation of violence by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank, underscoring the widening crisis across the occupied territories. This snapshot offers an urgent, evidence-based call for action to protect civilians, ensure unfettered humanitarian access, and confront the structural violence driving this humanitarian emergency.

[Dec 10, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Elevates the Findings of the “Protecting Holy Land Christians” Report](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes and affirms the newly released Protecting Holy Land Christians report and its urgent call to safeguard the Christian presence in the Holy Land. We stand in deep solidarity with our sisters and brothers whose testimonies fill these pages, and we bear witness to the daily realities facing Christian communities, churches, and institutions across Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

[Dec 9, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Calls for Respect of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and Recognition of its Independence from Government Interference](#)

In light of the Church’s historic and ongoing role, CMEP urges full respect for the Armenian Apostolic Church’s independence and internal governance vis-à-vis the Armenian State. Matters concerning the election of the Catholicos of All Armenians or the discipline of clergy should remain within the Church’s own canonical processes, free from external interference and secular political influences and interventions.

[Nov 17, 2025: Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) upon the Release of Kairos Palestine 2](#)

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.

[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.

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

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