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Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

media@cmeep.org

Public Statement: CMEP Supports the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches' Appeal for Children with Cancer in Gaza

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) elevates and stands in solidarity with the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem in their statement of Support for the Work of Augusta Victoria Hospital in Treating Children with Cancer from Gaza.

We echo their urgent humanitarian appeal to the relevant Israeli authorities to grant permits allowing children in Gaza diagnosed with leukemia to travel to Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives for life-saving, specialized treatment that is unavailable in Gaza. These are young and vulnerable patients whose survival depends on timely access to care. Delays in treatment for childhood cancer can mean the difference between life and death.

Augusta Victoria Hospital has made clear its readiness to provide comprehensive care, arranging transportation, delivering full treatment, and ensuring the safe return of these children to their families in Gaza once treatment is complete, at no cost to the government. This request is grounded solely in

humanitarian concern and medical necessity. It is a moral appeal rooted in the sanctity of life and the shared responsibility to protect children, especially in times of war.

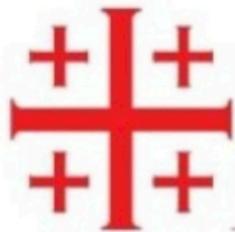
CMEP joins the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in urging swift approval of permits so that these children can begin their journeys toward healing and health without further delay. The international community must not allow bureaucratic obstacles to stand in the way of medically necessary care for children.

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace, stated: “This Advent, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) has been mobilizing churches and individual Christians around the global [#LetChildrenLive Campaign](#). What could be more important than children having unfettered access to health care for their basic needs to be met? We are working with the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem to advocate for children in Gaza to be able to receive permits and necessary travel permissions to be treated at Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. Please join us in prayer, advocacy, and support.”

During this sacred season of Advent, as Christians await the coming of the Christ child, CMEP calls on governments, faith leaders, and people of conscience to act with compassion and urgency. Children must never be denied life-saving medical care. Granting these permits is a concrete, immediate step that can save lives and affirm our shared humanity.

CMEP remains committed to advocating alongside the churches of Jerusalem for the protection of children, the dignity of all people, and unimpeded access to humanitarian and medical care for those in greatest need.

You can read the full statement by the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches [HERE](#) and below:



**PATRIARCHS AND HEADS
OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM**

Statement of Support for the Work of Augusta Victoria Hospital in Treating Children with Cancer from Gaza

December 17, 2025

We, the Patriarchs and Head of the Churches Jerusalem, respectfully request from the relevant Israeli authorities permits to allow children in Gaza who have been diagnosed with leukemia to travel to the Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives to receive specialized treatment that is only available to them there.

Augusta Victoria is prepared to arrange for not only the transportation, but also the full care and treatment of these young and vulnerable patients, who will then be returned by the hospital to their homes in Gaza at the end of their treatment.

We make this appeal on humanitarian grounds. The treatment for this disease is not available in Gaza, and it has the potential to transform the lives of those afflicted with it. There will be no burden on the government for any cost, since it will all be borne by the hospital.

We urge permission for the treatment of these young patients to be granted as soon as possible. As with any disease, the swift delivery of treatment is essential for a good outcome. We therefore hope very much that the responsible authorities will see fit that these patients receive the medically necessary care that the excellent facilities of Augusta Victoria Hospital can provide, in order that these children can begin their journeys to recovery and health.

—The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem

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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 17, 2025: [Press Release: UNRWA USA Leads 104 Organizations Urging Trump Administration to Include UNRWA in Gaza's Recovery](#)

UNRWA USA National Committee (UNRWA USA) led a national coalition of 104 civil society organizations, including Churches for Middle East Peace, to urge the Trump Administration to include the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in its plans for Gaza's recovery. In a joint letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, refugee, human rights, and humanitarian organizations called on the Trump Administration "to re-open lines of communication with UNRWA and allow the Agency to continue fulfilling its mandate in accordance with international humanitarian principles, until a just and lasting solution to the plight of Palestine refugees is secured."

December 15, 2025: [Public Statement: CMEP Condemns the Terrorist Attack at Bondi Beach](#)

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.

Dec 12, 2025: Press Release: [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.

December 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.

December 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.

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

Contact Us

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 505

Washington, District of Columbia 20002

(202) 543-1222 info@cmep.org

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