



**WORKING TOGETHER:**  
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is  
Possible.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Washington, D.C. - January 05, 2026**

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### **Press Release: Churches for Middle East Peace joins 53 International NGOs in warning that Israel's recent registration measures will impede critical humanitarian action**

January 05, 2026 - Washington, D.C. : Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins 50+ international humanitarian and human rights organizations in urgently warning that Israel's recent registration measures against international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) threaten to halt life-saving humanitarian operations across Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, at a moment of extreme and ongoing civilian need.

On December 30, 37 INGOs received official notification that their registrations will expire on December 31, 2025. These notices trigger a 60-day countdown after which organizations would be forced to cease operations throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. If implemented, this decision would result in the collapse of large-scale humanitarian assistance despite the continuing mass displacement, hunger, and medical emergency in Gaza.

This is not a technical or administrative issue; it is a deliberate policy choice with foreseeable, devastating consequences. Blocking humanitarian organizations from operating at scale will directly result in preventable suffering and loss of life. Humanitarian access is not optional. It is a legal and moral obligation.

INGOs are indispensable to the humanitarian response, working in coordination with the United Nations and Palestinian civil society to deliver aid at scale. They provide more than half of all food assistance in Gaza, support or operate 60 percent of field hospitals, implement nearly three-quarters

of shelter activities, and deliver all treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Their removal would shutter health facilities, halt food distributions, collapse shelter pipelines, and cut off life-saving care.

CMEP also rejects false narratives that seek to delegitimize humanitarian organizations and endanger aid workers. Since October 7, 2023, more than 500 humanitarian workers have been killed. INGOs operate under strict donor-mandated compliance regimes, including audits, counter terror financing controls, and due diligence processes that meet international standards. They cannot, and must not, be compelled to transfer sensitive personal data to a party to the conflict, as doing so would violate humanitarian principles, duty-of-care obligations, and global data protection standards.

CMEP urges donor governments, including the United States, to use all available diplomatic and political leverage to secure the suspension and reversal of these actions by the government of Israel.

Faith communities cannot remain silent when humanitarian aid is weaponized. Protecting humanitarian space is essential to protecting life, dignity, and the possibility of peace.

You can read the full statement [HERE](#) or by clicking on the image below:

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Washington, D.C. - January 05, 2026****Media Contact:**[media@cmepl.org](mailto:media@cmepl.org)**Public Statement: 53 International NGOs warn Israel's recent registration measures will impede critical humanitarian action**

International humanitarian organizations operating in the occupied Palestinian territory warn that Israel's recent registration measures threaten to halt INGO operations at a time when civilians face acute and widespread humanitarian need, despite the ceasefire in Gaza. On 30 December, 37 INGOs received official notification that their registrations would expire on 31 December 2025. This triggers a 60-day period after which INGOs would be required to cease operations in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

INGOs are integral to the humanitarian response, working in partnership with the United Nations and Palestinian civil society organizations to deliver lifesaving assistance at scale. The United Nations, the [Humanitarian Country Team](#), and [donor governments](#) have repeatedly affirmed that INGOs are indispensable to humanitarian and development operations and have urged Israel to reverse course.

Despite the ceasefire, humanitarian needs remain extreme. In Gaza, one in four families survives on just one meal a day. Winter storms have displaced tens of thousands, leaving 1.3 million people in urgent need of shelter. INGOs deliver more than half of all food assistance in Gaza, run or support 60 per cent of field hospitals, implement nearly three-quarters of shelter and non-food item activities, and provide all treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition. Their removal would close health facilities, halt food distributions, collapse shelter pipelines, and cut off life-saving care. In the West Bank, ongoing military raids and settler violence continue to drive displacement. Further restrictions on INGOs would sharply reduce the reach and continuity of lifesaving assistance at a critical moment.

Recent efforts to assess the impact of deregistering INGOs through selective metrics do not capture how humanitarian assistance is delivered in practice. Humanitarian access must be measured by whether civilians receive the right assistance, in the right place, at the right time.

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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 18, 2025: 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.

### **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.

**See all of our public statements and press releases.**

## **Contact Us**

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