



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. - February 28, 2026

Media Contact:

media@cmep.org

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Issues Statement on Israeli-US Attacks on Iran

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) condemns in the strongest terms the military strikes carried out on Iran by the U.S. and Israel. We urge all parties toward immediate de-escalation to avoid catastrophic loss of life, expanded violence, and war.

This is an unnecessary war that will have profound and destabilizing consequences for the entire region and for all who inhabit it. The Middle East has endured decades of armed conflict, occupation, displacement, and political upheaval. Another large-scale war will not bring security or peace; it will deepen instability and compound the suffering of civilians who have already borne far too much.

We are especially concerned for the vulnerable communities, including children, refugees, and religious minorities, and others displaced by previous conflicts, who will once again find themselves on the front lines of violence. These communities, already living with trauma and insecurity, will continue to suffer disproportionately as infrastructure collapses, economies falter, and access to humanitarian aid becomes further restricted.

This war does not serve the interests of the American people. Military escalation risks drawing the United States into another prolonged conflict with immense human and financial costs. This undermines global stability and erodes trust in diplomacy as the primary means of resolving disputes.

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of CMEP, states, "The United States' indiscriminate attacking of foreign countries, most recently the attacks on Iran violate the War Powers Resolution because there has been no act by Congress. These attacks constitute a violation of the U.S. Constitution. War with Iran will not bring peace and will only seek to further destabilize a region that has already been on the precipice of broader Middle East war these past two years."

We reject the framing of the U.S. Administration's framing of American exceptionalism that casts the United States and Israel as inherently "good" while portraying Iran and other Middle Eastern people as inherently "evil". Such binary narratives are not only morally flawed, but they are also dangerously dehumanizing. Lasting peace cannot be built on rhetoric that vilifies whole peoples; it requires honesty about political grievances, mutual recognition of humanity, and a commitment to rights for all.

CMEP calls for an immediate cessation of the hostilities and a return to the negotiating table. Diplomatic engagement conducted with mutual respect, good faith, and a commitment to international law is the only viable solution. The current escalation has set back efforts toward dialogue and regional stability, and it must not continue. We urge Iran, the United States, and Israel to step back from further military action, including refraining from retaliatory strikes that could draw additional countries into this widening conflict.

We mourn the lives already lost, including the reported deaths of dozens of girls at a school in Iran targeted by recent US/Israeli strikes. If this escalation does not stop now, many more innocent lives will be lost.

We echo the calls of church leaders such as The Most Revd Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and Primate of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East [who states](#), “We implore God to protect the innocent—the mothers, the children, and the elderly—who are caught in the crossfire of this 'Operation Epic Fury' and the subsequent 'crushing responses.' We pray specifically for a 'sound mind' for the leaders of the United States, Israel, and Iran, that they might recognize the futility of this bloodshed and turn back from the precipice of a global catastrophe.”

As a coalition of Christian Communion and Organizations committed to peace, justice, and human rights, Churches for Middle East Peace calls upon policymakers, the international community, and faith leaders to act urgently to halt this violence. The people of the Middle East deserve diplomacy, restraint, and a future free of devastation from another preventable war.

###

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:

Feb 25, 2026: [Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Statement on the Killing of Nasrallah Abu Siyam](#)

Nasrallah Abu Siyam is the first Palestinian killed by settlers this year, and at least the sixth American citizen to be killed in the West Bank by Israeli forces or settlers since October 2023. His death underscores a deeply troubling and repeated pattern: the persistent lack of justice in Israeli investigations and court proceedings related to violence against Palestinians, alongside the failure of the United States government to pursue meaningful accountability for the killing of its own citizens abroad.

Feb 24, 2026: [Humanitarian Organizations petition Israeli High Court as closure deadline approaches](#)

Thirty-seven international aid organisations have been ordered by Israeli authorities to cease operations in the occupied Palestinian territory by the end of February under revised Israeli registration rules. With efforts to force closures imminent, a group of leading humanitarian Organizations, including Churches for Middle East Peace, have taken the unprecedented step of jointly petitioning the Israeli High Court to suspend the measures before irreparable harm is done to civilians who rely on their assistance.

Feb 23, 2026: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Announces the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as New Board Member Organization

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is pleased to announce that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) has joined as CMEP's newest member communion, further strengthening the broad ecumenical witness for peace and justice in the Middle East. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a network of churches and individuals across the United States and globally, committed to historic Baptist principles of freedom, local church autonomy, and global missions engagement. CBF advocates for justice, fosters vibrant congregational life, and equips leaders for faithful Christian witness in a complex world.

Feb 13, 2026: CMEP issues a statement of support for HLCC Trip to the Holy Land

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is grateful to have participated in this year's Holy Land Coordination pilgrimage and to stand alongside the bishops who have issued this powerful and timely statement. As an organization committed to amplifying the voices of those most directly impacted by conflict, we were honored to bear witness to the realities described: communities living under threat, families yearning for safety and dignity, and courageous leaders working tirelessly for justice and reconciliation.

Feb 11, 2026: A Time for Peace

"Today the human family is ensnared in armed conflicts that engender despair, anxiety, and the unending slaughter of innocents. We are a group of religious leaders from the United States and Iran. With profound sympathy for all victims of war and oppression, we together implore our governmental leaders and those of other countries to take concrete steps towards reconciliation before even greater catastrophes befall us."

Jan 17, 2026: A Statement From The Patriarchs And Heads Of The Churches In Jerusalem On Unity And Representation Of The Christian Communities In The Holy Land

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in the Holy Land affirm before the faithful and before the world that the flock of Christ in this land is entrusted to the Apostolic Churches, which have borne their sacred ministry across centuries with steadfast devotion. Recent activities undertaken by local individuals who advance damaging ideologies, such as Christian Zionism, mislead the public, sow confusion, and harm the unity of our flock. These undertakings have found favor among certain political actors in Israel and beyond who seek to push a political agenda which may harm the Christian presence in the Holy Land and the wider Middle East.

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@cmepe.org

Follow Us

[DONATE](#)

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[BLOG](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)