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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Statement on the Killing of Nasrallah Abu Siyam

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) mourns the killing of 19-year-old Palestinian American Nasrallah Abu Siyam, who was shot and killed by Israeli settlers during an attack on the village of Mukhmas in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, February 17th, 2026. According to witnesses and the Palestinian Health Ministry, a group of Israeli settlers entered the village and attacked a local farmer, prompting residents to intervene. Israeli forces later arrived on the scene, and during the ensuing violence, armed settlers fatally shot Abu Siyam and injured several others.

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.

CMEP calls on the U.S. government to exert diplomatic pressure on the Government of Israel to conduct thorough, transparent, and credible investigations into this killing and other acts of settler violence targeting Palestinian and American community members. This must include concrete steps to curb such violence, including the imposition of sanctions on settlements, settler groups, and individuals responsible for or complicit in attacks against civilians, as well as the suspension of weapons shipments that could be used to arm or embolden settler militias.

The United States government has a duty to protect all of its citizens equally, regardless of ethnic or religious background. CMEP urges U.S. leaders to act swiftly and decisively to uphold justice, ensure accountability, and prevent further loss of life.

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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:

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.

Jan 5, 2026: [Churches for Middle East Peace joins 53 International NGOs in warning that Israel's recent registration measures will impede critical humanitarian action](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace join international humanitarian organizations in warning that Israel's recent registration measures threaten to shut down life-saving aid operations across Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. If allowed to proceed, these measures would force

dozens of INGOs to cease operations, cutting off food, healthcare, shelter, and nutrition assistance to millions of civilians facing extreme need. Humanitarian access is not political or optional; it is a legal obligation under international humanitarian law that must be protected.

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

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