



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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Statement on Israel's Planned Invasion of Lebanon**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is gravely concerned by Israel's planned ground invasion of Lebanon and the escalating regional war that continues to engulf the Middle East. The ongoing expansion of the U.S.–Israeli war on Iran has set the region on fire. Nowhere is this more evident than in Lebanon.

Following the November 2024 ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah, [credible reporting](#) indicates that Israel has violated the ceasefire thousands of times, in excess of 10,000 incidents, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people and the destruction of homes and infrastructure across southern Lebanon. Rather than de-escalation, we are witnessing sustained militarization and collective punishment.

On March 4, 2026, Israel issued a sweeping evacuation order for all communities living south of the Litani River, and additionally, multiple suburbs of Beirut, the largest forced displacement order in decades. Entire Lebanese communities, regardless of religion, ideology, or political affiliation, now face the loss of their homes, farms, businesses, schools, and places of worship. [Hundreds of thousands of people](#) have already been displaced since the Israeli announcement calling for evacuation. We have seen in previous rounds of Israeli military operations in Lebanon what such orders mean in practice: villages flattened, civilian infrastructure destroyed, and families uprooted for generations.

Reports that Israeli troops are amassing at the Lebanese border raise the grave likelihood of a ground invasion. Such an invasion would have catastrophic consequences for a country that has already endured economic collapse, political paralysis, and the trauma of repeated wars. It would not bring peace or security to the people of Lebanon or Israel. Instead, it would entrench political division, fuel radicalization, and result in devastating civilian casualties.

Christians commit to the belief that every human being is sacred, worthy, and made in the image of God. The deliberate or reckless destruction of civilian life and livelihood violates fundamental moral principles rooted in our faith traditions. Security built upon the mass displacement of civilians and the devastation of entire communities is neither just nor sustainable. Scripture calls us to be peacemakers, not arsonists in an already burning region.

This war must be stopped.

CMEP urgently calls on American elected officials, including members of the U.S. Congress, to:

- Enforce the Iran War Powers Act resolution and reassert congressional authority over U.S. military engagement in the region.
- Immediately halt offensive weapons shipments to Israel because of their use in violation of both U.S. and international law.
- Press for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Lebanon and across the region.
- Support diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalation and a durable regional ceasefire and long-term negotiated political settlements toward a just peace.

The United States must not enable an expanded war that will devastate civilians, destabilize the region, and undermine prospects for a just peace. Diplomacy, restraint, and accountability, not invasion and escalation, are the only pathways that can lead toward lasting security.

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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.*

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Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

**Feb 28, 2026: [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.

**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."

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

## Contact Us

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