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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CMEP Statement on the 111th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Washington DC, April 24, 2026: On this solemn 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins with communities around the world in remembrance of the 1.5 million Armenians who were systematically killed and displaced beginning in 1915. We honor the memory of those who perished, stand with their descendants, and reaffirm our commitment to truth, justice, and the dignity of all people.

This day is not only about remembrance, it is also a call to vigilance. The legacy of the Armenian Genocide continues to reverberate today, not only in the denial and distortion of historical truth but in the ongoing erasure of Armenian presence, heritage, and identity.

We are deeply concerned by credible reports of the continued destruction of Armenian historical and cultural sites. The [recent demolition of the Stepanakert Cathedral on April 22, 2026](#), stands as a stark and painful example. Such acts are not isolated incidents; they reflect a broader and deeply troubling pattern of cultural erasure. The destruction of sacred spaces, monuments, and heritage sites undermines the historical continuity of a people and threatens the preservation of their identity.

CMEP affirms that the protection of cultural and religious heritage is a moral and legal obligation under international law. The targeting of such sites, especially in post-conflict environments, raises serious concerns about accountability, reconciliation, and the prospects for a just and lasting peace.

We also reaffirm our solidarity with Armenian churches and communities worldwide, Apostolic, Catholic, Evangelical, and others, who continue to bear witness to faith, resilience, and hope in the face of profound historical and ongoing challenges.

On this day of remembrance, we commit ourselves not only to honoring the past but to preventing its repetition. The lessons of the Armenian Genocide demand that we speak clearly and act decisively wherever injustice, erasure, and dehumanization persist.

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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:

[Apr 13, 2026: Statement from Churches for Middle East Peace on the Interconnectedness of Violence](#)

At Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), we recognize that the violence unfolding across the Middle East is not isolated from the rest of the world. The grief, fear, and trauma felt in Gaza and the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, Iran, and across the region are also experienced by diaspora communities around the globe, including here in the United States. Many Americans have family members, loved ones, and deep ties to the Middle East. As they watch tragedy and destruction unfold from afar, they too suffer.

[Apr 7, 2026: Statement from Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) on President Trump's Threats to Iran](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) expresses alarm and condemnation of recent statements by President Trump threatening catastrophic violence against Iran, including rhetoric suggesting that “a whole civilization will die tonight.” Such language, evoking the destruction of an entire people, stands in direct opposition to the core tenets of the Christian faith, which call us to uphold the sanctity of life, pursue peace, and recognize the inherent dignity of every human being.

[Apr 3, 2026: Statement of Support from Churches for Middle East Peace for the 2026 Easter Message of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) expresses its appreciation and solidarity with the Easter Message of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem (2026), issued by the historic Christian leadership of the Holy Land. In a time marked by devastating violence, regional instability, and profound human suffering, we are grateful for the moral clarity, spiritual depth, and pastoral care embodied in this message. The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches offer a powerful witness rooted in the hope of the Resurrection, proclaiming that even amid destruction and despair, death does not have the final word.

[Apr 2, 2026: An Easter Message from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad](#)

From Jerusalem, Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad proclaims the enduring hope of Easter amid war and suffering, affirming that life, dignity, and love will prevail over death and injustice. Even in the face of violence, restrictions, and loss, he calls on all people to live out the resurrection by standing with the oppressed and holding fast to the promise: Christ is risen.

[April 1, 2026: CMEP Urges Churches to “Hear the Cry of the Palestinian Church” in New Kairos Palestine Easter Alert](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace is encouraging churches, faith leaders, and individuals across the United States and around the world to read, reflect on, and wrestle with the newly released “Kairos Palestine Easter Alert 2026” from Kairos Palestine. As Christians prepare to enter Holy Week, the Easter Alert offers a sobering and deeply theological reflection on what it means to live in a prolonged “Holy Saturday”, a time of suffering, uncertainty, and waiting, in the context of ongoing violence and displacement in Palestine.

[March 30, 2026: Statement on Restrictions to Religious Freedom in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace condemns the decision by Israeli authorities to bar Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa from leading Palm Sunday services at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, calling it an unacceptable violation of religious freedom. While the reversal of the decision is welcome, CMEP warns that such incidents reflect a troubling pattern of increasing restrictions on worship in Jerusalem.

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

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