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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# CMEP Urges Churches to “Hear the Cry of the Palestinian Church” in New Kairos Palestine Easter Alert

Washington DC, April 01, 2026: 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.

CMEP invites the global Church to hear the cry of the Palestinian Church not as a distant political statement, but as a faithful witness from fellow members of the Body of Christ.

“This is a moment for listening,” said CMEP’s Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, “The Kairos Palestine Easter Alert is both a lament and a call, a document that challenges us to engage deeply, to wrestle with difficult truths, and to consider what faithful discipleship requires in response.”

The Alert raises urgent concerns about the future of Christianity in the land of its birth, pointing to the pressures facing historic communities in places such as Taybeh, Beit Sahour, and Gaza City. Through personal testimonies and theological reflection, it speaks to the realities of displacement, insecurity, and diminishing space for indigenous Christian life.

While recognizing that Christians around the world hold a diversity of perspectives, CMEP emphasizes the importance of engaging directly with voices from the region. CMEP issued a statement of support for Kairos II which can be found here: [Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) upon the Release of Kairos Palestine 2](#).

CMEP encourages churches to incorporate the themes and testimonies of the Easter Alert into their Holy Week observances as a way of deepening understanding and fostering meaningful connections with the realities faced by Christians in the Holy Land.

CMEP urges all who read the document to do so with humility, openness, and a willingness to be challenged and then to prayerfully respond in faith and action.

You can find the full Easter Alert [HERE](#) or below:



## EASTER ALERT 2026



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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:

**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.

**March 19, 2026: [Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Statement on Intensifying Violence in the West Bank](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is gravely alarmed by the rapidly escalating violence in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli state-sponsored violence and settler attacks against Palestinian communities are spiraling out of control. As international attention has shifted to the expanding regional war following Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iran, extremist settlers have taken advantage of the global distraction to intensify terror against Palestinian civilians. Palestinian villages across the West Bank are facing a wave of attacks, including arson, shootings, and intimidation, which are often carried out in broad daylight and frequently under the watch or protection of Israeli forces.

**March 17, 2026: [60+ National Ecumenical Organizations Urge Congress To Oppose Iran War Funding](#)**

CMEP is proud to have joined dozens of other faith-based organizations in signing a letter to Congress urging opposition to additional funding for the war on Iran. Grounded in our commitment to peace, we reject further investment in a dangerous and unauthorized conflict that puts countless lives at risk. Instead, we call on Congress to prioritize diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and policies that uphold human dignity and pursue a just and lasting peace.

**March 6, 2026: [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. 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.

**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.

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

## Contact Us

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