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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Statement from Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) on President Trump's Threats to Iran

Washington DC, April 07, 2026: 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.

We are further dismayed by continued threats to target civilian infrastructure. Under international humanitarian law, the deliberate targeting of civilian systems, such as power plants, bridges, water systems, and medical facilities, constitutes a war crime. The consequences of such actions would be devastating and indiscriminate. Millions of civilians, including the elderly, children, and those receiving hospital care, would suffer immediate and long-term harm. Infants in incubators, patients reliant on life-saving medical equipment, and communities dependent on functioning sanitation systems would face life-threatening conditions.

As Christians and people of good will, we are called to be peacemakers, not agents of harm and violence. We affirm that every life is sacred and that no political objective can justify threats of mass violence against civilian populations. We urge all leaders to reject rhetoric and actions that endanger innocent lives and instead commit to diplomacy, de-escalation, and the pursuit of just and lasting peace.

CMEP calls on U.S. officials, faith leaders, and people of conscience everywhere to speak out against threats and actions that violate international law, and to uphold the principles of justice, human dignity, and the protection of all civilians.

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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 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.

**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.

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

## Contact Us

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