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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Churches for Middle East Peace on the Interconnectedness of Violence

Washington DC, April 13, 2026: As Christians, we are reminded in First Corinthians 12:26 that “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.” This truth speaks powerfully to our present moment. Violence in one part of the world does not remain confined to borders or battlefields. The suffering reverberates across societies, faith traditions, and nations.

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.

This painful interconnectedness was tragically evident in the attack on Temple Israel in West Bloomfield Township, Michigan, on March 12, 2026. Reports indicate that the attacker had been deeply affected by the recent deaths of family members, including children, [killed during Israeli bombardments in Lebanon](#). While such grief can never justify violence, the incident illustrates how war and trauma ripple outward, fueling anger, despair, and further acts of harm far beyond the original conflict.

We have also seen [violence directed at Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian communities in the United States](#), from the stabbing and drowning attacks on children to armed assaults on student encampments and other acts of intimidation and mass violence FN. [We have also seen the rise in offensive Islamophobic discourse voiced by elected officials in Washington, DC](#) - violent

rhetoric that incites hatred and violent actions. Across the country, fear has spread through Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, Israeli, and other communities connected to the region.

Study after study confirms that discriminatory attitudes and actions, including both antisemitism and anti-Palestinian/Arab racism, are on the rise, with attacks becoming more frequent and more dangerous. These realities reaffirm a painful truth: war does not make anyone safer.

Israel's destruction of Gaza has not brought greater safety to Israeli or Jewish communities. Likewise, missile fire directed at Israel has not brought freedom or relief to Palestinians suffering under occupation. Instead, violence and war have caused tens of thousands of deaths and displaced millions of people, hardened divisions, deepened trauma, and intensified insecurity for communities across the region and throughout the world. Indeed, the safety of Jewish and Arab (Muslim and Christian) populations in the United States and abroad has steadily declined, and Palestinians continue to endure worsening conditions under occupation.

As people of faith, we must reject the illusion that violence can create lasting peace. Instead, we must recommit ourselves to diplomacy, dialogue, and the difficult work of building just societies. We must learn again to see one another not as enemies or abstractions, but as human beings created in the image of God, each deserving equal dignity, safety, and respect.

The words of Scripture remind us that our suffering is shared. When one community suffers, we all suffer. And when we pursue peace together, we help create the conditions in which all people can live in security and hope.

CMEP calls on leaders in the United States and around the world to abandon the failed logic of war and urgently return to diplomacy and development, which must include the voices of those impacted. The future of Israelis, Palestinians, and all the peoples of the Middle East, and the well-being of communities around the globe, depends on it.

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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 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.

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.

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

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