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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. - October 26, 2026

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CMEP Statement on the Attack on Saint George's Orthodox Church in Jordan

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) extends its deepest condolences to the families of the nine killed and many injured in the terrorist attack on Saint George's Orthodox Church in Karak, Jordan, during a funeral service. We stand in solidarity with the victims, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Amman, and the Christian community of Jordan in this time of grief.

CMEP elevates the statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, which rightly condemns this heinous attack on innocent worshippers and affirms the longstanding unity and fraternity between Christians and Muslims in Jordan. We call for those responsible to be held accountable and for the protection of Christian communities and all religious minorities to be upheld. No one should fear violence or persecution because of their faith, and places of worship must remain sanctuaries of peace.

We join our prayers with the people of Jordan, asking for comfort for the bereaved, healing for the injured, and continued solidarity among communities of faith in the face of violence.

You can find the full statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem below:



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF JERUSALEM

Statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem on the Attack on the
Orthodox Church in Karak
Jerusalem 23 October 2026

With deep sorrow and utter dismay, we, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, witnessed of the heinous and inhuman terrorist attack today on Saint George's Orthodox Church in Hammoud, Kerak, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Armed terrorists stormed the church during a funeral service and opened fire indiscriminately on innocent worshippers. So far, at least seven worshippers have been killed and dozens more injured.

This terrorist attack against defenceless civilians is a grave offence against God and against humanity. To strike mourners at prayer, in a house of God, during the burial of their dead, violates every sacred and human value. It is an attack on the entire Christian community of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and on the exemplary fabric of Jordanian society, in which Muslims and Christians have lived together in unity and fraternity for generations.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and our fraternal solidarity to His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Orthodox Bishopric of Jordan and to the whole Patriarchate, whose faithful have been so cruelly struck. We raise our prayers for the swift recovery of the injured.

We are encouraged by the unequivocal words of His Majesty King Abdullah II and by the Jordanian people's firm rejection of this act. Such acts cannot and will not succeed in undermining the unity of the people of Jordan.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Jordan in this time of trial. We commend the souls of the departed to the mercy of God, and we entrust the bereaved and the wounded to the loving care of our Lord Jesus Christ, who said: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). May His consolation reach every grieving family and may the people of Jordan remain united in prayer and in hope, which no violence can extinguish. We call upon all our churches in the region to ring their bells tomorrow (Saturday, October 24) at noon Jordan time in solidarity and prayer with faithful departed and those injured.

Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem

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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:

Oct 21, 2026: [Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\) Affirms Jerusalem Patriarchs and Heads of Churches Statement on Taybeh and European Delegation](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the recent statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem concerning recent settler attacks against Palestinians in Taybeh and a visiting European Diplomatic delegation. CMEP stands in solidarity with the people of Taybeh as they face increasing intimidation and attacks from settlers. This pattern is occurring throughout the West Bank as Palestinians are subject to growing restrictions on movement and increased harassment and violence from settlers acting with impunity.

Oct 9, 2026: [Gaza Ceasefire Exists In Name Only, Say More Than 100 Organizations](#)

CMEP joins more than 100 humanitarian, human rights, and civil society organizations in signing a joint statement marking one year since the Gaza ceasefire agreement. The organizations warn that the ceasefire exists in name only, as Palestinians continue to be killed and injured, while restrictions on humanitarian aid, medical supplies, shelter, and reconstruction materials leave millions facing hunger, displacement, and devastating living conditions. The statement calls on governments to use their influence to end the ongoing violence, ensure unimpeded humanitarian access, and support meaningful recovery and reconstruction in Gaza.

Oct 7, 2026: [Three Years After October 7: Violence Cannot Be the Way Forward](#)

Three years ago, on October 7, 2023, an unspeakable horror was unleashed upon communities across southern Israel. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) continues to mourn every life stolen on that terrible day. We grieve with the families who lost loved ones, with those who continue to live with the trauma of October 7, and with those whose loved ones were taken hostage. We must not forget the suffering of these families. Nothing can diminish the horror of October 7, nor the profound trauma carried by those who lost loved ones or whose lives were forever changed that day. But remembering that tragedy must not mean accepting the continued loss of innocent life. The wounds of October 7 cannot be healed through further violence, and one people's suffering cannot be answered by inflicting suffering upon others.

Oct 6, 2026: [CMEP Mourns the Killing of Two Christian Women in Gaza and Calls for an End to the Killing of Civilians](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) mourns the deaths of Maysaa Khader Ibrahim Abu

Dawoud and Mary Hafez Michel al-Najjar, two Christian Palestinian women who were killed in an Israeli strike on a residential apartment in western Gaza City on October 3. Their deaths are a painful reminder that Palestinians in Gaza continue to be killed as innocent bystanders in strikes that Israel describes as causing "collateral damage." Whatever terminology is used, the scale of civilian death and destruction in Gaza is unacceptable by any standard. The loss of innocent human life cannot be reduced to a statistic or dismissed as an unavoidable consequence of war.

Sep 28, 2026: [CMEP Joins Humanitarian Organizations in releasing Humanitarian Access Snapshot #14](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) has joined national and international humanitarian organizations in signing a new snapshot documenting the increasingly difficult operating environment facing humanitarian organizations and Palestinian communities across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The snapshot, based on a survey of 29 international and national NGOs conducted in September 2026 and covering the preceding six months, documents the growing humanitarian needs and increasingly constrained ability of organizations to provide assistance. While the survey does not represent every NGO operating in the West Bank, its findings underscore the persistent and worsening challenges facing Palestinian communities and those seeking to serve them.

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