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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. - October 21, 2026

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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.

Along with the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem we “call upon the competent authorities to bring those responsible to justice, and we urge the international community to intensify its efforts to ensure the protection of the people of Taybeh and the West Bank, as well as all those who visit these areas to express their solidarity.” CMEP calls on the U.S.

Government to act swiftly and use its diplomatic leverage to pressure the Israeli government to hold violent settlers accountable for their actions in Taybeh and throughout the West Bank.

The full statement is copied below and can be viewed [here](#).



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, 19 October 2026

We, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, condemn the heinous attack carried out on Saturday, 17 October, by masked settlers in Taybeh against local residents during the olive harvest, and against the foreign guests, including diplomats and officials from European countries, who were with them in a visit of solidarity to the areas sustaining continuous attacks by similar groups of settlers.

This wild attack on the Christian village of Taybeh and against its peaceful population is not an isolated incident. In the past weeks the Palestinian villages of the West Bank have been exposed to a wide-scale terror by settlers, which is reaching a peak during this time of the olive harvest, when families go to their lands to collect what they need to live and renew their generations-long bond with their lands. In this regard, we consider the religious ruling recently published, allowing Jews to take the olives of Palestinians, as unfounded, very worrying and dangerous, and absolutely unacceptable. We very much appreciate that several rabbis and Jewish voices have publicly rejected it.

We thank the President of the State of Israel Mr. Yitzhak Herzog for his words of condemnation. Unfortunately, the facts on the ground show that these attacks continue because of the impunity enjoyed by those who commit them. We recognize the action taken by the Israel Police and the arrests carried out following this attack, and we express our hope that this enforcement will continue in a serious and consistent manner and will not remain an isolated measure.

We call upon the competent authorities to bring those responsible to justice, and we urge the international community to intensify its efforts to ensure the protection of the people of Taybeh and the West Bank, as well as all those who visit these areas to express their solidarity.

We renew our full support to the community of Taybeh and its churches, and we will continue, as in the past, to do everything possible to preserve the Christian presence there.

We lift up our prayers for the people of Taybeh and for all the people of the Holy Land, that they may live in safety, justice and peace.

+ The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem

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.

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