



# Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

## A Call to Action on the Mideast Conflict

Community of Christ at the 2016 World Conference passed the following resolution (WCR 1311 Palestine and Israel, Adopted 10 June, 2016):

*Resolved*, That Community of Christ specifically declares its belief in the love of God for Muslims and Jews, and we denounce all Islamophobia and anti-Semitism; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Community of Christ join with other Christian, Jewish, Muslim, ecumenical, and secular peace movements in the call for peace in Israel and Palestine. We, with other Christians, call for the right of the State of Israel to exist in secure borders; for the cessation of Israeli military occupation and illegal settlements in the West Bank; and for the recognition of the State of Palestine (in accordance with 1947 UN General Assembly Resolution 181/II, 1967 UN Security Council Resolution 242, and 1988 UN General Assembly Resolution 43/177).

This resolution calls for a non-partisan and even-handed approach to the conflict. It recognizes the key issues in the long-standing conflict that need to be addressed: the right of Israel to exist within secure borders, the end of Israeli military occupation and illegal settlements in the West Bank, and the recognition of the State of Palestine in light of the UN resolutions referred to.

Our Enduring Principles of the Worth of All Persons, Responsible Choices and Pursuit of Peace (Shalom) are the values on which we stand, informed by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ who walked and lived in the Holy Land. The mission initiative Pursue Peace on Earth calls us to action.

Recent attempted evictions of Palestinians in East Jerusalem by Israeli administrators and attacks on worshippers at the al-Aqsa mosque triggered the current protests and violence. Rocket attacks from Gaza deliberately struck civilian residential areas in Israel. The reprisals from Israel were deadly. As of 16 May, Al Jazeera reported thus: “At least 192 people, including 58 children and 34 women, have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the latest violence began a week ago. Israel has reported 10 dead, including two children.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/16/more-deaths-gaza-israel-launches-most-intense-raids-yet#:~:text=At%20least%20192%20people%2C%20including%2058%20children%20and,agree%20on%20even%20a%20joint%20statement%20of%20concern.>

It should be remembered that there are Christian as well as Muslim Palestinians and Israelis suffering at this time.

Informed by the recent statement by the First Presidency<sup>2</sup>, we urge church members and friends around the world to:

- Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6-9)
- Write or call their political representatives in their Congresses and Parliaments to implore their respective governments to use diplomatic channels urgently in order to bring about a lasting peace immediately. Diplomats must redouble their efforts, too, to negotiate just outcomes to prevent these atrocities from being repeated. Sources of trusted information can be found from the National Council of Churches in your country. Community of Christ is a member of the National Council of Churches in the USA and Zambia for instance. Other sources of information are listed below.

Opportunities for action in the USA include using a draft letter from the website of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (a nonpartisan Quaker organization) to contact your local representative(s). The [draft letter](#) provided is adaptable for other nations too.

**Calling or writing** your member of Parliament, senator or representative is a key action.

## Further Resources

### Statements and Calls for Action

These can inform your telephone call or letter:

- The USA National Council of Churches (of which Community of Christ is a member) issued a [comprehensive statement](#) on 21 May that also has helpful links to other partner organizations.
- The Canadian Council of Churches also released a [statement](#) in French and English on 21 May.
- The National Council of Churches in Australia produced a statement on 13 May.
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has joined church leaders in Jerusalem, together with the Church of Scotland, Methodist Church, Quakers in Britain, the World Council of Churches, Christian Aid and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, in expressing great concern at the violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories. This [statement](#) was shared on 19 May.

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<sup>2</sup> *Pray and Work for an End to Violence in the Middle East* 19 May 2021. See <https://www.cofchrist.org/announcements>

- **The World Council of Churches (WCC)**, of which National Council of Churches is a partner, has issued statements in French, German, Spanish and English. Church and Peace, with which Community of Christ members in Europe participate, also is a partner with the WCC. [WCC laments “precious lives lost,” abhors violence affecting places of worship in Holy Land](#). World Council of Churches Acting General Secretary the Rev. Ioan Sauca expressed mounting concern and profound grief at the rising toll of people killed and injured in the escalating violence in the Mideast. These comments were issued on 12 May. The full statement of the WCC acting general secretary is linked [here](#).

Please see your own national churches council for its statement.

### **In Addition**

- Churches for Middle East Peace shared this [statement](#) on 10 May, with earlier statements on issues that led to the current crisis.
- J-Street also has recent [press releases](#), the latest one 11 May.
- Jewish Voice for Peace shares [actions for peace](#).
- Parliament of World Religions shared this [statement](#) on 12 May.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation shared its [draft letter and call to action](#).
- Mennonite Central Committee shared its [call to action](#) on 14 May.

### **Up-to-date Reliable Reporting**

- Al Jazeera [www.aljazeera.com/news](http://www.aljazeera.com/news)
- BBC [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle\\_east](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle_east)
- Guardian [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com) (Has British, USA, and international editions)
- New York Times [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) (Also has international editions)

—Peace and Justice Team, Community of Christ  
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