

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN Territories

What does the Bible say?

Doom to those who acquire house after house, who annex field to field until there is no more space left and only you live alone in the land. **(Isaiah 5:8)**

They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying “peace, peace,” when there is no peace. **(Jeremiah 6:14)**

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. **(Proverbs 31:8-9)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

Believing that international justice requires the participation of all peoples and nations, we endorse the United Nations, its related bodies, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court as the best instruments now in existence to achieve a world of justice and law. We commend the efforts of all people in all countries who pursue world peace through law. We endorse international aid and cooperation on all matters of need and conflict. **(Social Principles ¶ 165.D)**

The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a “Greater Israel” that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings.

In our call for an end to the Israeli occupation we affirm the church’s commitment to nonviolent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and acknowledge the need to hear the voices of all those—Muslim, Christian and Jewish—harmed by the conflict, including the Palestinian Christians as voiced in the Kairos Palestine document.

We ask all companies that profit from and/or support settlements through their business activities to examine these and stop any business that contributes to serious violations of international law, promotes systemic discrimination or otherwise supports ongoing military occupation. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6111 “Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land”)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

PEACE WITH JUSTICE



What do the facts say?

- There are over 600 roadblocks and checkpoints in the Palestinian Territories, often between Palestinian cities and not Palestine and Israel.¹
- 28,000 Palestinian structures have been demolished in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 1967.²
- 90% of Gaza's main water supply is unfit for drinking, and running water in Gaza is usually only available for 6-8 hours at a time.³ From January to the end of June 2016, the Civil Administration demolished 168 homes, leaving 740 Palestinians homeless, 384 of them minors.⁴
- 100 Palestinian villages pre-existing the founding of the state exist in Israel, but are not recognized by the Israeli government and receive no services (water, electricity, sanitation, roads, etc.) from the Israeli government.⁵

1 Amnesty International, 2 UN Human Rights Council, 3 B'TSelem, 4 B'TSelem, 5 Jewish Voice for Peace

What do you say?



Take **ACTION** for justice...

Educate yourself and your local community on the situation in Israel-Palestine using the GBCS/GBGM advocacy packet, "Working for a Just and Lasting Peace" at www.umc-gbcs.org/issues/peace-with-justice. Stand with Palestinian Christians by taking action with organizations like United Methodists for Kairos Response at www.kairosresponse.org.

Participate in non-violent economic measures that will aid in ending the occupation; support investments in the Palestinian economy; join in activities that will help bring peace to both Palestinians and Israelis.

Meet with your elected officials to advocate for a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

Join the Peace with Justice network by visiting www.umc-gbcs.org/joinnetworks.

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