

On Wednesday, February 21, a delegation from the Palestinian Christian initiative - Kairos Palestine met with the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches Rev Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay and his accompanying delegation to Palestine. During the meeting, Kairos Palestine delegation emphasized the prevailing conditions in Gaza and the West Bank and drew attention to the genocidal and ethnic cleansing war to which our Palestinian people are exposed and its dangers to the Palestinian existence in general and the Christian existence in particular. The delegation asked the General Secretary to work more in favor of the Palestinian rights.

Kairos Palestine members criticized the international silence and the complicity of many countries with Israel, and the silence or fading of the voice of many churches, especially those whom we considered Palestinian friends, and even the complicity of some of them and their justification for the genocidal war against us. The delegation asked the General Secretary for the World Council of Churches to lead an international campaign calling for an immediate end to the war, providing immediate humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, and to stop the practices of ethnic cleansing in Gaza and the West Bank.

Kairos Palestine members also requested that the WCC call for an emergency conference in Jerusalem attended by leaders of the global ecumenical movement to call for stopping the war, addressing its consequences, and rebuilding Gaza far from the Israeli conditions. And to call on the leaders of the world churches to come to Palestine during the Easter period to demand an end to the war and to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. As well as to call to designate a day during the fasting period for global prayer in honor of those who lost their lives in this war.

Kairos Palestine has urged the General Secretary to take concrete steps in implementing and advancing previous decisions made by the World Council of Churches (WCC). Specifically, the organization calls for the activation and enhancement of decisions aimed at exerting pressure on Israel and its supporters, particularly those related to boycotts and economic measures. The objective is to compel Israel to comply with international law, cease arms exports to the nation, and reinvigorate the Ecumenical Forum established in 2007. This forum's role would be expanded to focus on advocacy, increased pressure, and international engagement in the pursuit of justice for the Palestinian people.

Finally, Kairos Palestine called upon the General Secretary to formulate a prompt action plan for the implementation of resolutions passed during the International General Assembly of the World Council of Churches which was held in Karlsruhe, Germany in September 2022. Of particular emphasis is the section urging global churches to study international reports detailing Israel's practices of apartheid against the Palestinian people and to exert pressure on Israel and compel an end to these discriminatory practices and daily infringements on the rights of the Palestinian people. The General Secretary has committed to thoroughly examine these demands and promptly implement them.