



Date: Oct 5th, 2024

**October 7th, 2024: One Year On
Still Another Cry from Palestinian Christians**

*...learn to do good,
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.*
Isaiah 1:17

In the face of the ongoing Nakba—defined by further ethnic cleansing, illegal occupation, an openly racist apartheid regime, and an accelerated genocide of the Palestinian people, funded in large part by the U.S. administration and enabled by Western powers—we pause on this one-year anniversary of October 7th to acknowledge and mourn the suffering and devastating loss of life of our siblings in Gaza and all those who are victims of war and violence. And to call for an end to the State of Israel’s continued killing and excessive destruction of infrastructure, housing and all aspects of life, reaching increasingly into the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and now Lebanon and threatening to ignite a region-wide war.

While we celebrate and are strengthened by the solidarity demonstrations in cities around the globe—especially by the courage and witness of allies on university campuses, we are angered by the West’s indifference to international law and the conventions of human rights unless the application of these laws and conventions meets the Empire’s hegemonic ends. We are perplexed by the indifference of civil society to our plight. We are saddened by the lack of solidarity in so many quarters of the global church in the face of a genocide declared as plausible by the International Court of Justice.

Kairos Palestine has long warned of the near extinction of Palestinian Christians in their homeland—in Gaza and across the whole of Palestine. We have sounded alarms, we have written statements, we have travelled around the world to share our witness. **What more must we do to stir your attention and action?!!**

Kairos Palestine, the most extensive Palestinian Christian ecumenical non-violent movement, is based on Kairos Palestine document: A Moment of Truth, launched in 2009, affirming that the Palestinian Christians are part and parcel of the Palestinian nation, calling for peace to end all suffering in the Holy Land by laboring for justice, hope and love, embraced by the Christian community, signed by all historically recognized Palestinian Christian organizations, and endorsed by the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.



Still, afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and struck down, we continue to put our trust in Jesus of Nazareth who lived among a people suffering a brutal imperial occupation, who cared for the marginalized and oppressed, and who embodied a spirit of radical love and prophetic justice.

Empowered by Him and inspired by those who work beside us, we long for peace. Through nonviolence, we continue to seek—and insist on achieving—our freedom, our human rights, and our right as a people to self-determination. We need your assistance.

- We call upon churches to rise up and demand an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to stop the humanitarian catastrophe and further loss of innocent lives and to facilitate the delivery of lifesaving assistance and a safe passage of humanitarian and medical staff.
- We call upon countries and political leaders worldwide to enforce the ruling of the International Court of Justice to bring an end to the Israeli apartheid and illegal occupation of Palestinian territory.
- We call upon the International Criminal Court to hold accountable those who have and are committing war crimes.
- We call upon the global civil society to pressure Israel to comply with the international law outlined in the Geneva Conventions, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention that focuses on protecting civilians during conflicts and occupation, and to embrace the nonviolent strategy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law and Universal Principles of Human Rights.

God, raise up prophets and people of good will among the world's leaders, in our churches, and in Israel—those who will see and then do what is right and just for the Palestinian people who have resisted oppression for many decades. Bring our land back to its holiness, make it a land of justice and peace for all its inhabitants.

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