



Bethlehem, 28th of November 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Kairos Palestine, co-authors of the document entitled “A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering”, I send you warm greetings from Bethlehem.

Since the launch of the Kairos Palestine Document in December 2009, Kairos Palestine has reached many churches locally and worldwide and touched the hearts of a number of peacemakers of all faiths. We have encouraged theological discussions, reflections and opened up new venues of dialogue and research, seeking application and implementation of moral values as well as international law to impress upon the State of Israel the need to rectify its wrongs.

We are witnessing ever-increasing provocations by the occupying power, and the temptation to violent response is growing as well. We ask the United Methodist Church, as we have been asking the Christian community worldwide, to assist us in advocating effective nonviolent means of addressing injustice. We know that as a denomination you have been discussing boycotts and divestment for many years, and we are heartened by that discussion.

We, Palestinian Christians, believe that, as members of the one body of Christ, we are dependent on each other’s support at all times, especially when one of us is suffering. We are confident that you are aware of the ongoing injustices that have robbed us of our rights for more than 60 years, but even amidst our affliction, our spirits cannot be broken and we call upon you in faith, hope and love to hear our call. As we appreciate your prayers, we count upon your honest stewardship and your commitment to justice for all created in the image of God.

Kairos Palestine supports the global campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, because we believe it is a just, nonviolent and peace-seeking tool. We are convinced that BDS is a way to pressure the Israeli government to respect international law, honour human rights and work towards a genuinely just peace.

We are grateful for your efforts and we sensed real solidarity with our struggles at the conference “Walking with Palestinian Christians,” presented by the General Board of Global

Ministries and Ginghamburg Church in Ohio in August of this year. Yet now we must tell you the situation grows ever more dire. Please know that a decision to support our struggle using nonviolent economic actions would be both welcome and timely. We call on you for help.

Rifat Odeh Kassis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rifat Odeh Kassis', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kairos Palestine

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