

AFRICA

South Africa

“I think this action and call is long overdue, and I support it wholeheartedly. I will of course sign it in support and try my best to spread this message as widely as I can.”

Allan Boesak, *Professor of Black Liberation Theology and Ethics, University of Pretoria*

“I strongly endorse the call of the Palestinian Christians for justice without which there can be no lasting or genuine peace in the Middle East.”

John de Gruchy, *Emeritus Professor of Christian Studies, University of Cape Town, Extraordinary Professor of Theology, Stellenbosch University*

“We, the Council of African Independent Churches (CAIC), intend to honor and defend the rights of the Palestinian people to dignity, self-determination, and the fundamental human rights guaranteed under international law, including the right of return for Palestinian refugees. We, CAIC, reaffirm that it is time for the international community to recognize Israel as an apartheid state in terms of international law.”

Bishop Thami Ngcana, *on behalf of the Council of African Independent Churches for the international community to recognize Israel as an apartheid state in terms of international law.*

Southern Africa

“The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) has studied the Call and endorses it entirely. Palestinians have been held neckdown for decades. We cannot allow them to suffocate any further. Silence is complicit with suffocation.”

Bishop Luke Pato, *Anglican Bishop of Namibia, representing the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA)*

ASIS PACIFIC

Australia

"I would like to endorse Kairos Palestine in their Call To Decisive Action. I appreciate the spirit of Kairos Palestine which seeks to see 'enemies today and human beings tomorrow, vested with the grace of God, moving forth to build together, to wipe off sins committed against human rights, to regenerate and care for new generations of Palestinians and Israelis, to develop the earth where God wants us to continue God's work.'

"I will call on fellow Christians 'to engage in a process of study, reflection and confession concerning the historic and systemic deprivation of the rights of the Palestinian people, and the use of the Bible by many to justify and support this oppression.' At the same time, I will also 'oppose anti-Semitism by working for justice against anti-Judaism, racism and xenophobia; oppose the equating of criticism of Israel's unjust actions with anti-Semitism.' And I will continue to 'support initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians and interfaith partnerships that combat apartheid and occupation and create opportunities to work together for a common future of mutual respect and dignity.'"

Dave Andrews, *Writers Union*

"It is tragic that this call is necessary. Many Christians will find standing against the Israeli government counterintuitive. But Christians cannot support a government that has created an apartheid system, further Christians must stand with those who are oppressed".

Bishop George Browning, *President, Australia Palestine Advocacy Network*

"Over the years I've had the benefit of meeting Palestinian Christian peace activists committed to joining with Jews, Christians and Muslims in fostering grassroots movements of understanding, nonviolence, reconciliation, peace, and transformation among Israelis and Palestinians. These remind us that peacemaking between Israelis and Palestinians, and between all peoples, requires a shift from hatred and suspicion towards trust, empathy, justice, freedom, and respect. This shift will only happen with the liberation of the Palestinian people, with a stand against anti-Semitism and occupation, with the end of apartheid and dispossession in Palestine, and with a commitment to mutual respect, freedom, and dignity. I fully support this call to decisive action".

Rev Dr Graham Joseph Hill Interim Principal, Stirling Theological College, Australia

"I welcome the Cry for Hope statement from Kairos Palestine. I have visited Palestine/Israel on many occasions, and between 1995 and 2002 I did so on behalf of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Over those years, I observed a change in language: by 2002 I was hearing the word 'apartheid'. It certainly is time for the international community, as urged by this statement, to recognize apartheid as the reality in which the Palestinian people live. Christian faith calls us to name that reality as antithetical to the teachings of Jesus, and to declare any support for Zionism to be a misuse of the Bible: the underlying message throughout the scriptures is that systems of domination, exploitation and oppression are incompatible with the justice and mercy of God, and will not have the last word. That is Christian hope, and it underpins this statement.

"As the current President of an ecumenical council, I am committed to raising awareness of, and advocating for, justice for the Palestinian people in their homeland."

Rev Dr Ray Williamson, *President of the NSW Ecumenical Council, and Vice-President of Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN)*

“The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to reflection and action, in solidarity with the oppressed. By calling for the liberation of the Palestinian people we are invited to deepen our commitment to God’s justice and the things that make for peace. I warmly commend this Cry for Hope.”

Rev Associate Professor Sean Winter, Head of Pilgrim Theological College, Melbourne, Australia

“We support the ‘Cry for Hope’ statement and continue to seek an end to the occupation of Palestinian lands. We support a just peace that will allow the Palestinian people access to the resources they need to be self-sufficient. We believe that a lasting peace and an end to oppression can only be achieved through non-violent means. We welcome that this statement supports the need to address anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia. We will continue to encourage our members to take action to support a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis”.

Dr Mark Zirnsak, Senior Social Justice Advocate, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting Church in Australia

India

“I have only admiration and total support for the untiring efforts of Mr. Ranjan Solomon and for Christian Churches for your support for the struggle of the Palestinian people. Injustice to one is injustice to all. That is the principle in Islam, where the killing of one innocent person (not only Muslim) is equated to the killing of all humanity and the saving of one innocent life is likened to saving all humanity.”

Mirza Yawar Baig, Imam & Khateeb, thinker, author, advisor, consultant

“For long years I have been concerned for the liberation of Palestine and the people of the Gaza Strip. I am convinced that the supposed promise to Abraham of the land of Canaan to the would-be Israel returnees from Egypt is a later insertion. For I believe God is No Intrusive in Human History. Nevertheless, God accompanies people who are victims of the multifaceted human arrogance, patriarchal, racist and capitalist. God is a suffering-together God empowering oppressed peoples of all nations and creeds. We need to walk along with God towards Kairos Global Justice. This is why I wholeheartedly endorse the Cry for Hope - Kairos Palestine.”

Rev Dr Dhyanchand Carr, A New Testament Teacher, Former Principal, Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai- India. Former Secretary for Mission and Theology of the Christian Conference of Asia in Hong Kong.

“I strongly endorse this document. It calls upon churches for imperative action.”

Rev Dr Roger Gaikwad, Former General Secretary, National Council Churches of India; Former Chairperson of World Student Christian Federation (Asia-Pacific Region); Presently Director, Theological Education, Mission and Evangelism, Diocese of North East India, Church of North India

“The time is right for concerned citizens, Christians and others, to once again speak out and condemn the role Israel is playing with the backing of the US; with the silence of other governments and global agencies.”

Dr Aruna Gnanadason, Author, Lecturer & Former Executive Director in the General Secretariat of the World Council of Churches, India

Indonesia

“For sure I commit to be a part of the global community signatory of the document of Cry for Hope of the Palestine people. We pray for Palestine people in their struggle for justice and peace.”

Rev Josef Purnama, *Widyatmadja/Indonesia*

Malaysia

“I am deeply honoured to endorse Kairos's 'Cry for Hope'. As a human being and as a Muslim, I feel privileged to associate myself with a just plea initiated by my Christian sisters and brothers. The plea is integral to the Palestinian cause—a cause which glows in my heart.”

Dr Chandra Muzaffar, *President of The International Movement for a Just World (JUST), Former Professor of Civilisational Dialogue and Professor of Global Studies*

South Korea

“Thank you very much for sharing this call. Now we are called to special and decisive action as ‘an integral faith web of all living beings’ to enter into a new axis of civilizational transformation.

“I believe that Kairos Palestine has become a scope to discern critically my faith existence, my faith community, and my religion as an integral dimension of my integral life. It has provided the opportunity for me to discover the Gospel of Jesus anew in this 21st century for my faith, my faith community, and for my people and my world.

“What does this mean for me as I am a living being in the Korean peninsula in the corner of East Asia in the world?

“The call of Kairos Palestine awakened me to discern the historical being of mine: Just as my friends in Palestine, my parents gave me my birth under the colonial occupation of the Korean land by the Japanese colonial empire, which had declared the second war against China (1937). I was born as a colonized child in colonized territory of the Empire. My family and my life had been totally mobilized to imperial war-making against China, extending to the Pacific War (WW II). My father had been drafted to a forced labor camp at the Manchuria Musoon Coal Mine and died in 1944 due to the lung disease, caused by the coal dust and Malusi-nutrition in the cold weather. My mother and young sister had suffered abject poverty. I remember I was forced to cut the grass for the feed of the horses of the Japanese military. The families of people in Palestine today remind me of my experiences under the Japanese colonialism.

“My education which began in 1945 was devoted entirely to understanding the resistance of my people against the colonial empire. This led to my graduate study on the March 1st Independence Movement, 1919. This is a spiritual movement of 7 wisdoms of historical transformation in convergence.

“The Kairos Palestine document stimulated my appreciation of the Declaration of the March 1st Independence, the 1973 Theological Declaration of Korean Christians (Against the Cold War Military Dictatorship) and Declaration of Churches for Peace in Korean Peninsula, 1988. This is “faith-resistance against the Cold War Ideological Apartheid.” There is a conjunction among the South African Apartheid, and the Zionist Apartheid, and Ideological Apartheid with all and full implications of deepest violence in the community of living beings.

“Now Kairos Palestine and the faith of people in Palestine exposed to me the nature of Christianity in its symbiotic relations with the powers that be, national and international (global) and with the greed of corporate capital globalized. The geopolitical hegemony of US political power and its military, its media and intellectual and technocratic complex is deeply intertwined with Christianity. Faith in the ecumenical movement is profoundly compromised in this context, and I discern that the Kairos Palestine movement has made many aware of this reality.”

Prof Kim, Yong-Bock, *Chancellor, Asia Pacific Center for Integral Study of Life (Zoesophia), (King Jeongjong) Chaired Professor of Peace Studies, Global Peace Center*

Sri Lanka

“Thank you for these strong initiatives. I have read the letter and the Call and will gladly endorse the Call.”

Bishop Duleep de Chickera, *Former Anglican Bishop of Colombo*

“It is indeed a long struggle but 'We shall overcome'. It is only a matter of time. However, I recognize the importance of individuals and groups to keep plodding on and to engage in the struggle. The encouragement and the support they receive is a sign of participation in the struggle and the tremendous hope for the future.

“Please convey the assurance of our prayers and all good wishes, to all engaged in the struggle. Shalom and with every blessing.”

Bishop Kumara Illangasinghe, *Bishop Emeritus Diocese of Kurunagala, Church of Ceylon Anglican*

Taiwan

“I am glad to give my support to Cry for Hope.”

Ya-Tang Chuang, *Associate Professor, Department of Theology, Chang Jung Christian University, Tainan, Taiwan*

Asia West

Jordan

“Thanks for this document, I approve it very well written as member of the Executive Committee and Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, Chairperson the Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees/Middle East Council of Churches (DSPR/MECC).”

Dr Audeh Butros Quawas, *Chairperson of DSPR/MECC, Former MP Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

Lebanon

“Indeed, it is timely and very sad that years of efforts, initiatives and energies dispensed in reconciliation and peaceful cohabitation, could not come up to a satisfactory agreement, in this case for the Palestinian side. However, we never despair.

“In this period of Pentecost, we are celebrating the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ amongst ourselves; our hope for the future in the cause of the Palestinians is ensured similarly. As God’s spirit lives in us, we do not have to fear, the future is ours!

“The Middle East Council of Churches has always been in support of the Palestinian cause, today even more so.

“The Kairos Document Cry for Hope is our cry for Justice and, therefore, we sign in conviction under this petition as an institution representing all the Churches in the region.

“Our struggle for Justice and Rights will never cease, it is our *raison d’être* as Christians, the pursuit of and establishment of Justice. Peace without Justice is inconceivable.”

Dr. Souraya Bechealany, *Secretary General, Middle East Council of Churches*

Europe

Denmark

“In Denmark, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the peaceful reunification of Southern Jutland with Denmark and the coexistence of the national minorities on both sides of the border. This occasion reminds us of the right of people to self-determination and the universal truth that the protection of people's cultural and social rights and national and religious expression is the only way to lasting peace. This must apply also to Palestine.”

Bishop Marianne Christiansen, *Bishop of Haderlev Diocese and Borderland Bishop 2020*

“Under normal circumstances, Christians can have different political opinions, but the situation in Palestine with occupation and annexation represents a serious challenge to the integrity of Christian faith and the future of the Christian churches in the area.”

Prof Dr Theol. Peter Lodberg, *Aarhus University*

Finland

“The world has to be aware about what happens in Palestine. Palestinian lives matter!”

Dr Wille Riekkinen, *Bishop emeritus, Finland*

Germany

“... Ich habe den Aufruf gelesen und bin bereit ihn zu unterzeichnen. Ich tue das in dem Geist, in dem ich 1983 in Vancouver den Aufruf an die Kirchen zu einem konziliaren Prozess für Gerechtigkeit, Frieden und Bewahrung der Schöpfung unterstützt habe und 1989 in der ‘Ökumenische Versammlung der christlichen Kirchen in der DDR’ die ‘Friedliche Revolution’ mit herbeigeführt habe, in der es um dieselben Ziele ging.

Translation: “I have read the Call and I am ready to sign it. I do this in the same spirit as I endorsed the Conciliar Process of Mutual Commitment to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation at the WCC Assembly in Vancouver 1983 and as I participated in the implementation of the ‘Peaceful Revolution’ in the ‘Ecumenical Assembly of the Churches in the GDR’ aiming at the same goals as expressed in the Call.”

Propst i.R. D. Dr Heino Falcke, *Erfurt*

“Um der der Zukunft der Palästinenser und um der Gerechtigkeit Israels willen unterschreibe ich diesen verzweifelten 'Schrei nach Hoffnung' der Christen in Palästina. Ich will, dass er gehört wird.”

Translation: “For the future of the Palestinians and for the justice of Israel I sign this desperate 'Cry for Hope' of the Christians in Palestine. I want it to be heard.”

Prof Dr Jürgen Moltmann, *University of Tübingen*

“From the Hebrew Bible I learned – already in the time of South African Apartheid – that there cannot be peace without justice, particularly among the inhabitants of the same Land. Ethnic separation is preventing peaceful developments. They will only sit ‘under their vine and fig tree’ when the peoples of the land together create justice... This is my engagement, my yearning and my hope for Israel and my solidarity with Palestine.”

Barbel Wartenberg-Potter, *Bishop Emeritus of the North Church in Germany*

“Vor nun mehr als zehn Jahren haben Christinnen und Christen in Palästina mit dem Kairos Dokument ‘Die Stunde der Wahrheit - Ein Wort des Glaubens, der Liebe und der Hoffnung’ einen Ruf an uns, an die Kirchen der Welt gerichtet. Wir sollten helfen, daß Menschenrechte und Völkerrecht von allen Seiten eingehalten werden. Wir haben diesen Ruf der Hoffnung damals zur Kenntnis, aber nicht ernst genug genommen. Seither hat sich die Situation zwischen Israel und Palästina weiter verschärft. Entscheidende Schritte für Recht und Gerechtigkeit sind unabdingbar wie sie der erneute chrei zur Hoffnung’ in seinen sieben konkreten Vorschlägen und Bitten formuliert. Deshalb unterstütze ich diesen Cry for Hope.”

Translation: “More than ten years ago, Christians in Palestine issued a call to us, the churches of the world, with the Kairos document, A moment of Truth - A Word of Faith, Love and Hope. We were asked to help to ensure that human rights and international law are respected by all parties. We took note of this call of hope at the time, but did not take it seriously enough. Since then, the situation between Israel and Palestine has further deteriorated. Decisive steps towards the rule of law and justice are indispensable, as formulated by the renewed Cry for Hope in its seven concrete proposals and requests. This is why I support this Cry for Hope.”

Bishop Emeritus Eberhardt Renz, *Former Vice President of the WCC, Germany*

Greece

“Thank you for sharing the Kairos Palestine Call. Volos Academy has always supported the Kairos initiative, and in June 2011 we organized a relative conference in cooperation with WCC.

“I am happy to sign the call (despite some reservations, as for example the insistence on the return of all Palestinian refugees, which constitute an unrealistic goal, and which cost the failure of the 2000 negotiations; in these negotiations, the then Labour Israeli Prime Minister Ehoud Barak offered to Arafat the occupied territories, East-Jerusalem, and return of 10 or 20% of the refugees, which offer was rejected by the Palestinian leader).”

Dr Pantelis Kalaitzidis, *Director, Volos Academy for Theological Studies*

Ireland

“The Kairos Ireland committee wholeheartedly endorse the Cry for Hope issued by Kairos Palestine on behalf of Palestinian Church leaders. We hope that churches throughout the world will support this call and will continue to work for justice and peace in the Holy Land and strongly oppose the proposed annexation of Palestinian land by Israel.”

John Parkin, *Chair Kairos Ireland, Minister Methodist Church in Ireland*

Norway

“In these critical times, we will all unite to strengthen our advocacy for Palestine and for the Palestinian people. In our context we talk more often about economic measures against the Israeli occupation and we uphold of course the right to free speech. We work together for a just peace in Israel/Palestine.”

Friends of Sabeel Norway, *Affiliated to Kairos for Global Justice Coalition*

“Your Kairos message of faith, hope and love, that without compromise confronts injustice and impunity, and promotes transformation, dignity and just community, describes the only way forward towards the vision of reconciliation and coexistence. I will continue walking this path of loving resistance with you!”

Rev Eilert L. Rostrup, *Karibu Foundation Director*

“Palestinian lives matter – all lives matter. If one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now the heart of the Church is suffering. We cannot be witnesses without crying out for justice.”

Rev Oyvind Stabrun, *Dean in Groruddalen, Church of Norway*

“In the hope for justice and peace, I strongly support this initiative.”

Halvor Moxnes, *Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Theology, Univ. of Oslo, Church of Norway (Lutheran)*

Spain

"Apoyo con mi firma el documento "Un clamor de esperanza" como expresión de mi solidaridad con la lucha del Pueblo Palestino por su liberación y como denuncia por la opresión a que está siendo sometido por el Estado invasor de Israel con el apoyo del imperialismo estadounidense y los países que legitiman la opresión. Valoro muy positivamente la Teología Palestina de la Liberación, que acompaña al Pueblo Palestino en su compromiso por salir del cautiverio y la tiranía al que vive sometido y en su resistencia frente a la ocupación. En mi libro "Teologías del Sur. El giro descolonizador" dedico un capítulo a la Teología Palestina de la Liberación que se está desarrollando en Palestina como momento fundamental de las cristianas y los cristianos en el proceso de recuperación de su territorio y como camino para la realización del reino de Dios en la nueva Palestina libre y liberada. reconozco la gran aportación a dicha teología del teólogo cristiano palestino Naim Stifan Ateek (Trotta, Madrid, 2020, 2ª edición, 147-151). Me encantaría publicar algunas de las obras de dicha teología en castellano para un mejor conocimiento en España y América Latina.

“Con mi amistad reciba un cordial saludo en la lucha por la independencia del Pueblo Palestino y en sintonía con sus luchas”.

Translation: “I support with my signature the document “Cry for Hope” as an expression of my solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian People for their liberation and as a denunciation of the oppression to which the invading State of Israel is being subjected with the support of US imperialism and the countries that legitimize oppression. I very much value the Palestinian Liberation Theology, which accompanies the Palestinian People in their commitment to escape captivity and the tyranny to which they live and their resistance to the occupation. In my book " Southern theologies. The decolonizing turn" I dedicate a chapter to Palestinian Liberation Theology that is developing in Palestine as a fundamental moment for Christian women in the process of recovering their territory and as a way to realize the kingdom of God in the new Free and liberated Palestine. I recognize the great contribution to said theology of the Palestinian Christian theologian Naim Stifan Ateek (Trotta, Madrid, 2020, 2nd edition, 147-151). I would love to publish some of the works of said theology in Spanish for a better knowledge in Spain and Latin America.

“With my friendship I receive a cordial greeting in the fight for the independence of the Palestinian People and in tune with their struggles.”

Juan José Tamayo, *Director de la Cátedra de Teología y Ciencias de las Religiones "Ignacio Ellacuría" Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*

Sweden

“Justice is intrinsic to a living faith. As Christians and Churches in Sweden we do support the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and we have since long worked for the recognition of the state of Palestine, and in 2014 the state of Sweden did recognize the state of Palestine. We join hands with

people of all faiths and secular convictions in the struggle for a free Palestine liberated from Israeli occupation, blockade and apartheid.”

Anna Karin Hammar and Lena Lönnqvist, *Kairos Palestine-Sweden*

“We need action, prayers, eyes and open hands to show solidarity with Palestinian sisters and brothers. Together with the worldwide church we continue to pray: God of Life. Lead us to justice and peace. Amen.”

The Right Revd Eva Brunne, *Senior Bishop Diocese of Stockholm, Church of Sweden, Member of the Central Committee, World Council of Churches*

“The God of Israel and the prophets remains the God of the oppressed. The cries of the oppression and despair from our Palestinian brothers and sisters cry for Mercy and Compassion and call upon each friend of the Holy Land to listen, react, and act.”

Peter Halldorf, *Pastor, author and founder of the Ecumenical Community Bjarka-Saby, Sweden*

“As my Christian faith is rooted in the vision of Shalom by the prophets of old Israel and enlightened by their firm belief that the way to Peace is justice and nonviolence—it is a matter of the integrity of this my faith to endorse the Cry for Hope: a Call to Decisive Action. It is done in sincere love for both peoples and the conviction that the present policies of the Israeli government and the US administration unavoidably lead to an apartheid state which is the radical opposite of Shalom and thus equally damaging for oppressed and oppressors. Christians and Churches all over the world have to choose which way to peace they want to support: “peace” as submission to Empire or peace in the spirit of Shalom, which includes justice and equality for all in a culture of nonviolence.”

KG Hammar, *Archbishop Emeritus Church of Sweden*

“Friends of Sabeel Sweden hold firm to the hope articulated in the Kairos document, that Palestinians and Israelis have a common future—that after ending the occupation and establishing justice, they can organise ‘political life, with all its complexity, according to the logic of love and its power.’ In doing so, we ‘embrace our membership in the community of the broken bread, the church fulfilling its mission to bring the good news of God’s gift of love, mercy, compassion, and abundant life for all.’ Throughout the year Friends of Sabeel Sweden will focus on the ‘requirement for decisive and immediate action regarding the denial of Palestinian rights and the misuse of the Bible to justify this injustice.’”

Kenneth Kimming, *Chair, Friends of Sabeel Sweden*

Switzerland

“World YWCA for decades has supported the notion and the demand that Palestinian people be afforded the dignity, self-determination, and fundamental human rights guaranteed under international law—by way of formal resolutions, endorsed by woman leaders in over 100 countries around the globe. We agree that the present times call for unprecedented bold, faithful and resolute action.”

Casey Harden, *General Secretary, World YWCA*

The Netherlands

“We, Kairos Sabeel Netherlands, fully endorse the proposal from Kairos Palestine, as expressed by Patriarch Sabbah and Rifat Kassis. We support the aims of further engaging with the churches in view of justice for all, based on equality of all humans in the light of the gospel and will continue to work with love and strength to achieve those goals.”

Kairos Sabeel Netherlands, Cornelis H Blok, Chair

United Kingdom

“We stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian people as they give us a model in Cry for Hope for challenging injustice and inequalities which brings with it the chance of a new start free from moral corruption for us all.”

Sabeel Kairos UK

“We cannot and must not ignore the cry of the Palestinian people any longer. Dignity, freedom and respect are the right of every human being. We are all made in the image of God who loves us and calls us to love each other. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace summons us to work for the justice without which there can be no Shalom.”

Jennifer M. Carpenter, *Vice-President of the (British) Methodist Conference 1988-89, and a Methodist Church representative at WCC Assembly in Canberra in 1991*

“As a long-time campaigner against apartheid in South Africa and caste discrimination in India, I see in Israel/Palestine another deep-rooted system of discrimination—economic, political, cultural and psychological. The Cry for Hope rightly includes a call for economic sanctions, which was a vital element in defeating apartheid. Until there is a Free Palestine there cannot be a Free Israel.”

Rev David Haslam, *MBE Secretary, Churches Commission for Racial Justice, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland; former Chair, Christian Socialist Movement UK; currently Chair, Church Action for Tax Justice*

“In some places the wall that separates the West Bank from Israel is a fence. There is now no more room on top of that fence for anyone to sit: least of all churches and least of all Christians. Those who care about human rights for all, those who care about justice for all, those who care about peace for all, those who care about freedom for all—please listen to this Cry for Hope. Listen, pray, speak and act.

Very Rev Andrew R C McLellan, *C.B.E.: former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland*

“It is past time for the Church throughout the world to heed this cry, and not merely to find its prophetic voice, to teach its members and to speak truth to power, but to show solidarity in practical as well as symbolic action, and to use its resources in morally responsible ways to bring closer the day when there is freedom, justice, and peace in Palestine.”

Rev Canon Dr Nicholas Taylor, *Scottish Episcopal Church, Chairperson, Scottish Palestinian Forum*

“Cry for Hope gives expression to the heartfelt aspirations and frustrated desires for freedom and liberation of the Palestinian people. This call for justice speaks to the very heart of my belief in a gospel of liberation and God's radical identification with those who are deemed 'the least of these.' It is my hope that many people will be moved to act in solidarity with the Palestinian cause for freedom and justice. The call for equity and liberation demands nothing less than this!

Anthony Reddie, *Professor Extraordinary, University of South Africa and Director, Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture, Regent's Park College, the University of Oxford*

Latin America

Argentina

“Hereby, I place on record that we adhere to the document Cry for Hope prepared by the theology group of Kairos. Since 2010, as the Evangelical Church of the Río de la Plata, we have been strongly committed to accompanying the EAPPI, a program of the World Council of Churches and, based on the experience of some members of our church in Palestinian and Israeli territories, we have been able to learn first-hand about the situation that both peoples are going through, immersed in the conflict that has more than 70 years without solution for both parties.

“We thank God for the hard work they do from Kairos and we encourage them to continue in the fight for peace based on justice, just as the prophet Isaiah encourages us (32:17).”

Rev Leonardo Schindler, *President, Evangelical church del Rio de la Plata (iglesia evangélica del río de la plata), Buenos Aires*

Brazil

“I support the CRY FOR HOPE: A CALL TO DECISIVE ACTION, because we cannot give up struggling for justice and peace. It simply belongs to the core of our faith.”

Prof Dr. Walter Altmann, Lutheran pastor and theologian, former presiding Pastor of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (IECLB), former President of the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI), former moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of the Churches (WCC)

“I fight for Palestine because I fight for the landless in Brazil and now, the hungry in Angola...”

Prof Rev Fernando Bortoletto Filho, *Pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil, Executive Director of Association of Evangelical Theological Seminaries (ASTE)*

Uruguay

“El Cuerpo Pastoral de la Iglesia Evangélica Valdense del Río de la Plata, sabiéndose parte del pueblo de Dios que procura y ora por la justicia y la libertad para las personas y los pueblos oprimidos, adhiere al Clamor de Esperanza y llamamiento a la Acción Decisiva, No podemos servir a Dios y a la opresión del pueblo Palestino expresado en la carta de la coalición mundial Kairos Palestina y Kairós Global por la Justicia firmada por H.B. Michel Sabbah, Patriarca Latino (Emérito) de Jerusalén y Rifat Kassis, Coordinador General de Kairos Global por la Justicia. Lo hace, con la convicción de que el llamado y las acciones que propone dicha carta, son pertinentes, urgentes y viables, no solo para contribuir a desatar las cadenas de opresión del pueblo Palestino a partir del diálogo, el entendimiento racional y la cooperación a todos los niveles, sino también para las iglesias, ya que como allí claramente también se expresa, están en juego convicciones de fe y de conciencia que hacen a la razón misma de ser iglesias de Jesucristo en el tiempo presente.”

Translation: “The Pastoral Corps of the Valdesian Evangelical Church of the Río de la Plata, knowing that it is part of the people of God who seeks and prays for justice and freedom for oppressed people and peoples, adheres to the Cry for Hope: A Call for Decisive Action. We cannot serve God and the oppression of the Palestinian people expressed in the letter of the world coalition Kairos Palestine and Kairos Global for Justice signed by HB Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarch (Emeritus) of Jerusalem, and Rifat Kassis, General Coordinator of Kairos Global for Justice. The board does so with the conviction that the call and the actions proposed by the Cry for Hope are pertinent, urgent and feasible, not only to help unleash the chains of oppression of the Palestinian people through dialogue, rational understanding and

cooperation at all levels. But also for the churches since, as it is also clearly expressed there, convictions of faith and conscience are at stake that define the very reason of being churches of Jesus Christ in the present time.”

Pastor Carola Tron, *Moderator of the Valdessian Board, Valdessian Evangelical Church of the Rio de la Plata (Argentina - Uruguay)*

North America

Canada

“This is a very timely document given the U.S administration’s ‘Peace to Prosperity’ plan and the Israeli threat to annex much of the West Bank.

“It is also timely in its reference to the injunction, ‘We cannot serve God while remaining silent.’ At this moment, we see people in Canada, the USA and around the world moved to action in response to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The killings and other injustices meted out to Palestinians living under military occupation similarly demand our action.

“As the United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel we pledge to engage with the leadership of the United Church of Canada, nationally and through our regional structures and our theological schools. Our goal is to encourage them to offer to the United Church of Canada a clear articulation of ‘theologies that prophetically call for an inclusive vision of the land for Israelis and Palestinians affirming that the creator God is a God of love, mercy and justice.’ We are also developing educational materials that oppose anti-Semitism and ‘oppose the equating of criticism of Israel’s unjust actions with anti-Semitism.’

“We will intensify our efforts to offer the support for which you ask.”

United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel (UNJPPI)

“We, the undersigned Canadian churches and church agencies, hear that Cry as a call for decisive action. We recognize ‘the word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering.’

“It is our commitment to the Creator, our love and the depth of our relationships with you—people, churches and communities in Palestine—that cause us to oppose the oppression of Palestinians. We strive to have Micah 6:8 govern our response ‘to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.’

“In that light, we will share your Cry with our communities so that they hear, in your own words, the strength and urgency of your call. We will work alongside churches and communities in Palestine as you seek to resist occupation, and to advocate for the human rights of Palestinian people. We will work alongside others in our country to address violations of human rights by the Israeli government, including our recent advocacy against the annexation of the West Bank by the newly formed coalition government.

“We will engage our communities in discernment and study on the pressing need for justice for Palestinian people, including by reflecting critically on theologies and biblical interpretations that have created barriers in our churches to the robust engagement in justice-seeking for Palestinian people. We will continue to support interfaith partnerships and promote opportunities for our communities to ‘come and see’ and to learn about the reality on the ground. We will continue to oppose antisemitism, Islamophobia and other oppressions that intersect to prevent peace with justice.

“In our humility, we acknowledge that we do not have agreement within our churches and organizations to fully endorse (or take on for ourselves) all of the non-violent strategies for resistance and advocacy that you have proposed. We do, however, support your right to engage in non-violent resistance and will support those strategies that we can.”

KAIROS-Canada Rachel Warden, Partnerships Manager, and church leaders of a number of our members including United Church of Canada, Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

"I unreservedly add my voice to the Cry of Palestinian Christians supported by Global Kairos for Justice in calling the whole Christian Community and all religious believers to hear the cry and embrace the imperative: We Cannot serve God and oppression of the Palestinians.

"This current exhortation is a redoubling of the urgent cry that led the WCRC to take action at the 2017 General Council meeting in Leipzig, Germany. The situation has gotten significantly worse. Cry for Hope starkly reveals the measures taken since then ranging from the Nation State Law, the moving of the US Embassy to Jerusalem, the US legitimization of illegal settlements and the so-called Peace to Prosperity Plan. The current Israeli government is pressing forward with annexation plans for one third of the West Bank.

"We are offered through God's grace the choice of Life and Death. The Cry for Hope is a gift from the Palestinian community to awake from our numbness and be revitalized by God's liberating spirit to seek justice and resist evil, so that all may have life and have it abundantly. It must include justice and freedom for the Palestinian people."

Rev Dr Chris Ferguson, *General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)*

United States of America

"I welcome the summons of this Cry for Hope. This statement faithfully describes the current crisis facing Palestinians amid the predatory aggression of the state of Israel. It is important that this statement appeals, not to generic humanity, but to the urgency of the gospel. It is my passionate hope that many congregations and pastors will heed this summons and act in the ways urged here. The matter of Palestinian rights and the integrity of the Palestinian people deeply concern all of us Christians. The juxtaposition of 'cry' and 'hope' is just right, a 'cry of urgency' and 'hope for newness'!"

Walter Brueggemann, *Columbia Theological Seminary*

"The oppression facing Palestinian Christians took on flesh for me when I made my first trip in January of 2020 and walked with members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land to better understand their ministry, context, and realities. Having worked with my own church to engage deeply in what it means to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery so that we might live from a new narrative about the indigenous people of our continent and the painful legacy of Europeans who came to North America, I could not help but feel connected to the story of the Palestinian people and their struggles in the face of the injustices they have experienced following the establishment of the state of Israel. As a leader in a church committed to becoming by addressing the painful reality of systemic racism in our own midst, I stand with those who are launching Cry for Hope: A Call to Decisive Action. It is time – God's *kairos* moment – to dismantle the false narratives and systems that allow injustice to thrive in the land we call Holy. It is time to act together—so that all who are captive—oppressed and oppressor alike—might be set free to live within the flourishing of God's justice."

The Rev Jim Gonias, *Bishop, Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

"I welcome the statement that the oppression of the Palestinian people is a sin that can no longer be tolerated, and that Christian support for Zionist ideology that permits one people to deny the human rights of another is incompatible with the Christian faith.

"It is also incompatible with the Jewish faith—incompatible with the moral and religious principles that Judaism has embodied for millennia. That is why I endorse the Cry from my own American Jewish perspective.

“The creation and maintenance of an apartheid state, and the oppression of the indigenous people of Palestine which goes with it, may have been perpetrated by Israeli Jews, and facilitated and supported by American Jews and Christians alike, but it is no more ‘Jewish’ than it is ‘Christian.’

“While I welcome the call to engage in study and discernment for those who are unaware of the realities on the ground in Israel/Palestine, and of the need to liberate the oppressors as well as the oppressed, it is long past the time for action. We must join hands in non-violent resistance—heeding the call of Palestinian civil society for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.”

The Rev Dr J. Herbert Nelson, II, *Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

“I am honored to endorse Cry for Hope, a global solidarity movement calling for decisive action to bring about a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. It is time for the International Community and leaders and members of different faith traditions to join efforts in challenging the injustices wrought upon the Palestinian people. From a Gospel perspective we cannot remain silent as we continue to see how the tight grip of occupation squeezes life out of our Palestinian siblings. We have come to a critical point in this struggle which demands concrete actions, especially against any unjust and unilateral decision to annex settlements in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley. I support the appeal from Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land) warning about the ‘catastrophic implications’ the proposed annexation will have on the peace process. With him I call for ‘Liberation not annexation.’

“I write from my social location in the United States of America where we are seeing the results of decades, and even centuries, of the church’s apathy, silence, and even complicity with unjust systems, in the struggle for racial justice. We can no longer stay on the sidelines claiming an a-political posture.

“Tradition attributes to St. Francis of Assisi the following saying, ‘Every Christian should preach, and if necessary, to use words.’ The time is now for us to lift our voices and support Cry for Hope.”

Rev Dr Rafael Malpica Padilla, *Executive Director for Global Mission, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

“The challenging question of the prophet Elijah is never more urgent: ‘How long will you go limping with two different opinions?’ (1 Kings 18:21) Churches today face an urgent choice on which hinges the integrity of the Gospel they preach.”

Rev John H. Thomas, *General Minister and President (1999-2009, United Church of Christ*

“We are indeed living in a time of crises. It seems now that the whole world, like a sleeping giant, is finally waking up to the fact that we have been living with an uncomfortable combination of nationalism and racism for generations. As a black man in America, I immediately saw and felt the systemic racism my Palestinian brothers and sisters were enduring on my first visit to what we call the Holy Land. As we continue to grapple with the systemic racism in America, we are also called to engage in the fight of liberation of Palestinians. BLACK LIVES MATTER=PALESTINIAN LIVES MATTER. It’s the same fight, therefore, I endorse and support the goals and the actions called for the ‘Cry for Hope’ document.”

Bishop Don diXon Williams, *Inter-Organizational Relations and Public Policy Department United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic)*

“I wholeheartedly endorse Cry for Hope. Its message is clear. Its message is a step in the right direction of forming the beloved community that Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about. A Cry for Hope honors both the Palestinian cause and Israeli concerns; and it calls for a path toward justice that is non-violent and respects all of God’s children who are made in the image of God. It is not partisan. It is not bitter. It is not anti-Semitic. It is prophetic and profound and has my full support.”

Dr Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., *Pastor Emeritus Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL, USA*