

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH

July 23, 2024

Dear President Biden,

Over the past many months, The Episcopal Church has engaged with your Administration and many members of Congress about the ongoing violence in the Middle East. We have been grateful for the ongoing communication with senior members of the National Security Council and the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Our Church has strong ties to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, also a member of the global Anglican Communion. We have raised concerns again and again about attacks against al Ahli Arab Hospital, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. We have expressed our horror at the loss of civilian life, Israeli and Palestinian, and have urged the U.S. government to use all the leverage it can to call for a permanent ceasefire, humanitarian access, the release of hostages, and an end to the death and suffering of innocent civilians, including children.

Just last month, The Episcopal Church's governing body passed a number of resolutions on Israel and Palestine, urging on all to call on your administration to take strong and decisive action. We share these calls below, and urge you to do everything in your power to move forward with not only a ceasefire plan, but to ensure a sustained commitment to the people of Gaza as they rebuild, as well as accountability for human rights abuses, violence, and illegal land seizures.

Our Church recognizes the moral and legal obligations of the United States to the people of Gaza, given the role of the United States in providing military aid and diplomatic support for the war. The Episcopal Church opposes any military aid in violation of human rights (Resolution D012), and we must be prepared join in historic levels of aid and investment to fund the restoration and rebuilding of Gaza (D009). We call for an immediate ceasefire (D056) as well as the release of all unjustly detained prisoners with a future ensuring equal rights and peace (D007).

The United States has a capacity that is unique to pressure the Israel government to make urgent changes now. Ahead of Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit, we ask that the U.S. do the following:

- Push for an immediate and sustained ceasefire
- Indicate a willingness to halt U.S. security assistance to Israel and force accountability of human rights violations
- Find a way forward to fund UNRWA
- Push for an end to the detention of Palestinians who are unjustly held without charges or trial

We recognize your longstanding support of Israel, but call on you to recognize that we cannot continue with this level of impunity, with assurances of change but ongoing violence and killing of civilians, targeting of medical facilities and staff, and bombing of refugee camps, UN facilities, and hospitals. Please take this moment and use the power of the U.S. government to ensure Israel makes meaningful changes and to push forward a way of peace in the region.

Sincerely,



The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry
Presiding Bishop & Primate
The Episcopal Church

The Most Reverend Michael Curry
PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE

