

Council for Ecumenical Student Christian Ministry
(United States)

Statement Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

May 15, 2002

I Corinthians 12:4-13 (NRSV)¹

"For just as the body is one
and has many members,
and all the members of the body,
though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

Our Prayer²

"Dear God, out of weakness & frailty,
we cry for strength to stand in solidarity
with those whose right and passion
is peace and love. Amen."

Our Statement

We, members of CESCUM and citizens of the United States, members of the world community, are called to stand up and join our voices with others, to be heard in the international arena. Our cry is for justice, for peace, and for an end to the violence that sweeps through the Holy Land. Our sisters and brothers in the Middle East have reached out their hearts to us in our time of crisis; as members of God's family, we are called to demand peace between all of God's creation.

We demand that those whose fight is to continue the injustices of violence, control, and suffering must relent. We call for peaceful, non-violent resolution to this conflict, and we demand for this to happen immediately. Too many have died! Too many have suffered! It is time to follow the light of tolerance and peace. It is never too late to do the right and just thing.

A Prayer for Peace

We pray for understanding

We pray that both Israelis and Palestinians are able to look past their differences, and see with new eyes and new clarity the position of the other. We pray for an understanding of the power of occupation, and its multiple barriers: and for an understanding of the significance of territories to both sides.

Above all, O God, we pray for the realization of peace.

We pray for clarity in leadership

We pray for the world leadership that their guidance to both sides might achieve a situation of peace and calm that will benefit all. We pray for the leaders of Israel and Palestine that they may be given the gift of clarity and see the benefits of peace for their people and all peoples.

Above all, O God, we pray for the realization of peace.

We pray for those who have been displaced

We pray for those who are without shelter, food, or water, who have had to leave their homes and lives in fear. We pray for those whose homes have been destroyed: and for those whose lives are torn apart. We pray that they may find peace and a new beginning.

Above all, O God, we pray for the realization of peace.

We pray for innocent lives lost

We pray for all those, Israeli and Palestinian, whose lives have been lost in bombings or warfare. We pray for the innocent lives, and for the families and friends who are grieving. We pray for an end to the violence in order that no more innocent may die.

Above all, O God, we pray for the realization of peace.

We pray for encouragement

We pray that those who have lost hope will be encouraged to seek justice and establish respect. We pray that new methods of seeking peace will be found and encouraged among all peoples.

Above all, O God, we pray for the realization of peace.

¹ **I Corinthians 12: 4-13 (NRSV)** "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body --Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

² **Our Prayer** - The purpose of this short prayer is simply to provide an individual prayer, which can be meditated upon individually."