Press Statement on Sectarian Appeals and Calls for "Protection" in the Name of Christians in Palestine

January 12th, 2026

From time to time, a group emerges among Christians claiming fear for the Christian presence, claiming to defend Palestinians Christians, and demanding what it calls "protection" from the Israeli occupying state. Today, a group calling itself the "Israeli Christian Voice" has appeared, communicating with the Israeli occupation authorities and with the U.S. Embassy.

To these we say clearly and responsibly: "the conditions in Palestine are harsh and difficult for all Palestinians and are not limited to Palestinian Christians alone. The suffering of our Palestinian people cannot be addressed through a narrow sectarian logic; it requires a comprehensive and just approach that upholds the Palestinian human being as a human being, regardless of religion or denomination.

A Christian is first and foremost a human being, a child of this land, whose land is called Palestine. By virtue of faith, the Christian does not live in isolation from others, but listens to the commandment of Christ: "Love the Lord your God… and love your neighbor as yourself." And the neighbor is every human being - the near and the far, the one considered a friend and the one considered an enemy. Every human being matters to the Christian: Muslim, Druze, Jew, and Samaritan. The Palestinian people and all peoples of the earth matter to the Christian. Every afflicted person, every oppressed person, and everyone whose dignity has been violated in this land is the concern of the true Christian. Every person who suffers - whether from settler attacks, military repression, imprisonment, displacement, or home demolitions—is our moral and human responsibility. As Christ said: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat… I was in prison and you came to visit me… Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:35–40).

Kairos Palestine is the most extensive Palestinian Christian ecumenical nonviolent movement, rooted in the *Kairos Palestine – A Moment of Truth* document launched in 2009. The document affirms that Palestinian Christians are an inseparable part of the Palestinian people and calls for a just peace, an end to their suffering, and the realization of their right to self-determination, grounded in faith, hope, and love. It was signed by leading Palestinian Christian organizations and endorsed by the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. In November 2025, Kairos Palestine issued *"Kairos Palestine II – A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide"* continuing its theological and moral witness by naming the present reality and calling on churches and the international community to confront injustice and stand in active solidarity with the Palestinian people.

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Be a Christian as Christ intended you to be: not a selfish Christian, nor a closed, sectarian one who sees only his own pain and ignores the pain of others. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16), the rich man was condemned simply because he did not see the poor man and did not care for him. We do not confine ourselves to our own suffering; rather, we see all the poor and afflicted in our land - those whose homes were demolished, whose lands were destroyed, who were displaced from their villages, and who were thrown into prisons—from Jenin to Nablus, from Jerusalem and Silwan to Bethlehem and Hebron, and in Gaza, where genocide and destruction are being carried out.

First, we ask God for protection; second, from our faith in ourselves and in our unity; and third, from standing with truth and justice in our land, and with the right of all our brothers and sisters to life, freedom, and dignity. We are enemies to no one. We say to Israel: "you want security, and we want security for all. You are wrong when you deny the Palestinian people's right to exist and place them between the two choices of forced displacement or death. You are wrong when you displace the Palestinian from their land, when you destroy villages and cities, and when you practice genocide in Gaza. Your true security will not be achieved through force, killing, or the destruction of the region, but through recognizing the Palestinian human being and their right to land, freedom, and a state. This is the only path to security for all."

Protection is not sought from the enemy. Israel, as an occupying power, is the one that demolishes, kills, and displaces. By what logic, and by what Christian ethics, is "protection" sought from it? Seek justice, not protection. Seek justice for all, not privilege for yourselves while your brothers and sisters are being crushed.

And is protection to be sought from the U.S. government? It is the principal partner in the destruction of Palestine, in supporting killing and occupation, and in violating God's commandments - "You shall not kill; you shall not steal." It has also contributed to the displacement of Christians of the East, from Iraq, From Syria and From Palestine. Seeking protection from the U.S. government is a disregard of the blood of Palestinians, including Palestinian Christians, of their suffering, and of their historical witness in this land.

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Let us be Christians in truth, loving all people as Christ loved them. We have no enemy; rather, we seek light and guidance for all—for Israel and for America—so that they may turn away from the path of force, killing, and destruction, and respect what God has granted to humanity: land, freedom, life, and dignity. Christ did not come for a sect; he came for all people. And the Christian does not care only for Christians, but for every human being. We reject destructive sectarianism that increases division, deepens pain, and serves injustice.

The Palestinian Christian seeks the good of every human being, regardless of religion, color, race, or ethnicity; calls for the freedom of all prisoners and the emptying of prisons; defends the right of every Palestinian to live safely in their village and city; and believes that justice alone creates peace, and that true faith is inseparable from human dignity.

This is the Christian position. This is living faith. And this is the message of Christ in the land of Palestine.

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