Mays Nassar speech on the history and process of writing Kairos document II: A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide.

Esteemed guests, Church leaders, beloved friends
It fills our hearts with joy to welcome you all—those who have journeyed from near and far, from Palestine and across the world—to stand with us in solidarity, prayer, and shared conviction. Your presence today is a living testimony that our cry for justice still echoes across continents, that the prophetic voice of the oppressed has not been silenced.

Sixteen years ago, Palestinian Christian clergy, theologians, and lay leaders from every church in this land gathered to reflect, pray, and speak with one voice about our reality as Palestinian Christians under occupation. From that sacred moment of unity was born the historic *Kairos Palestine Document*—"A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering" (2009). Endorsed by the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, it became a faithful and courageous expression of conscience, affirming the right and duty of Palestinian Christians to bear witness to the truth of their suffering.

The 2009 moment of truth document called upon Palestinian Christians to recognize themselves as part of the wider Palestinian people, enduring occupation and dispossession. It urged them to see their struggle through the lens of faith—not with despair, but with steadfast hope and active love rooted in justice. It also appealed to the global Church to transform compassion into concrete action: to challenge theological distortions, to resist complicity with oppression, and to embody a faith that liberates. Notably, it was the first Palestinian Christian document to affirm Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) as a nonviolent and faith-driven response to the occupation.

Since then and for the past 16 years, the message of Kairos has traveled far beyond the borders and walls of Palestine. What began as a document became a living movement—Kairos Palestine, the most extensive Palestinian Christian ecumenical, nonviolent initiative working to end occupation, apartheid, and systemic injustice. Through its prophetic witness, it has inspired churches, communities, and solidarity movements worldwide, giving rise to the Global Kairos for Justice Coalition, whose members are present with us today.

Yet, with the beginning of the genocidal war on Gaza and the worsenning reality of Apartheid and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, we reached a decisive moral and theological turning point. Our hearts were compelled to reflect on the meaning of faith in such a time of horror. We asked ourselves: *What must we say to our people now? What is the Christian word in the face of genocide?* As churches around the world hesitated — some silent, others siding with power—we saw our own people losing hope, and some leaving their homeland in search of safety and dignity.

In this moment of anguish, we turned inward. We began a process of deep self-examination, asking our Palestinian Christian community whether the first Kairos document still speaks to the realities of today. Through community consultations, workshops, and surveys, our people told us that while the original message remains powerful and clear, it must now be renewed—its language updated, its vision expanded to meet the gravity of the current moment. The cries from Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the 1948 cities all called for a new word of truth, rooted in faith and courage.

Upon hearing these voices, and on March 7th, 2024 - 5 months into the genocide in Gaza, we undertook an open and courageous process of reflection. For the first time, Kairos Palestine engaged in an explicit political and theological conversation about our lived reality of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and settler colonialism. We recognized that we must speak with greater boldness, free from the temptation to appease. We must name injustice for what it is and affirm that the system we face is one of apartheid—a system that denies our rights, erases our history, and seeks to silence our faith. We acknowledged the painful reality that there is no genuine partner for peace and that our calling, as Palestinian Christians is to stand firm in truth, to challenge global double standards, and to resist Western moral hypocrisy. For Palestine, we said, is not only a land under siege—it is the moral compass of the world.

This conviction led us to begin writing a new Kairos document—one that would echo the cry of our people and proclaim a faith based vision from the heart of genocide. We engaged with our youth, our women and men, our clergy, our lay leaders, and our theologians. We listened to the churches of Gaza, to families in the West Bank, to the steadfast voices of Jerusalem, and to our brothers and sisters in the 1948 cities. We gathered reflections from international partners, clergy, and scholars to discern together how the Spirit is calling us to respond in this *moment of Kairos*, in this time of profound moral testing.

As the war deepened and the genocide continued unstopped, our writing became a form of prayer. Women and men, clergy and lay people wrote side by side, holding the pen of faith in trembling hands. We consulted with local churches, received feedback, revised, and refined. Through months of discernment, theological reflection, and dialogue, the document took shape—its words carrying the pain of loss, the strength of steadfastness, and the hope that refuses to die.

By April 2025, the text bore witness to the unspeakable: genocide, displacement, starvation, the destruction of Gaza's social, educational, medical, and spiritual life, and the silent genocide the West Bank. Yet through this darkness, it also proclaimed light—a faith that endures even when the world fails morally.

After ten months of continuous dialogue, revisions, and consultations, we now stand together to present the fruit of this collective labor. We would like to thank all those who have been part of this journey.

A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide.

This new Kairos document provides a renewed theological and spiritual reading of the Palestinian and global reality. It describes our present as a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced displacement unfolding before the eyes of the world. It affirms that this moment demands a new stance—one of faith, truth, and responsibility.

Kairos II does not replace Kairos I—it deepens it. The first spoke from the heart of occupation; the second is written from the heart of genocide. The first called for faith, hope, and love in the absence of hope; the second declares faith, hope, and love in a time when death has been normalized, law has collapsed, and the conscience of the world stands on trial.

Today, November 14th, 2025, we present to you our new Kairos document and renewed call—*with you, from you, and for all of us*. It is a collective testimony, a testament of truth, born of suffering yet rooted in action based hope over death. It is our moral testament as Palestinian Christians, and our declaration that even from the heart of genocide, life and truth will rise.