



**PATRIARCHS AND HEADS
OF LOCAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM**

**To the Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the
United States of America**

Patriarch Theophilos III

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate

Patriarch Michel Sabbah

R.C. Latin Patriarchate

Patriarch Torkom II

Armenian Apostolic
Orthodox Patriarchate

Pier-Battista Pizzaballa

Custos of the Holy Land

Anba Abraham

Coptic Orthodox

Swerios Malki Mourad

Syrian Orthodox

Abune Grima

Ethiopian Orthodox

Paul Nabil Sayyah

Maronite Patriarchal
Exarchate

Riah Abu Al-Assal

Episcopal Church of
Jerusalem & the
Middle East

Mounib Younan

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Jordan
& the Holy Land

Pierre Malki

Syrian Catholic
Patriarchal Exarchate

George Bakar

Greek Catholic
Patriarchal Exarchate

Raphael Minassian

Armenian Catholic
Patriarchal Exarchate

Greetings of Grace and Salaam from the Holy City of Jerusalem.

During the last several months, there has been renewed attention to the situation of Palestinian Christians. We as the leaders of the Palestinian Christian community welcome and appreciate the desire to support Palestinian Christians. At the same time, we believe that much that has been said does not represent the reality we face. Nor does it address the true causes of the suffering and hardships our community endures each day.

We would like therefore to take this opportunity to invite a delegation of the United States Congress to come to Jerusalem and visit the Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. Coming and experiencing firsthand the hardships of a community living under an illegal military Occupation will allow you to assess the situation from the point of view of those who suffer. The visit would provide opportunities to meet with Church leaders, women, children, youth, lay leaders and ordinary Palestinian Christians from all walks of life and all denominations.

We welcome your interest and, even more, we would welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with you here in our home. There has been massive migration to other countries of Palestinian Christians largely due to the illegal Occupation. Our future as a vital religious community in our own land requires a solution to the conflict that will allow both peoples to live side by side in justice, peace and security.

Please come to Jerusalem and see for yourselves.

Jerusalem, June 28th 2006

On behalf of them

+ Michel SABBAAH, *Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem*

+ Mounib YOUNAN, *Evangelical Lutheran Bishop*

+ Riah ABU AL-ASSAL, *Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East*