

Churches for Middle East Peace



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Alliance of Baptists

American Friends Service
Committee

Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America

Armenian Orthodox Church

Catholic Conference of Major
Superiors of Men's Institutes

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Common Global Ministries Board

Church of the Brethren

Church World Service

Episcopal Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

Franciscan Friars (OFM)
English Speaking Conference,
JPIC Council

Friends Committee on National
Legislation

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of America

Maryknoll Missioners

Mennonite Central Committee

Moravian Church in America

National Council of Churches

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Reformed Church in America

Unitarian Universalist Association

United Church of Christ
Common Global Ministries Board

United Methodist Church
General Board of Church and Society
General Board of Global Ministries:
Women's Division

June 14, 2007

ATTENTION: FOREIGN POLICY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

Dear Senator,

The Board of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), a coalition of Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches and church-related organizations, welcomes S. Res. 224, the Feinstein/Lugar resolution that supports efforts to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace. **We applaud S. Res. 224's reaffirmation of the Senate's commitment to a true and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and urge you to co-sponsor this important resolution,** initially introduced by Sens. Feinstein, Lugar, Dodd, Hagel, Baucus, Byrd, Sununu, Voinovich and Whitehouse.

We take to heart the Psalmist's injunction to "seek peace, and pursue it" (Ps. 34:14b) and are encouraged by the prudent and judicious Congressional leadership shown by S. Res. 224. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is recognized as one of the most intractable conflicts in our troubled world today, but as S. Res. 224 notes, support for a two-state solution is broad and there is a critical need for robust diplomacy to pursue peace negotiations. Every day that the conflict goes on is another day that extremists in the region are strengthened, moderate Arab allies are weakened and Israelis and Palestinians live amidst fear and violence. Progress toward a permanent resolution to the conflict will bolster U.S. national security, vital interests and moral authority.

The churches in the CMEP coalition have long sought peace in the Holy Land and reconciliation of the three Abrahamic faiths. We support active and high level U.S. engagement to achieve a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict where Israel lives in peace and security alongside a viable Palestinian state.

We join the resolution's sponsors in calling on President Bush to make a two-state settlement a top priority and pursue a diplomatic effort that could realize the vision he first presented in June 2002. With the Senate's leadership, the Congress can strengthen Secretary Rice's efforts and encourage sustained diplomatic engagement by the United States.

The current impasse is not sustainable. **Now is indeed the time for all parties to redouble their efforts to achieve peace. We hope you will join with your colleagues in co-sponsoring S. Res. 224 today.**

Sincerely,

Names of Signers on page two

Bishop Wayne Burkette
Moravian Church in America

Rev. Daryl Byler
Director, Washington Office
Mennonite Central Committee

Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi
Director, Office of Int'l Justice and Peace
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
(Observer to CMEP Board)

Jim Fine
Legislative Secretary for Foreign Policy
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Dennis W. Frado
Director, Lutheran Office for World Community
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Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory
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Presbyterian Church, (USA)

Rev. Phillip L. Jones
Director, Washington Office
Church of the Brethren

Rob Keithan
Director, Washington Office for Advocacy
Unitarian Universalist Association of
Congregations

Dr. Antonios Kireopoulos
Associate General Secretary for International
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National Council of Churches USA
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Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Rev. James Kofski
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Dr. Peter E. Makari
Executive, Middle East and Europe
Global Ministries of the
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The Reverend John L. McCullough
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The Very Rev. George Rados
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