



National Council of Churches in Australia

Thursday 17 May 2018

His Excellency Izzat Salah Abdulhadi
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Dear Ambassador Izzat

On behalf of the National Council of Churches in Australia, I express my condolences on the deaths of the sixty Palestinians killed on the Gaza-Israeli border on Monday 14 May 2018.

We share with you, below, an excerpt of a prayer from the United Church of Canada and based on the Kairos- Palestine Document, *A moment of Truth: A word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering*. This document is available from the [World Council of Churches website](http://www.wccco.org). We pray this prayer with and for your people at this time of violence and suffering.

Prayer for Peace with Justice in Israel/Palestine

God,
you are our hope, we shall not let go.
You help us seek peace, justice, hope, and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis,
You lead us towards courageous actions....

Even though there is uncertainty, indifference, and opposition,
grant us the strength to continually seek an end to the occupation,
so that Israelis and Palestinians can create a better future for themselves.

Even as we dream of a time when Israel/Palestine will be a symbol of hope, peace, and reconciliation,
help us to be mindfully aware of the volatile present.

Draw close to the multitude of injured and grieving people in the Holy Land;
gather up the hopeless, and abide with the physically and emotionally oppressed;
may your presence and your kin'dom comfort our siblings in their suffering.

God,
prepare tables of dialogue and opportunities for truth-telling around us.
Open the hearts of hurting people so that they may witness small signs of hope.

Surely, with your help, we will continue to seek justice and resist evil,
all the days of our lives, until all are able to live abundantly. Amen

May God lift your sorrow, hold you and comfort you in this difficult time.

You have turned my mourning into dancing; You have loosened my sackcloth and girded me with gladness. Psalm 30:11

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth (Liz) Stone
Interim General Secretary
on behalf of NCCA President, Bishop Philip Huggins

Anglican Church

Antiochian
Orthodox Church

Armenian
Apostolic Church

Assyrian Church
of the East

Chinese Methodist
Church

Churches of Christ

Congregational
Federation

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Orthodox Church

Greek
Orthodox Church

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Orthodox Church

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Religious Society
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Roman Catholic Church

Romanian
Orthodox Church

Syrian
Orthodox Church

The Salvation Army

Uniting Church

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