



## World Week for Peace in Palestine-Israel: May 29–June 5, 2011

*Joint action for a just peace convened by the World Council of Churches*

For more than 40 years, Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem have endured the Israeli military occupation of their lands and lives. Day-to-day life is marked by the separation wall, checkpoints, house demolitions, ever-expanding settlements, land seizures and unfair water use. Human rights are denied through arbitrary arrests and an intricate web of restrictions that limits the most basic of freedoms. Israeli military actions and Palestinian attacks have caused thousands of deaths. Palestinians bear the brunt of the violence, but the bloodshed and trauma affect all.

***Getting involved can be challenging for Canadian Christians. This is controversial topic, and it can seem like peace is a hopeless dream. So why bother?***

Faith demands hope, and in taking action through prayer and education we offer support to the Israeli and Palestinian groups who are steadfast in their commitment to non-violent resistance to the occupation. Israeli groups like KAIROS partner Bat Shalom have asked us to remember that the occupation damages Israeli society too; Palestinian partners like the Jerusalem Centre for Women ask us to call Canadians to awareness of the grinding daily reality of the occupation. They ask us to work for a just end to the occupation and to violence.

Even in the midst of the everyday violence of military occupation and control, these Jewish, Muslim, Christian and secular communities call us to a hope beyond hope. What is our response?

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**Events:** Hold an ecumenical or interfaith Just Peace 101 workshop with KAIROS, or use study resources offered by your national church. See [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org) at Countries of Concern- Israel and Palestine. Hold a study series or film festival, or invited a returned Canadian ecumenical accompanier to speak ([www.eappi.org](http://www.eappi.org)).

**Learn:** Get to know your church's and KAIROS' policies and consider prayerfully how those policies call us to education and transformation. Learn about church and KAIROS partners in the region and about the ecumenical resources we offer.

Learn about the "Moment of Truth" Kairos Palestine document through your church. Written by Palestinian Christians for Palestinians, it also invites people everywhere to reflect on its witness to the realities of the occupation and non-violent Palestinian resistance to it.

**Pray:** Sign up for the weekly ecumenical Wave of Prayer offered by the Sabeel Centre for Liberation Theology in Jerusalem, a KAIROS partner. [www.sabeel.org](http://www.sabeel.org)

**Support:** Purchase Zatoun fair trade olive oil from Palestinian farmers, and consider selling it through your church. See [www.zatoun.com](http://www.zatoun.com)

### EXCERPTS OF THE PRAYER FROM THE HEADS OF CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM FOR THE WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE ISRAEL 2011



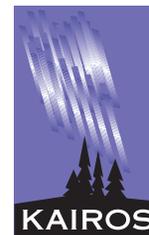
**Almighty and Merciful God**, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, you gathered the first Christians in Jerusalem. Grant that, like the first church of Jerusalem, we may come together, and with courage, we may preach and live the Word, and the good news of truth, reconciliation, and peace.

**God Creator**, Giver of Life, Bearer of Pain, Initiator of Love, you made the world and everything in it. You created the human race in your image and likeness, and gave us the earth for all to share. Break down the walls that separate us.

**God of Justice**, your generosity is without bounds... Lead us to act together in places and situations of want and need: where families are driven from their homes, where the vulnerable suffer in the hands of the powerful, where poverty and unemployment destroy lives.

**God of Hope**, you continue to call us to work for Peace in our world, broken and wounded by injustice, violence, and indifference. Alone, we are overwhelmed by challenges but together, and inspired by your Spirit, we can prevail beyond dreams and imagination. In fear we lose hope, and feel the futility of our efforts. Instil in our hearts and minds the image of your suffering and compassionate love as a source of courage and strength.

**KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a faithful movement for human rights and ecological justice, uniting the local and the global. We have four partners in Palestine and Israel and over thirty years' experience in the region.**



*Our founding members are: The Anglican Church of Canada, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the United Church of Canada, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Religious Conference, the Mennonite Central Committee of Canada, and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).*

More information: [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org) or [info@kairoscanada.org](mailto:info@kairoscanada.org)