



Letter to the Catholic Church in Canada

Bethlehem, Friday March 14th, 2025

We, Palestinian Christians, are living under the weight of Israeli occupation, bearing witness to the daily suffering, displacement, and oppression of our people. We speak not only of our own pain but of the collective agony of an entire nation deprived of its basic rights, dignity, and freedom.

Today, we also watch with concern as the specter of imperial ambition threatens other peoples and nations. U.S. President Donald Trump's alarming rhetoric about the annexation of Canada reminds us that no people should ever be treated as a possession to be claimed or discarded. We are encouraged to see the Catholic Church in Canada, which has long spoken against colonialism, stand firm against such threats to sovereignty, dignity, and human rights. Just as the Church has condemned past injustices, we call upon you, now to uphold your moral responsibility in speaking out against both the ongoing oppression of Palestinians and the dangerous expansionist ideologies threatening the world order.

Kairos Palestine stands with the will of the people, wherever they are. We are a movement of Palestinian Christians who believe in the power of faith to resist oppression and advance justice. Rooted in the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the deep spiritual traditions of our land, we stand against all forms of injustice, whether in Palestine, Canada, or elsewhere in the world. We call upon you in the Catholic Church of Canada to join us in resisting the forces of oppression and to reaffirm our common commitment to truth, justice, and human dignity.

For decades, the world has chosen silence in the face of injustice—turning away their attention as international laws are violated, as homes are demolished, as families are torn apart, and as entire generations are denied the right to live in peace. This silence is not neutrality; it is complicity.

The Church has always been a beacon of moral clarity in moments of great injustice. It has stood with the oppressed, spoken truth to power, and upheld the principles of righteousness and justice. In this hard and dark time of our history, we ask you to join us and take an unequivocal and prophetic stand against Israel's systematic oppression of the Palestinian people.

Kairos Palestine, the most extensive Palestinian Christian ecumenical non-violent movement, is based on Kairos Palestine document: A Moment of Truth, launched in 2009, affirming that the Palestinian Christians are part and parcel of the Palestinian nation, calling for peace to end all suffering in the Holy Land by laboring for justice, hope and love, embraced by the Christian community, signed by all historically recognized Palestinian Christian organizations, and endorsed by the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.

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We appeal to you:

- **Publicly declare Israel's policies against Palestinians as apartheid**, just as the Holy See once courageously condemned the apartheid in South Africa.
- **Catholic institutions to divest from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation and its genocidal war against our people.**
- **To recognize and implement the Kairos Palestine document** as part of its commitment to justice.
- **To unequivocally affirm the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination**, emphasizing that no external entity possesses the authority to make decisions on their behalf. In alignment with the sentiments expressed by the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem on February 14th, 2025, we stand in solidarity with leaders such as His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and President El-Sisi of Egypt, who have consistently opposed any attempts to uproot Palestinians from their ancestral lands.
- **To publicly affirm the authority of international law, recognize the binding decisions of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, and call upon the global community to act in accordance with these principles.** Justice cannot be selective, and peace cannot be built on the foundation of oppression.

The Kairos moment is now. This is not just a political crisis—it is a moral and spiritual reckoning. Will the Church rise with the courage of its prophetic calling, or will it too fall into the silence of indifference?

Your voice carries weight. Your words have the power to inspire action. We pray that you all will speak with the fearless love and justice that Christ himself embodied.

Sincerely,

+ Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah
Kairos Palestine Chair

Rifat Kassis
Kairos Palestine General Coordinator

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