CHALLENGING THE CHURCHES . . .

“The world will never get true security and safety through oppressing another people. A true peace can ultimately be built only on justice.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Boston Sabeel Conference, April 2002

“When the church hears the cry of the oppressed it cannot but denounce the social structures that give rise to and perpetuate the misery from which the cry arises.”

Archbishop Oscar Romero
(8/6/78) The Church: Called to Repentance, Called to Prophecy

“Justice is done when international law is implemented, when peace and its derivatives begin to be felt by the two communities. So long as the injustice persists, hate and its derivatives have the upper hand. In essence, justice and peace begin when the oppressor becomes aware of its violation of the other’s humanity.”

Naim Ateek
A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation

“I myself have great hope for change in the Middle East. I have hope because for almost a decade now I have been coming to Palestine/Israel and in that time I have met with many deeply committed people who have dedicated their lives to working for a peaceful, just solution to what is one of the longest running conflicts in the world. To all these people I offer my support for your non-violent struggle for peace and its derivatives begin to be felt by the two communities. So long as the injustice persists, hate and its derivatives have the upper hand. In essence, justice and peace begin when the oppressor becomes aware of its violation of the other’s humanity.”

Naim Ateek
A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation

“We should envision a future in which we apply a universal morality, emanating from our common God, measured by a simple standard of behavior, and valid for all people in all lands. These are the universal standards expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and we must renew our common commitment to live up to them.”

Jean Zaru
Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks

“The notion that Christians can only have good relations with Jews by turning a blind eye to the plight of the Palestinians seems unrealistic. Palestinians are made to pay for the sins of Western Christians against the Jews.”

Rosemary Radford Ruether
Speaking the Truth about Zionism and Israel

Friends of Sabeel—North America

Sabeel is . . .

an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land who seek a just peace based on two states—Palestine and Israel—as defined by international law and existing United Nations resolutions. Sabeel promotes theological, moral, and legal principles for peace as outlined in the Jerusalem Sabeel Document.

FRIENDS OF SABEEl—NORTH AMERICA

a member of Sabeel International, working in the U.S. and Canada to support the vision of Sabeel, cultivating the support of American churches through co-sponsored regional educational conferences, alternative pilgrimage, witness trips, and international gatherings in the Holy Land.

FRIENDS OF SABEEl—NORTH AMERICA

PO Box 9186 • Portland, Oregon 97207
(503) 653-6625
Email: friends@fosna.org
U.S. website: www.sabeel.ca
Canada website: www.sabeel.ca
Jerusalem website: www.sabeel.org

PRAY FOR SABEEl

in your prayers for Sabeel International and its programs and projects.

The Most Rev. Desmond M. Tutu
Patron, Sabeel International

The Rev. Canon Naim Ateek
President/Director Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem

FOSNA Steering Committee

Officers
Rev. Edmond Browning
President/Former President Bishop, Episcopal Church USA
Rev. Canon Richard K. Toft, D.Min., D.D.
Chaplain
Sister Elaine Kelley, SFCC, Administrative Officer
Mary Hansen, Treasurer/Sisters of the Holy Names Associate

Members
Rev. Fadel Abu-Akel, Moderator, Presbyterian Church USA, 214th General Assembly
Rev. Robert Assaly, Anglican Dioceses of Ottawa and Montreal
Elizabeth Barlow, University of Michigan (retired)
Ann E. Hallstein, World Council of Churches’ Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel
George Adris Khoury, Engineer (retired)
Joy Lappi, Metropolitan State College of Denver
Rev. Darrel Meyers, Middle East Fellowship of Southern California
Rosemary Radford Ruether, Claremont School of Theology and Graduate University
Grace Said, Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace (WIA)

Advisory Board
Laila Al-Mahayati, Founder USA
Mubarak Award, Nonviolence International
Kathy Bergen, Friends International Center, Ramallah
Mark Braverman, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions
Rev. J. Barry Curtis, Archbishop of Canterbury
R. Thomas Cumbieton, Catholic Diocese of Detroit
Gabriel Habib, Middle East Fellowship
Yvonne Hatfield, Georgetown University
Zaha Hassan, Attorney at Law
Rashid Khalidi, Middle East Institute, Columbia University
Atif Safieh, Former Head of PLO Mission to the USA
John Salzberg, United Nations Association Human Rights Task Force
Dorothy Jean Weaver, Eastern Mennonite Seminary
Cornell West, Princeton University

PLEASE DONATE

(Membership/Donation Form Enclosed)

Non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization
TAX ID: 38-3419440

American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights, www.aaper.org
American Association for Rational Understanding, www.amru.org
American Jews for a Just Society, www.ajjs.org
Betzalel Shalom, www.betzalelshalom.org
Brit Tzedek v’Shalom, www.btvshalom.org
CFTLELA, Israeli Info Center for Human Rights in Occupied Territories, www.cftlela.org/English/index.asp
Churches for Middle East Peace, www.cemp.org
Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Episcopal Church USA, www.episcopalpeacefellowship.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Peace Not Walls, www.elca.org
Gush Shalom, www.gush-shalom.org
Friends International Center, Ramallah, www.ramallahquakers.org
Free Gaza Movement, www.freegaza.org
Friends International Center, Ramallah, www.ramallahquakers.org
Gaza Shalom, www.gaza-shalom.org
Holy Land Resources, www.holylandresources.net
Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem, www.holylandtrust.org
International Center of Bethlehem, www.annadwa.org
Israel Committee Against House Demolitions, www.icahd.org
Jewish Concience, www.jewishconscience.org
Jewish Voice for Peace, www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org
Join the Free Palestine Movement, www.josvincent.org
Koshaa Movement, www.koshaa.org
Friends International Center, Ramallah, www.ramallahquakers.org
Palestine Summer Encounter, www.palestinesummer.org
Palestinians and Israelis for Nonviolence, www.p-im.org
Pax Christi USA, www.paxchristiusa.org
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, www.presbypeacefelloship.org
Rabbis for Human Rights, thrabis.net www.thrabis.net
Reform Jewish Network, www.reformjewishnetwork.org
Refuser Solidarity Network, www.refusersolidarity.org
Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, www.rcprr.org
Sejaamut-Faith, Politics, Culture, www.sejaamut.org
Stephen Sizer Ministries (Christian Zionism Studies), www.siz.org
United Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ), www.globalcongregations.org
United Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries, www.gbgm-umc.org
World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Program, www.wcc-WCAP.org
Zochrot (Remember), www.zochrot.org

At www.fosna.org

A more comprehensive list of websites is available at www.fosna.org.
A Call to the Christian Churches
As millions around the world protest U.S. policy in the Middle East, Christians in large numbers here at home are organizing in their churches and communities, working to educate themselves and others about the Holy Land, to become more effective advocates for justice and peace. Basic information is needed in our churches to respond appropriately to the Christian call to live “in truth” and to be peacemakers. Friends of Sabeel—North America works to help American Christians and their church leaders do just that—by bringing the voice of the Palestinian Christians to them.

Sabeel is an Arabic word which means “the way” and recalls the Christians of first-century Palestine who were called “the people of The Way.” The Sabeel Center was founded in Jerusalem by members of the churches of Palestine to foster understanding and peace. Friends of Sabeel organizations have been established in North America, the United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Germany, Scandinavia, The Netherlands, and Oceania.

Friends of Sabeel—North America (FOSNA) was formed to support the efforts of the Palestinian Christians working with Sabeel in Jerusalem to promote their cause for a “just peace” between Palestinians and Israelis through principles with a theological, moral, and legal basis—as explained in the Jerusalem Sabeel Document.

The Jerusalem Sabeel Document is available free online at www.fosna.org. You may also request the document in booklet format by mail. Send your name and address, along with $2.00 for each copy, payable to:

Friends of Sabeel
North America
PO Box 9186
Portland, OR 97207

A Theology for the Victims of Injustice
“The Bible has been used by some western Christians and Jews in a way that has supported injustice rather than justice. Liberation theologians have seen the Bible as a dynamic source for their understanding of liberation, but if some parts of it are applied literally to our situation today the Bible appears to offer to the Palestinians slavery rather than freedom, injustice rather than justice, and death to their national and political life.”

“The concept of God as inclusive in character and just in all ways becomes clearer when one considers the recipients of God's justice. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, God shows special concern for the underprivileged, the disadvantaged, and the vulnerable.”

“Powerful rulers, in this case the leaders of the State of Israel...ought to take note of the biblical truth that God’s principal concern is for the victims of injustice. Once this biblical and theological idea is understood, it should produce political responsibility.”

from Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation
by The Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek,
Founder/Director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem

“A SABEEL EVENT AT YOUR CHURCH can help people understand the complex issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the profound message of justice and peacemaking in the Gospel. Consider one of the following:

• A Sabeel information table following worship services with a display of educational materials including books, videos, magazines, church news

• A Sabeel presentation for your church council, justice and peace committee or other mission committee, adult education class, youth education program, or for the whole congregation

• A Sabeel educational series on a variety of topics (history of the occupation, Palestinian Christian history and heritage, etc.)

• A Sabeel/Church Partnership — forming an active Sabeel church group, co-sponsoring a Sabeel conference in your area, visiting the Holy Land

Contact us for materials and information: (503) 653-6625 friends@fosna.org

“Blessed are the Peacemakers” Matthew 5:9

Sabeel Programs:
• Pilgrimage and Witness Trips
• Regional/International Conferences
• Theological Education
• Interfaith Work and Coalition Building

Our Peace Partners:
• American Friends Service Committee
• American Jews for a Just Peace
• Christian Peacemaker Teams, Hebron
• Churches for Middle East Peace
• Episcopal Peace Fellowship
• Institute on Christian Zionism
• Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions
• Middle East Fellowship
• Pax Christi USA
• Presbyterian Church USA
• U.S. Campaign to End Israeli Occupation

Palestinian Christians, side by side with their Muslim brothers and sisters in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, are struggling to survive over four decades of Israeli military occupation, forced to live under the inhumane conditions imposed by Israel’s apartheid system of concrete walls, electrified fences, razor wire, and a matrix of control of checkpoints, illegal settlements, and a system of bypass roads. It is time to end the military occupation and to establish a viable Palestinian state with all the rights, duties and privileges of other nations in the international community.