



Thou Shall Not Kill in Palestine: A guide to approaching churches

As Christians committed to peace based on justice for all of God's people in Palestine and Israel, we at FOSNA ask you to call on your religious organizations and leaders to take action.

Ask your church to make a public statement through the following methods:

- Lead a prayer for those who have died in Gaza - read the names of the children who have been killed (document listing children's names and ages supplied in toolkit)
- Your church's leaders or social justice committee can make a statement in your church newsletter.
- Your church can use the sign/placard outside your church to make a statement in support of Gaza/Palestine.
- Your church, or member of church's social justice committee, can write an op-ed or take out an ad in the local newspaper.
- Your church can offer a copy of *Zionism Unsettled* and/or *Kairos Palestine* and lead a study group
- Your church can call on their regional and national judicatories to make a statement regarding a just agreement to end the siege on Gaza and the occupation of Palestine.
- Your local church can endorse the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and divest from any stocks they have in companies that contribute to or benefit from the occupation of Palestine.

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Talking points for approaching your church:

- This brutal campaign by Israel is not a war but a series of politically motivated massacres.
- We recognize that the violence in the Holy Land is rooted in Israel's occupation of Palestine; an end to occupation is the only way to



achieve any lasting peace, safety, and security, for the people who live there.

- Almost 4 weeks of attacks by air, sea and land have left nearly 2,000 people in Gaza dead. Around 80 percent of the people killed have been civilians. About ¼ of them have been children. Over 9,000 have been injured.
- We demand an immediate and permanent end to the violence to be monitored by independent, international observers. The agreement must include an immediate end to Israel's seven-year siege of the Gaza Strip, allowing the free flow of food, medicine, medical equipment and personnel into the territory.
- We demand an immediate freeze on settlement expansion in the West Bank.
- Our leaders must demand an immediate freeze on all weapons and financial aid to the Israeli military. Any future aid to Israel must be contingent upon Israeli compliance with US domestic and international law that prohibits any aid or assistance to a State that is committing wrongful acts, such as the targeting of civilians populations.
- Our leaders must demand that the U.S. Congress call hearings to investigate Israel's possible illegal use of U.S. weapons under the US arms export control act of 1977 during the July, 2014 military action.

For support and advice about how to approach your church and organize local actions in your community, contact Ariel Gold:
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