



WHAT ARE FOSNA AND SABELL?

Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt Christian ecumenical organization seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land through nonviolent advocacy and education.

Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians, who seek a just peace as defined by international law and existing United Nations resolutions.

FOSNA'S WORK...

...supports Kairos Palestine to end Palestinian suffering.

...calls for an end to the Israeli occupation of the state of Palestine.

...seeks equal rights and access to resources for all inhabitants of the region, based on principles of social, economic, environmental, and political justice.

...supports the right of return for refugees.

...demands an end to policies of the U.S. government that support and perpetuate the occupation.

...supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Today, the U.S. gives over \$10.1 million a day to Israel in military aid. We have a responsibility to help put an end to Israel's human rights violations against the Palestinian people. You can help by...

...having your church sign on to FOSNA's HP-Free Church campaign.

...asking your clergy to speak up for Palestine through our Clergy & Seminary Action Council.

...joining efforts to fight anti-BDS legislation in the U.S.

...organizing or attending FOSNA and Sabeel conferences and witness trips.

...inviting FOSNA staff, or figures from our Palestinian Speakers List, to come speak at your church.

...becoming a member of FOSNA today!

Visit fosna.org to learn more!



Above: Members of the Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) attend the United Church of Christ gathering, summer 2017.

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THE HOLY LAND TODAY



CHRISTIANS IN PALESTINE

Every year, tens of thousands of Christian pilgrims from around the world travel to Palestine to visit Jerusalem and the holy sites. But today, Christians who have lived in the Holy Land for centuries are leaving in increasing numbers.

In 1948, Christians made up 10% of the total population in Palestine. Now, they number just under 2%.

WHY ARE CHRISTIAN PALESTINIANS LEAVING?

Israel's military occupation of Palestinian land has imposed many hardships on Palestinian Christians and Muslims alike.

- Since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, Israel has demolished nearly 50,000 Palestinian homes. (Estimate based on UN OCHA data.)
- Every year, Israel confiscates Palestinian land to build new Jewish-only settlements.
- The wall erected by Israel, deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice, divides the West Bank from Jerusalem and Israel
- Checkpoints and Israeli-only roads separate Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank. Palestinians are required to obtain Israeli-issued permits to travel for medical care, worship, to access their own farmland, or simply to visit family and friends.

MOST PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS CITE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AS THE PRIME CAUSE OF EMIGRATION.



“...WE NEED YOU AND WE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER. WE NEED YOUR COSTLY SOLIDARITY. WE NEED BRAVE WOMEN AND MEN WHO ARE WILLING TO STAND IN THE FOREFRONT. THIS IS NO TIME FOR SHALLOW DIPLOMACY”

Below: Daily commute for Palestinians, waiting in line at an Israeli checkpoint in the West Bank.



“PALESTINIAN THEOLOGY OF LIBERATION FOCUSES ON THE HUMANITY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH, WHO WAS ALSO A PALESTINIAN LIVING UNDER AN OCCUPATION.”

-Rev. Naim Ateek, Sabeel

RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

In 1987, the Rev. Canon Naim Ateek founded Sabeel (“The Way”) in Jerusalem to draw attention to the plight of Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land.

In 1996, FOSNA was established to bring the vision and message of Sabeel to American churches.

In 2007, Palestinian clergy and theologians composed the Kairos Palestine document, a theological reflection on the occupation. The Document affirms demands made by the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, calling for divestment and “a commercial boycott of everything produced by the [Israeli] occupation.”

In 2017, the National Coalition of Christian Organizations in Palestine (NCCOP) issued a statement to the global Christian community calling for “costly solidarity” with Palestine.

