

## **ASIS PACIFIC**

### Australia

"I would like to endorse Kairos Palestine in their Call To Decisive Action. I appreciate the spirit of Kairos Palestine which seeks to see 'enemies today and human beings tomorrow, vested with the grace of God, moving forth to build together, to wipe off sins committed against human rights, to regenerate and care for new generations of Palestinians and Israelis, to develop the earth where God wants us to continue God's work.'

"I will call on fellow Christians 'to engage in a process of study, reflection and confession concerning the historic and systemic deprivation of the rights of the Palestinian people, and the use of the Bible by many to justify and support this oppression.' At the same time, I will also 'oppose anti-Semitism by working for justice against anti-Judaism, racism and xenophobia; oppose the equating of criticism of Israel's unjust actions with anti-Semitism.' And I will continue to 'support initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians and interfaith partnerships that combat apartheid and occupation and create opportunities to work together for a common future of mutual respect and dignity.'"

**Dave Andrews**, *Waiters Union*

"It is tragic that this call is necessary. Many Christians will find standing against the Israeli government counterintuitive. But Christians cannot support a government that has created an apartheid system, further Christians must stand with those who are oppressed".

**Bishop George Browning**, *President, Australia Palestine Advocacy Network*

"Over the years I've had the benefit of meeting Palestinian Christian peace activists committed to joining with Jews, Christians and Muslims in fostering grassroots movements of understanding, nonviolence, reconciliation, peace, and transformation among Israelis and Palestinians. These remind us that peacemaking between Israelis and Palestinians, and between all peoples, requires a shift from hatred and suspicion towards trust, empathy, justice, freedom, and respect. This shift will only happen with the liberation of the Palestinian people, with a stand against anti-Semitism and occupation, with the end of apartheid and dispossession in Palestine, and with a commitment to mutual respect, freedom, and dignity. I fully support this call to decisive action".

**Rev Dr Graham Joseph Hill** Interim Principal, Stirling Theological College, Australia

"I welcome the Cry for Hope statement from Kairos Palestine. I have visited Palestine/Israel on many occasions, and between 1995 and 2002 I did so on behalf of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Over those years, I observed a change in language: by 2002 I was hearing the word 'apartheid'. It certainly is time for the international community, as urged by this statement, to recognize apartheid as the reality in which the Palestinian people live. Christian faith calls us to name that reality as antithetical to the teachings of Jesus, and to declare any support for Zionism to be a misuse of the Bible: the underlying message throughout the scriptures is that systems of domination, exploitation and oppression are incompatible with the justice and mercy of God, and will not have the last word. That is Christian hope, and it underpins this statement.

"As the current President of an ecumenical council, I am committed to raising awareness of, and advocating for, justice for the Palestinian people in their homeland."

**Rev Dr Ray Williamson**, *President of the NSW Ecumenical Council, and Vice-President of Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN)*

“The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to reflection and action, in solidarity with the oppressed. By calling for the liberation of the Palestinian people we are invited to deepen our commitment to God’s justice and the things that make for peace. I warmly commend this Cry for Hope.”

**Rev Associate Professor Sean Winter**, Head of Pilgrim Theological College, Melbourne, Australia

“We support the ‘Cry for Hope’ statement and continue to seek an end to the occupation of Palestinian lands. We support a just peace that will allow the Palestinian people access to the resources they need to be self-sufficient. We believe that a lasting peace and an end to oppression can only be achieved through non-violent means. We welcome that this statement supports the need to address anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia. We will continue to encourage our members to take action to support a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis”.

**Dr Mark Zirnsak**, Senior Social Justice Advocate, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting Church in Australia

“I support the Kairos call for the Church to speak out against the current actions of the Israeli government. The Church must declare that biblical Israel and the present Israeli Government are not the same. If the Church continues to misquote and misuse Scripture it is a hollow shell. I support the BDS campaign: it highlights the Occupation and is a call to justice and the righting of wrongs.”

**Helen Raigner**, President, Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN)

### India

“I have only admiration and total support for the untiring efforts of Mr. Ranjan Solomon and for Christian Churches for your support for the struggle of the Palestinian people. Injustice to one is injustice to all. That is the principle in Islam, where the killing of one innocent person (not only Muslim) is equated to the killing of all humanity and the saving of one innocent life is likened to saving all humanity.”

**Mirza Yawar Baig**, Imam & Khateeb, thinker, author, advisor, consultant

“For long years I have been concerned for the liberation of Palestine and the people of the Gaza Strip. I am convinced that the supposed promise to Abraham of the land of Canaan to the would-be Israel returnees from Egypt is a later insertion. For I believe God is No Intrusive in Human History. Nevertheless, God accompanies people who are victims of the multifaceted human arrogance, patriarchal, racist and capitalist. God is a suffering-together God empowering oppressed peoples of all nations and creeds. We need to walk along with God towards Kairos Global Justice. This is why I wholeheartedly endorse the Cry for Hope - Kairos Palestine.”

**Rev Dr Dhyanchand Carr**, A New Testament Teacher, Former Principal, Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai- India. Former Secretary for Mission and Theology of the Christian Conference of Asia in Hong Kong.

“I strongly endorse this document. It calls upon churches for imperative action.”

**Rev Dr Roger Gaikwad**, Former General Secretary, National Council Churches of India; Former Chairperson of World Student Christian Federation (Asia-Pacific Region); Presently Director, Theological Education, Mission and Evangelism, Diocese of North East India, Church of North India

“The time is right for concerned citizens, Christians and others, to once again speak out and condemn the role Israel is playing with the backing of the US; with the silence of other governments and global agencies.”

**Dr Aruna Gnanadason**, *Author, Lecturer & Former Executive Director in the General Secretariat of the World Council of Churches, India*

### Indonesia

“For sure I commit to be a part of the global community signatory of the document of Cry for Hope of the Palestine people. We pray for Palestine people in their struggle for justice and peace.”

**Rev Josef Purnama**, *Widyatmadja/Indonesia*

### Malaysia

“I am deeply honoured to endorse Kairos's 'Cry for Hope'. As a human being and as a Muslim, I feel privileged to associate myself with a just plea initiated by my Christian sisters and brothers. The plea is integral to the Palestinian cause—a cause which glows in my heart.”

**Dr Chandra Muzaffar**, *President of The International Movement for a Just World (JUST), Former Professor of Civilisational Dialogue and Professor of Global Studies*

### South Korea

“Thank you very much for sharing this call. Now we are called to special and decisive action as ‘an integral faith web of all living beings’ to enter into a new axis of civilizational transformation.

“I believe that Kairos Palestine has become a scope to discern critically my faith existence, my faith community, and my religion as an integral dimension of my integral life. It has provided the opportunity for me to discover the Gospel of Jesus anew in this 21st century for my faith, my faith community, and for my people and my world.

“What does this mean for me as I am a living being in the Korean peninsula in the corner of East Asia in the world?

“The call of Kairos Palestine awakened me to discern the historical being of mine: Just as my friends in Palestine, my parents gave me my birth under the colonial occupation of the Korean land by the Japanese colonial empire, which had declared the second war against China (1937). I was born as a colonized child in colonized territory of the Empire. My family and my life had been totally mobilized to imperial war-making against China, extending to the Pacific War (WW II). My father had been drafted to a forced labor camp at the Manchuria Musoon Coal Mine and died in 1944 due to the lung disease, caused by the coal dust and Malusi-nutrition in the cold weather. My mother and young sister had suffered abject poverty. I remember I was forced to cut the grass for the feed of the horses of the Japanese military. The families of people in Palestine today remind me of my experiences under the Japanese colonialism.

“My education which began in 1945 was devoted entirely to understanding the resistance of my people against the colonial empire. This led to my graduate study on the March 1st Independence Movement, 1919. This is a spiritual movement of 7 wisdoms of historical transformation in convergence.

“The Kairos Palestine document stimulated my appreciation of the Declaration of the March 1st Independence, the 1973 Theological Declaration of Korean Christians (Against the Cold War Military

Dictatorship) and Declaration of Churches for Peace in Korean Peninsula, 1988. This is “faith-resistance against the Cold War Ideological Apartheid.” There is a conjunction among the South African Apartheid, and the Zionist Apartheid, and Ideological Apartheid with all and full implications of deepest violence in the community of living beings.

“Now Kairos Palestine and the faith of people in Palestine exposed to me the nature of Christianity in its symbiotic relations with the powers that be, national and international (global) and with the greed of corporate capital globalized. The geopolitical hegemony of US political power and its military, its media and intellectual and technocratic complex is deeply intertwined with Christianity. Faith in the ecumenical movement is profoundly compromised in this context, and I discern that the Kairos Palestine movement has made many aware of this reality.”

**Prof Kim, Yong-Bock**, *Chancellor, Asia Pacific Center for Integral Study of Life (Zoesophia), (King Jeongjong) Chaired Professor of Peace Studies, Global Peace Center*

### Sri Lanka

“Thank you for these strong initiatives. I have read the letter and the Call and will gladly endorse the Call.”

**Bishop Duleep de Chickera**, *Former Anglican Bishop of Colombo*

“It is indeed a long struggle but 'We shall overcome'. It is only a matter of time. However, I recognize the importance of individuals and groups to keep plodding on and to engage in the struggle. The encouragement and the support they receive is a sign of participation in the struggle and the tremendous hope for the future.

“Please convey the assurance of our prayers and all good wishes, to all engaged in the struggle. Shalom and with every blessing.”

**Bishop Kumara Illangasinghe**, *Bishop Emeritus Diocese of Kurunagala, Church of Ceylon Anglican*

### Taiwan

“I am glad to give my support to Cry for Hope.”

**Ya-Tang Chuang**, *Associate Professor, Department of Theology, Chang Jung Christian University, Tainan, Taiwan*