



Christian-Jewish Allies for a Just Peace for Israel/Palestine

To People of Faith, Good Will, and Moral Conscience,

Fifty-seven years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood at the pulpit of Riverside Church and gave his famous speech 'A Time to Break Silence.' With the same vision for peace which Dr. King held out for Vietnam and the world after Vietnam, we raise our voices to demand that the United States end its support for Israel's massacre of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, the destruction of its infrastructure, and the removal of its population from their ancestral home.

The statements of the Biden administration and its United Nations voting record make clear that the United States stands alone in providing massive military and diplomatic support for the reign of death and terror unfolding in Palestine and lacks the qualifications to be an honest broker of a just peace.

Dr. King observed in his Riverside Church speech that there are moments by which we shall be judged when the history of these times is written. This is one of those moments. As a nation we possess immense influence with which we can leverage negotiations in Israel in the pursuit of a just peace. Dr. King spoke of the "fierce urgency of NOW." This historic crisis presents us with the opportunity - and the obligation - to act with courage NOW.

Renowned activist and academic Angela Davis has identified the current crisis in Gaza and Palestine as "a moral litmus test for the West." We call upon our political leaders and those who look to us for moral guidance, to act now to end the suffering of innocents and the wholesale destruction of Palestinian society. At similar times in our nation's history, religious leaders have issued this very same call to our nation's conscience: addressing the civil rights struggle in our country, opposing the Vietnam War, and condemning apartheid in South Africa. At those times we passed the test -- and world leaders responded. We dare not fail the test today.

In the name of All That is Holy, we demand an immediate cessation of the support that our nation provides - in the form of political, diplomatic, financial, and military support - for the violence and killing of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. We demand a complete and permanent ceasefire, the facilitation of massive humanitarian aid, the resumption of UNWRA financial support, and a commitment to the restoration of Gaza's infrastructure.

And we demand from our religious and spiritual leaders concrete actions that cry out to heaven -- and to our government -- for a just and lasting peace in Palestine.

*The Reverend Judith Beck and Susan Landau,
on behalf of
Christian-Jewish Allies for a Just Peace for Israel-Palestine*
