

ENTWURF EINER REAKTION VON CHURCH AND PEACE AUF DAS KAIROS-PALÄSTINA-DOKUMENT

To you, our Palestinian fellow Christians,
dear brothers and sisters,

We, members of "Church and Peace", are a European network of pacifist congregations, action groups and individuals who believe that the Gospel message of God's peace in Christ engages us in service for peace and reconciliation. We are convinced that political conflicts can never be resolved by armed force or violence, but must be healed by nonviolent means.

We have read the "Kairos Palestine 2009" document and we have heard your passionate cry for support as you seek justice and peace in your land.

We want to express our solidarity with you as you struggle to overcome the feeling of isolation and hopelessness which threatens to overwhelm you and your people in these extremely difficult times.

We understand that you are not questioning the existence of the state of Israel as such, but are standing firmly against military occupation and against the violations of basic human rights Palestinians have to endure on a daily basis.

We are in full agreement with your clear stand on nonviolence as the only way to attain justice and peace.

With you we mistrust the theological legitimation of the Israeli military occupation and violations of human rights in the Occupied Territories and Gaza, and reject the misuse of Bible quotations to endorse political claims based on injustice. We hold fast to the Old Testament affirmation: "The earth is the Lord's" and to Jesus' beatitude: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth".

With you we affirm that peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians – in spite of all its inherent difficulties – is the only way toward a viable future and we are prepared to become involved in aiding you to make this possible.

We are in contact with church leaders in the countries we represent, as well as with the World Council of Churches, and support them when they exercise their influence in support of peace efforts and when they take a stand for justice.

Some member groups of Church and Peace are involved in actions of solidarity with your struggle here in Europe; others are present in Israel and Palestine and keep us informed about developments. We are united with you through their witness for peace and justice.

We greet you in the name of our suffering and risen Lord and we pray that the Holy Spirit consoles the desperate and inspires nonviolent strategies for a just and peaceful future for all inhabitants of Israel and Palestine.

Yours in Peace