



October 13, 2023

Statement on Violence in Israel and Palestine

We are shocked and broken-hearted about the violence that has erupted in Israel and Palestine over the past week. We are equally dismayed at the brutality and inhumane treatment of fellow human beings displayed by both sides of this conflict.

Our immediate prayer is for the safety and wellbeing of the people directly affected by these events. We pray for the families who have had to bury loved ones; for the families of soldiers in harm's way; for the many relatives and friends the world over who worry and wonder; for those who have been taken hostage; and for all those caught in the middle of a situation beyond their control.

We stand with our siblings and partners around the world in denouncing the violence, advocating for an end to hostilities, and for a path toward peace for Israel and Palestine. We urge both sides to remember that we are created in the image of God and all are deserving of compassion, safety, and life.

We also pray for both the Jewish and Muslim communities within the Diocese of Rupert's Land and the MNO Synod. These communities are likely to experience a rise in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim behaviour directed against them. We urge all of God's people to not allow the actions of a few to shape how we view those in our communities. We ask for your compassion and love for our Jewish and Palestinian neighbours, as Christ has called us to do. Above all, we urge our churches to work for peace.

As Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land said, "We remember that the peace Jesus offers, that which is based in justice and solidarity with the suffering and oppressed, is at the root of true peace."

God's blessings as we pray for peace in Israel and Palestine.

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