



**The Birth Anniversary of
Jesus Christ and Gaza**

In the name of GOD

The Birth Anniversary of Jesus Christ and Gaza



ISLAMIC CULTURE AND RELATIONS
ORGANIZATION (I.C.R.O)





**The Message of Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei
on the Occasion of Christmas (24/12/1991)**

If Jesus Christ (AS) was among us today, he would have taken a moment to fight against the leaders of oppression, hunger, and the displacement of millions of people who are being exploited by big powers and subjected to war crimes.

On the eve of the birth of Jesus Christ and 2024 AD, we are witnessing the anti-human crimes of the Zionist regime against the defenseless people of Gaza. Keeping in view what is happening in the Gaza today, the joy of these blessed days has been replaced by sadness and grief. These events are nothing but genocide and crimes against humanity, which are in conflict with the teachings of all divine religions. It is very clear that those who ignore these crimes are, for sure, accomplices to the criminals and will be held accountable in front of the awakened conscience of humanity and by God Almighty.

In his message addressed to the religious leaders of the world on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, the President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, and Chairman of the Policy-making Council of Interreligious Dialogue, called on all free-thinking and religious people in the world to pray for the relief and the end of suffering of the oppressed people of Gaza at the beginning moments of the New Christian Year.

This message is as follows:



Your Reverends, Your Excellencies

Salamun Alaikum

Respectfully, I would like to sincerely congratulate you on the occasion of the glorious birthday of Jesus Christ (AS), the prophet of peace and kindness, and the Christian New Year. It is hoped that all free-thinking and religious people of the world raise their hands and pray to the sky and ask the Almighty God—on the night of the Christian New Year—for the establishment of justice, peace, and security in the world as soon as possible and that the oppressed people of Gaza, too, will find peace. Undoubtedly, the realization of peace in the world depends on the realization of global justice, unity, and harmony among the followers of divine religions and

following the teachings of the divine prophets.

I hope that in the coming year, the leaders of the world will, through joint efforts and by applying thought and action based on justice and freedom, make it a year full of peace and kindness for all human beings. I ask the Almighty God for the health and happiness of Your Eminence and the health and happiness of all believers, especially the Christians of the world.

Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour

**President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, and
Chairman of the Policy-making Council of Interreligious Dialogue**



By the same token, in a letter addressed to world leaders and thinkers, while emphasizing the necessity of global unity of religious leaders against human crimes

and genocide against the oppressed and defenseless Palestinian people in Gaza, the President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization called on all legal and international institutions, especially the religious leaders and free-thinking people of the world to condemn what is happening at this critical historical moment and not hesitate to make any effort to stop these anti-human crimes.



The text of the message of His. Excellency the President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization is as follows:

Your Reverends, Your Excellencies

With heartfelt greetings,

As Your Excellency is well aware, these days the world is witnessing the most heinous crimes against humanity and genocide of the oppressed and defenseless

people of Palestine in Gaza. The bombing of Al-Ahly Al-Mamadany Hospital in Gaza and the brutal killing of nearly a thousand injured and helpless women and children have wounded the hearts of all the free people of the world. Blocking the water, electricity, medicine, and food supplies to the people of Gaza, the use of unconventional weapons against its defenseless citizens, and the brutal killing of women and children, each of which is a clear example of a war crime, have been overlooked by some countries that claim to stand for human rights and by referring to these anti-human crimes as the legitimate right of defense, they are openly violating the rights of innocent Palestinian women and children.

The very recent situation in Gaza is a great fact-checking with regard to all those who claim to stand for human rights and has shown that the issue of human rights is subjected to double standards by some countries.

What has aroused the anger and hatred of the world against these crimes in different countries these days, emphasizes the necessity of the global unity of religious leaders against this human disaster. It goes without saying that all the leaders and followers of the world's religions should, based on humanitarian and common religious

and moral principles, take responsible measures to stop these barbaric crimes.

While strongly condemning these crimes and expressing regret and concern over the continuation of inhumane crimes in Gaza, I call upon all legal and international institutions, especially religious leaders and free people of the world to condemn the criminal moves of Israel and not spare any efforts to stop these anti-human crimes. Surely, cruelty and crime can never be a basis for the spread of peace and peaceful coexistence, which can only be made sustainable through justice and respect for human rights and dignity.

Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour
President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, and
Chairman of the Policy-making Council of Interreligious Dialogue
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

A large number of religious leaders and authorities of the world, including the following, have also declared their stance towards the anti-human crimes of the Zionist regime against the defenseless people of Gaza.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia



The Russian Orthodox Church is firmly opposed to the victimization of civilians in armed conflicts and believes that no excuse can justify terrorism and the siege of defenseless civilians or depriving the sick and those who need urgent help. We understand the selective positions adopted by international organizations in response to the continuous violation of basic human rights.

Believers in the traditional religions of our country deeply sympathize with all the innocent victims of this tragic conflict and share in the suffering of losing loved ones, women, the elderly, and children.

His Holiness Pope Francis



We pray for the dire situation in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, and other areas that are caught in war. The routes for sending humanitarian aid should be immediately opened, the hostages should be freed, and no one should refuse to lay down their arms.

Stop the attack; war is always a failure

Bishop Alain de Raemy, President of the Swiss Bishops' Conference



The Swiss Bishops' Conference is very concerned about people and populations suffering from conflict and war, wherever they are, and it wholeheartedly expresses its hope for peace and calls on everyone to pray for peace – this precious gift – and an end to the suffering that so many men, women and children in the Holy Land are currently experiencing.

His Holiness Ilia II, the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia



The created situation once again clarifies the fact that “cruelty and crime” can never be the basis of peace and coexistence. War, always and especially in our inflammatory and dangerous times (where any conflict can lead to an international catastrophe) implies a large number of victims and great responsibility.

Today, if there is a desire on the part of the big governments, it is quite possible to determine relations through negotiations and legal means. This is something the achievement of which is possible, desirable, and necessary.

His Holiness Porfirije, Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church



The Serbian Orthodox Church asks all the countries that are currently at war with each other, as well as all the world powers that are at war for the immediate cessation of conflicts and believes that dialogue is the only possible way for resolving disputes and attaining peaceful coexistence.

We condemn all forms of violence and remind everyone of all those God-given values that bind us as human beings.

His Reverend Mar Awa III Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East



As the Patriarch and the highest authority of the Assyrian Church of the East in Iraq and the world, as well as the general followers of our church, I seek peace and justice.

I emphasize that peace and justice are the keys to solving any conflict and are the paths that all parties to the conflict need to follow. We are sure that war and violence create nothing but more violence and hatred.

What has taken place against the Palestinians in

the Gaza Strip is truly condemned, unacceptable, and inhumane, and we, on our part, condemn it and express our hatred for the destruction of houses of worship (religious places), hospitals, schools, and people's homes. We also believe that killing innocent people is something that stains human dignity and we demand a complete stop to all such acts and also demand the intervention of the international community to strongly condemn them.

Your Excellency Imanipour, we join you and all the wise people of the world and the advocates of peace to voice protest so that all acts of killing, destruction, and insults that attack human dignity end and that the world attains peace and justice and the culture of respecting each other, regardless of gender, religion, or color would prevail, human dignity and human rights are protected, and humanity can live in security and peace.

In the end, we sincerely hope that the call of religious scholars and all world personalities from all countries and organizations seeking peace will be heeded so that security is established in the land of heavenly religions, and we plead and pray to God to make things right.

His Reverend Ashin Nyanissara, the Leader of the Buddhists of Myanmar



First of all, I would like to sympathize with the Palestinian people because they are in a very bad situation. After the Second World War, the Zionists, who did not have a country, were settled in Palestine by the colonialists, and the Palestinians are fighting for their homeland. We express our solidarity with the Palestinian people. It is a matter of regret that Palestinian women and children are tortured and killed. Therefore, we ask Israel to end this war and the problems should be solved through dialogue and negotiation. And we hope that the Palestinians will take back their homeland

Archbishop Justin Welby, the Anglican Church of Canterbury



We request prayers and financial aid from the followers of this church for the establishment of a just and sustainable peace and this church will do its best so that people live in safety.

The demand to evacuate hospitals in Gaza must be stopped and the facilities of hospitals, hospital employees, patients, and civilians must be protected.

His Reverend Annica Anderbrant Church of Sweden

It is very difficult to understand the reasons why the occupation is still allowed to continue and destroy people. The people of the occupied land cannot leave there. There is an incredible difference between what you can do and what you cannot do.

I talked to a man and asked him about peace in a European language and he said: first justice then peace. This is what surprised me. It is not fair that on one side of the wall people live freely and on the other side people cannot go anywhere. How can this continue? What will happen next week and next month? As someone has said: “Occupation cannot last forever” and it cannot be changed by law – it must be changed by means of values!



Bishop Simon Bashir, Methodist Church of Quetta, Pakistan

The crimes and barbarities that are happening these days are not acceptable in any way. Innocent people are massacred in Palestine and the victims of bombing are not only Muslims but also Christians.

Even churches have been bombed. We condemn this issue and ask the United Nations and international organizations to end this war and establish peace and security.

Sardar Magen Singh, the Leader of the Sikhs of Pakistan

I strongly condemn what is happening in Palestine. No hospital or place of worship should be attacked, and I strongly condemn this issue and express that we support the Palestinians from a humanitarian point of view.

**Ms. Rushan Khurshid, the Leader of the Zoroastrian
Community of Quetta, Pakistan**



We strongly condemn what is happening in Palestine and Gaza and believe that such problems should be resolved through negotiations. The killing that is going on in Gaza in which innocent children are losing their lives and hospitals are being attacked should not be stopped.

Human rights institutions should enter into this issue. Innocent men, women, and children are being martyred. They are deprived of food and medicine and these atrocities must be immediately stopped.

Following is the Statement Issued by the World Council of Churches



It is now thirty years since the Oslo agreement was signed. In the meantime, the number of settlements has grown to at least 250 with 800,000 people. Instead of peace, we witness more violence, displacement, and war.

The international community must acknowledge the need for a new approach with an end goal of just coexistence. The peace process has failed both peoples, Palestinians and Israelis alike. What is needed is a fresh approach that puts justice and equal human dignity as the basis for the path forward. History has taught us that exploitative agreements that create a semblance of peace do not stand the test of time and lead to bloodshed the type we are witnessing right now.

The Jerusalem Heads of Churches, during the last one year or so, have issued no less than 12 statements calling

for an approach based on justice and cautioning that tampering with the religious and historical status quo, especially in Jerusalem would lead to violence.

At the World Council of Churches 11th Assembly, the ecumenical church family warned about the existing situation between Israelis and Palestinians. The injustices to the Palestinian cause since 1948 until today have not been really addressed in a manner that fosters the coexistence of both peoples as equals in justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Together with our fellowship of churches, we have committed ourselves to closely study other potential options that would guarantee a sustainable and real solution for all parties living and belonging to the same land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Our call is the establishment of clarity regarding a future built on justice instead of military power, where International Law is applied consistently without partiality.

We must reimagine sustainable peace for the region, peace that can withstand the test of time. At the core of such peace is equality and justice. We hope and pray that our call will be heeded; and that Palestinians, Israelis, and the entire Middle East find a new path to peace.

❖ Jerusalem Heads of Churches urge addressing humanitarian crisis in Gaza (WCC news release 13 October 2023)

❖ Church leaders in Holy Land call for de-escalation, respect for human rights (WCC news release 9 October 2023)

❖ WCC, Jerusalem Heads of Churches invite all to global prayer day (WCC news release 15 October 2023)



And at the end:

While honoring the blessed birth anniversary of Jesus Christ (AS) and congratulating the Christians of the world on the occasion of the New Christian Year The Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue of The Islamic Culture and Relations Organization Prays to God Almighty for the removal of the suffering of the oppressed people of Gaza.



Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue
cid@icro.ir +98 21 88153690

۱۴۳۸ھ



مآزبان فرنگک و ارتباطات اسلامی



موسسہ کی خدمات میں عمل آتی