

To the signatories of the Kairos Palestine Document



Danske Kirkers Råd
National Council of Churches in Denmark

Peter Bangs Vej 1D
DK-2000 Frederiksberg
Danmark

Tel + 45 3543 2943

Fax + 45 3887 1493

dkr@danskekirkestraad.dk

www.danskekirkestraad.dk

Giro 605 5710

Copenhagen, Denmark 9 October 2013

A letter of solidarity - A response to The Kairos Palestine Document

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is already more than 3 years since you composed the Kairos Palestine Document. In this document, you describe and explain the difficult and painful living conditions in your country. You appeal to all Christians in the world to express support in your struggle to survive as Christians and Palestinians and to contribute to the achievement of a just peace in the near future. Since then, unfortunately, no positive development in the peace and reconciliation process in your country has emerged. Therefore, we believe that an expression of compassion, solidarity and support from our side is still both desirable and valid.

We, The National Council of Churches in Denmark, representing 15 Christian denominations - among which are both The Lutheran, The Roman Catholic, The Orthodox, The Pentecostal and other Protestant churches - wish to express our sincere acknowledgement of the way in which you describe your situation in the document as a situation of lack of freedom and security for all, with separation between families and confiscation of land.

For decades the living conditions as described above have indeed been both unjust and intolerable for all. Nevertheless, you also express a strong will to endure with love, a clear hope for reconciliation, and a just peace in the future. For this we indeed commend you and wish to express our deep admiration. We share the vision of reaching a situation where Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Christians and Muslims can live side by side as good neighbours with mutual respect.

The presence of Christianity in The Holy Land is of paramount importance to us primarily because Christians have been living in the country as 'living stones' ever since Jesus Christ lived and preached there and through his disciples founded the universal church, based on the Apostolic Faith, which we all share. We fully agree with you that no one people and no one

religion can ever claim a God-given exclusive right to your land – it simply belongs to those who according to international law are the legal inhabitants, regardless of religion. Likewise, we agree in recognizing your land as “The Holy Land”, not because it by faith belongs to any particular religion nor because people there are holier than in other geographical areas in the world, but holy in the sense that God chose it as a special place to reveal himself and because it carried the life and work of Jesus Christ.

As members of the National Council of Churches in Denmark we recognize that each of our churches is an expression of the one Christian faith. In spite of our differences and inability to express our unity through a shared Holy Communion, we desire to express a common witness and, where possible, also to act together in our own society and internationally. We sincerely hope that you may be able to strengthen ecumenical cooperation and fellowship among all who believe in Christ the Savior in the Holy Land. We wish to express our support to you and our will to deepen our fellowship, and we hope to see ties between Christian congregations in Denmark and in Israel/Palestine further developed.

In conclusion, we join our voices with yours and pray that the time for all Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side with justice and security for all in a spirit of reconciliation will come soon.

This letter is unanimously approved by The National Council of Churchesⁱ.

Dean Anders Gadegaard
Chairman

Rev. Mads Christoffersen
General Secretary

ⁱ The member churches of the National Council of Churches in Denmark are: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark, The Roman-Catholic Church, The Baptist Union of Denmark, The Pentecostal Churches, The United Methodist Church, The Mission Covenant Church, The Apostolic Church, The Moravian Church, The Orthodox Church, The Coptic Orthodox Church, The Salvation Army, The Reformed Synod, The Anglican Church in Denmark, International Church of Copenhagen and Church of Sweden (in Denmark).