



FROM THE ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN
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Resolution proposed by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa on the Holy Land.

"He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him." Isaiah 59:16 (NRSV)

1. Whereas the Israel-Palestine territorial conflict has been universally as a flashpoint that has the potential for sparking an unmanageable global conflict, with potential for a broad Middle East conflict that would have a bearing on the global economy through the impact on oil supplies; and even the prospect of the deployment of nuclear missiles as Israel is believed to be the regional nuclear power.
2. Whereas successive United Nations resolutions have repeatedly championed a two-state solution guaranteeing security for all and a peaceful coexistence between Israel and Palestine side by side.
3. Whereas over the years, in defiance of UN resolutions and the precepts of international law, Israel has built settlements in occupied Palestinian territories on the West Bank and has increasingly assumed a greater spirit of occupation of Jerusalem, including the occupied Palestinian East Jerusalem. Specifically, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power from transferring its civilian population into territory under its occupation.
4. Whereas in 2020, the Israeli Knesset passed a law providing for the annexation into Israel, of parts of the occupied Palestinian West Bank, as they continue apace to build Jewish settlements in these occupied territories. This presumably to regularize in their law, the breach of international law on the management of occupied territories.
5. Whereas in 2019, the Israeli Knesset has passed the Basic Law with constitutional status, that defines rights only for Jewish people as opposed to other people in Israel, whether they be Arab Israelis, Palestinians or any other nationalities that may include permanent attendants of Christian holy sites in Jerusalem - thus enacting a classic apartheid model of citizen determination. And this presumably to define the fate of Palestinians in the occupied and annexed Palestinian territories. This too may impact the international church representatives who have over centuries had rights as non-Jews presiding over Christian Holy sites in the Holy Land.
6. Whereas the State of Israel, through its laws and practices, now meets the "three decisive elements" that characterize an Apartheid State as laid out below:
 - a) The implementation of a system of separation or segregation based on race, creed, or ethnicity designed with the intent to maintain domination by one racial group over another is the first element that makes up the crime of apartheid.
 - b) The use of legislative measures to enforce separation and segregation, essentially legalizing separation from within its own legal system.

- c) The commission of inhumane acts, human rights violations, denial of freedoms, and forced ghettoization, i.e., the practices used to impose and enforce separation within its regime.
7. Whereas Heads of Churches and other Christian leaders in Jerusalem have issued numerous calls for justice and peace in the Middle East, and more recently brought attention to ongoing assaults on priests and clergy and attacks on church properties and holy sites which they decry as "a systematic attempt to drive the Christian community out of Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land."
8. Whereas in *Cry for Hope: A Call to Decisive Action*, Palestinian Christians and their global supporters issued an urgent call to Christians, churches and ecumenical institutions, stating, "We realize that it is incumbent upon us as followers of Jesus to take decisive action. The very being of the church, the integrity of the Christian faith, and the credibility of the Gospel is at stake. We declare that support for the oppression of the Palestinian people, whether passive or active, through silence, word or deed, is a sin."

And,

9. Whereas heretofore, all efforts to resolve the Israel/Palestinian debacle, from 1948 on, have been led and left to politicians and governments that serve their own internal or foreign policy objectives, yet the Holy Land is primarily holy to the people of the three Abrahamic faiths - Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Therefore, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa moves that this 11th Assembly of the WCC resolves:

- i. To seriously consider and pronounce on the danger that will come from ignoring the apartheid designs of the State of Israel, and the implications thereof in terms of international law. This to take seriously, reports from leading human rights and legal organizations like B'Tselem, Human Rights Watch Amnesty International.
- ii. To advocate strongly for a solution that guarantees dignity, peace, justice, and prosperity for all based primarily on the biblical principles of justice and peace that we are duty-bound to advance. This must be the life reality for all in the Holy Land, regardless of who and where they reside.
- iii. To seriously consider in the spirit of Galatians 3:28, a comprehensive solution where all citizens, Jewish, Arab or any other, have equal rights before the law as opposed to the apartheid formulation of racial separation that is currently at play.
- iv. To consider in earnest, the responsibility of the global church to take concrete steps to:
 - a. Work with other faiths with a stake in the Holy Land — and all concerned for lasting peace and security for all in a solution that respects and upholds the human rights of all — Israelis, Palestinians and others in Israel/Palestine. This to include a comprehensive program like the Program to Combat Racism in the case of South Africa with a new and appropriate mandate for comprehensive peace.
 - b. Aim at the comprehensive peace of the Holy Land, thus strengthening the Christian presence and the churches in the Holy Land,

- c. Work together with other faiths with a stake in the Holy Land to provide space for theological engagement, as in the case of the Palestine — Israel Ecumenical Forum, to create a comprehensive program to assess and follow up on previous resolutions of the World Council of Churches.

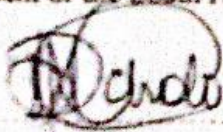
"For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12 (NRSV)

+ Thabo Cape Zone

Signed by Mover:

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Metropolitan and Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and President of the South African Council of Churches,

And Seconder:



Advocate Palesa Ncholo, Delegate, Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Date: 5 August, 20Tutu