

## *Peacemakers in Action Network Statement on Israel & Palestine*

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With one voice, the *Peacemakers in Action Network* expresses its deep compassion and solidarity with the suffering peoples of Israel and Palestine. We grieve together as yet another generation of Palestinian and Israeli children lose their lives, their sense of security, and their hope for a better future.

Our hearts break again and again in this time of profound loss, pain, and trauma on all sides of this tragic conflict.

**As religiously motivated *Peacemakers*:**

We **LAMENT** the agonizing consequences of intense and protracted violence: the loss of human life on a massive scale, the loss of empathy and compassion as hearts are embittered, and the crippling of our imaginations;

We **LAMENT** the forces that drive this and other conflicts, as grief hardens into grievance and desires for vengeance, which then engender new conflict, suffering, and grief.

**And as religiously motivated *Peacemakers*:**

We **PRAY** for Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders, that their efforts may open gateways to a better future beyond the current painful reality;

We **YEARN** for leaders who can foster the healing of broken hearts and the reconciliation of fractured and despairing communities, and who are wise and far-sighted enough to bolster mutual respect, acceptance, and trust;

We **CRY OUT** to people everywhere to affirm and celebrate our shared humanity and the right of every person to a life blessed by love, happiness, freedom, and dignity;

We **LONG** for the day when the violence will cease and negotiations will resume, so that historic wrongs can be acknowledged and addressed through the pursuit of inclusive justice, collective traumas can begin to heal, and both Palestinians and Israelis will know genuine security and wellbeing.

In all our faith traditions, every human life is considered sacred. Both Islam<sup>1</sup> and Judaism<sup>2</sup> teach that to save one life is to save a whole world and that to take one life is to destroy a whole world, while Christianity urges us to adopt mercy and forgiveness on the path to justice<sup>3</sup>.

In this time of intense pain and polarization, we *Peacemakers in Action* stand together in lamentation, yearning, and hope.

“For there is always light,  
If only we’re brave enough to see it.  
If only we’re brave enough to be it.”<sup>4</sup>

### **The *Peacemakers in Action Network***

Dr. Sarah AK Ahmed – Iraq/Canada  
Jose “Chencho” Alas – El Salvador  
Imam Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa – Nigeria  
James Lual Atak – South Sudan  
Abuna Elias Chacour – Israel/Palestine  
Ricardo Esquivia – Colombia  
Azhar Hussain – Pakistan/USA  
Dr. Ephraim Isaac – Ethiopia  
Fr. Sava Janjić – Kosovo

Dishani Jayaweera – Sri Lanka  
Hind Aboud Kabawat – Syria  
Dr. Yehezkel Landau – Israel/USA  
Dr. William Lowrey – South Sudan/USA  
Rev. Jacklevyn Manuputty – Indonesia  
Friar Ivo Markovic – Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Yeny Nolasco – El Salvador  
Pastor James Movel Wuye – Nigeria

#### *About the Peacemakers in Action Network*

We are Tanenbaum’s *Peacemakers in Action Network*: Religiously motivated peace activists from armed conflicts across the world and recipients of the Peacemakers in Action Award. Spanning different religions, beliefs, and conflicts, we have experienced violence and reconciliation. We know the pain of loss, the destruction engendered by hatred, and the possibilities of peace.

The *Peacemakers in Action Network* is dedicated to conflict transformation and reconciliation. Our vision is to build a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. As individuals who work to resolve armed conflict, we stand together and raise our collective voice to denounce developments that threaten peace and human security.

<sup>1</sup> Qur’an 5:32

<sup>2</sup> Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 37a

<sup>3</sup> Micah 6:8

<sup>4</sup> Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*, 2021