

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-C039
Title: Justice and Peace in the Holy Land – Our Call to Action
Proposer: Olympia
Topic: Human Rights, Middle East

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-B016 Develop Investment Criteria for Israel and Palestine Based on a Human Rights Screen
2018-B021 Call on US to Restore UN and USAID Funding for Palestinians
2018-C038 Call for Guaranteed Basic Rights and Protection of Palestinian Children
2018-D018 Commit to a Negotiated Solution to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
2018-D019 On the Topic of Opposing Israeli Occupation of Palestine (Rejected)
2018-D027 Call on US Government to Cooperate with Investigations into Israeli and Palestinian Human Rights Violations
2018-D038 On the Topic of Israeli Violations of Human Rights (Rejected)
2018-D039 On the Topic of Israel as a System of Apartheid (Rejected)
2009-B027 On the Topic of Peace and Statehood in Historic Palestine (Rejected)
2006-A012 On the Topic of Israel's Occupation of Palestine (Rejected)
2003-D008 Urge Israel to End Policy of Demolition of Palestinian Homes
1994-D065 Recognize Illegality of Israeli Settlements in Gaza and the West Bank
1991-A147 Support a Two-state Solution for Israel and the Palestinian People
1988-D053 Affirm Goals of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation for Israelis and Palestinians

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2015-B013 Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East
2012-B019 Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace
2006-A011 On the Topic of Peace Between Israel and Palestine (Rejected)

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

C039 - Justice and Peace in the Holy Land – Our Call to Action

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Olympia

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 07 - Social Justice & International Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist and we condemn the continued occupation, segregation and oppression of the Palestinian people; and be it further Resolved, that the Convention urge the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to take action to oppose Israeli laws and practices that result in unequal rights for two peoples.

Explanation

Statement of Beliefs: We lament and condemn all acts of violence in Israel/Palestine regardless of perpetrator, and the loss of life, the injury, the fear and the enmity they engender.

We recognize and condemn the increasing acts and attitudes of antisemitism in the United States and in our Diocese and offer support to all who are targeted for their faith or identity. We also recognize the right of Israel to exist and God's love for the people who live there and for all who consider it a sanctuary and refuge from a history of brutal persecution.

We recognize the duty of Christians and our right as U.S. citizens to speak out against unjust acts committed by others, including those of the government of Israel, and we reject the conflation of advocacy for Palestinian rights with antisemitism. We join concerned people of all faiths in peaceful protest to address injustice.

Human Rights: Palestinians living within Israel and in the Israeli Occupied Territories are subject to different laws, policies and practices than their Israeli Jewish counterparts, constituting a categorically discriminatory form of systemic subjugation that severely limits the freedom, health, welfare and lives of Palestinians.[1]

The State of Israel was formed in 1948 with more than 700,000 Palestinians expelled or forced to flee from their homes, beginning a pattern of inferior rights that exists through today. Since the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, the government of Israel has continued to destroy Palestinian homes and sanction the confiscation of Palestinian land for the establishment of Jewish-only settlements in the West Bank, both actions considered illegal under international law. Throughout this time, Israel has demolished an estimated 55,000 homes in the West Bank and Gaza, and approximately 500,000 Israeli settlers now live on Palestinian property in the West Bank. Violence against Palestinians by settlers is common and severe.[2]

For over 50 years, the Israeli government has assigned different sets of rights to two peoples -- one set inordinately superior to the other, one people free and the other severely restricted, one people's rights determined by the other, one people holding power and the other imprisoned under it.[3]

The international Nobel laureate Human Rights Watch and the widely respected Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem both issued reports in 2021 documenting decades of legal and human rights abuses against Palestinians by the State of Israel and concluding that Israel's ongoing discriminatory and oppressive treatment of Palestinians constitutes apartheid, a word that derives its meaning from the simple concept of apartness. Both organizations found these abuses to be extreme, pervasive, entrenched, intentional and longstanding.[4]

Palestinians have been increasingly deprived of self-determination, equal rights, natural resources, freedom of movement and peaceful dissent. Palestinians in the West Bank are subject to roadblocks, checkpoints, inspections, middle-of-the-night arrests of children in their homes and daily degradations at the hands of armed Israeli forces. Palestinians living within Israel do not have rights equal to their Jewish Israeli neighbors. While Jews outside of Israel are able to immigrate and become citizens, Palestinians are not.[5]

In 2018 Israel passed the Nation-State law, declaring Israel a nation-state of the Jewish people and stating that the right to exercise national self-determination belongs solely to the Jewish people. The law declares Jewish settlements on Palestinian land a national value and promotes their growth. Additionally, the law states that the nation's official language is Hebrew. This law was upheld by the Israeli Supreme Court in July 2021.[6]

Palestinians in the West Bank live under an Israeli military legal system that provides significantly fewer rights and protections than the civilian legal system governing Jewish Israelis living in the same area. This is particularly harmful to Palestinian children who are routinely incarcerated without charges being filed, subjected to solitary confinement and harsh interrogations, transferred across borders in contravention of international law and convicted at a rate of 95%.[7]

Israel controls water from West Bank aquifers, diverting the majority of it to Israeli citizens. Israeli per capita water consumption is approximately four times that of Palestinians, so that Israelis living in settlements sometimes enjoy irrigated agriculture, green lawns and swimming pools while Palestinians, on whose land the settlers live, receive water allotments below World Health Organization standards. Palestinians are often forced to buy from Israel water that Israel has taken from Palestinian aquifers.[8]

Palestinians living in Gaza have been under blockade since 2007, preventing the free movement of people, medical supplies and goods across the border. As a consequence, Gazans face endemic poverty, unemployment, physical and mental health deterioration and extreme hardship. Basic necessities including food, safe drinking water, electricity, fuel, sewage disposal and medical care are in insufficient supply. Ninety to 97% of the water is unsafe for human consumption and requires filtration for which equipment is frequently unavailable.[9]

Over the years, violence has persisted. The bombing of Gaza in May of 2021, triggered by threats to evict Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem and other events, ended with 256 Palestinians killed, 66 of whom were children. Thirteen Israelis were killed. In Gaza, extraordinary damage was inflicted on homes, hospitals, schools, infrastructure and access to health care and basic services including water, hygiene and sanitation.[10]

Previous Episcopal Resolutions: Over the past several years the General Convention of the Episcopal Church has passed numerous resolutions critical of Israel's denial of Palestinian human rights including resolutions that seek to oppose the settlements and home demolitions, protect Palestinian children from military court mistreatment, restrict the use of U.S. aid in violation of human rights, restore international aid to Palestinians and in other ways to promote basic rights.[11]

Impediments to Peaceful Protest: Palestinians are not permitted to peacefully protest in the Occupied Territories, and Palestinians and their supporters in the United States have been impeded in their advocacy by prohibitions against peaceful protest. Legislation exists in approximately 35 states penalizing or criminalizing efforts to support the nonviolent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, and numerous institutions including colleges and universities have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism which effectively and dangerously equates criticism of Israel with antisemitism.[12]

Commandments of Our Faith: The Episcopal Church has become increasingly aware of the injury done by systemic racism in our own country, and the depth of harm it inflicts. In 2020, the Diocese of Olympia joined many other Dioceses to endorse the Anti-Racism Covenant, identifying and condemning racism in our midst and calling us to action: to study, pray and work for racial justice.[13]

As Episcopalians, we are compelled by our faith to stand up to injustice, to be peacemakers and to help the oppressed. Our Baptismal Covenant calls on us to "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being." We recognize that Israel's ongoing military occupation and its separate, discriminatory laws and treatment of

Palestinians are antithetical to the Gospel message, and that silence in light of them contravenes the pledge of our Baptismal Covenant.

Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos for Justice (a worldwide ecumenical Christian coalition) write in Cry for Hope, “The very being of the church, the integrity of the Christian faith, and the credibility of the Gospel is at stake We cannot serve God while remaining silent about the oppression of the Palestinians.”[14]

Our Role as US Citizens: The United States gives Israel approximately \$3.8 billion each year in military aid, which constitutes roughly 59% of total U.S. foreign military financing. The U.S. further supports Israel’s unjust and discriminatory policies and practices in other ways, including vetoing actions at the United Nations. Several existing U.S. laws prohibit the provision of U.S. aid to countries that don’t meet human rights standards, however these standards are not always applied to Israel, nor is the aid process transparent enough to be adequately monitored.[15]

Our Role in the Episcopal Church: We have a role to play in the tragedy of the Holy Land because we are called by our faith to stand up to injustice; because of our historical and theological connections to the region and its people; and because the United States provides tremendous monetary and other support to Israel’s ongoing mistreatment of Palestinians.

It is our belief that peace can never be achieved while one people systematically controls the rights of another and that violence will not end until equal rights are established.

The Bishop’s Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land was created to raise awareness and facilitate understanding of the challenges facing all who live in the Holy Land, including our Episcopal brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Jerusalem as they struggle to maintain a Christian presence under increasingly difficult conditions imposed by the Israeli occupation.

As a longstanding Companion of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Diocese of Olympia stands in solidarity with our Episcopal brothers and sisters in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. We commend and support the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in their efforts to minister to the spiritual, health and educational needs of the Palestinian people.

Our members pray and deeply believe that peace will come to the children of Abraham when Jews and Palestinians share a land that guarantees equal human and civil rights for all.

[1] <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

These two publications document much of the information in this Explanation and are recommended for further study.

[2] <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/05/the-meaning-of-nakba-israel-palestine-1948-gaza/560294>

<https://icahd.org/2020/03/15/end-home-demolitions-an-introduction>

<https://ifamericansknew.org/stat/settlements.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/netanyahu-approves-settlement-building/2021/01/11/0e009b08-541c-11eb-acc5-92d2819a1ccb_story.html

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089752>

[3] <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

[4] <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

[5] <https://www.afsc.org/resource/restricted-movement-occupied-palestinian-territory>

https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

[6] <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/israeli-supreme-court-upholds-contentious-jewish-state-law-jewish-israelis-supreme-court-jerusalem-arabic-b1880719.html>

[7] https://www.dci-palestine.org/military_detention

https://www.btselem.org/topic/administrative_detention

https://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian_children_in_the_israeli_military_detention_system

https://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/201803_minors_in_jeopardy

[8] <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/11/the-occupation-of-water>

https://ifamericansknew.org/cur_sit/water.html

[9] <https://www.unrwa.org/activity/health-gaza-strip>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/water-crisis-may-make-gaza-strip-uninhabitable-by-2020>

<https://www.afsc.org/resource/restricted-movement-occupied-palestinian-territory>

[10] <https://www.nytimes.com/article/israel-gaza-what-we-know.html>

<https://www.unocha.org/story/daily-noon-briefing-highlights-occupied-palestinian-territory-and-israel-0>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/26/world/middleeast/gaza-israel-children.html?searchResultPosition=9>

<https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/24-31-may-2021>

[11] https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_search.pl

1994-D065, 2003-D008, 2018-B016, B021, C038, D027

[12] <https://law.acri.org.il/en/protestright-subject/freedom-of-expression-and-protest>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/erdan-asks-35-us-states-to-activate-anti-bds-laws-against-ben-jerrys>

<https://www.ajc.org/us-campus-adoption-of-the-working-definition>

<https://palestinelegal.org/redefinition-efforts>

<https://jewishcurrents.org/states-are-moving-to-class-criticism-of-israel-as-antisemitism>

[13] <https://ecww.org/a-covenant-to-root-out-racism-2>

[14] <https://cryforhope.org>

[15] <https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-military-aid-does-the-us-give-to-israel>

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/05/12/bringing-assistance-to-israel-in-line-with-rights-and-u.s.-laws-pub-84503>

<https://ifamericansknew.org/stat/usaid.html>

<https://fmep.org/resource/israel-palestine-the-role-of-congress-an-accelerated-learning-series, Part 1>



Resolution Number: 2018-B016
Title: Develop Investment Criteria for Israel and Palestine Based on a Human Rights Screen
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention join with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's action, CA 16.06.31, "Justice for the Holy Land Through Responsible Investment," and direct our Executive Council's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility to develop criteria for Israel and Palestine based on a human rights' investment screen and the actions of General Convention and Executive Council over the past seventy years; and be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention continue to encourage members, congregations, dioceses, and institutions of the Episcopal Church to increase positive investment in Palestine and other under-resourced areas where human rights abuses materially impact the well-being of all people; and be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention continue to encourage CCSR to engage in shareholder advocacy in support of human rights in Israel and the Occupied Territories, exercising the right of a shareholder to submit resolutions at a corporation's annual meeting.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1123.



Resolution Number: 2018-B021
Title: Call on US to Restore UN and USAID Funding for Palestinians
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention strongly call upon the United States Government to maintain its historic commitment to alleviating the poverty of Palestinians and restore its full planned 2018 funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) so that it can continue to serve the over 5 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention also strongly call upon the United States Government to lift its funding freeze on United States Agency for International Development (USAID) programs which aid Palestinians.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 887.



Resolution Number: 2018-C038
Title: Call for Guaranteed Basic Rights and Protection of Palestinian Children
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention call upon the Office of Government Relations to request assurances from Israeli Prime Minister and Palestinian Authority President that their governments have policies in place to accord all people under the age of 18 living within their jurisdictions the full range of rights and protections called for under international agreements to which their governments have subscribed; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church call on the State of Israel to guarantee basic rights and exercise a prohibition against torture and ill-treatment of detained children (defined as persons under 18 years old), noting that among the practices in Israel's military detention system that require change are, including but not limited to, the use of nighttime arrests in the child's home, physical and verbal abuse, blindfolds and restraints, strip searches, solitary confinement, coerced confessions and confessions written in Hebrew, as well as the separation of detained children from their parents and legal counselors (including the transfer of Palestinian children to prisons within the State of Israel that their parents are not permitted to visit); and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention request the Secretary of this Convention and the Office of Government Relations to communicate this call to the Prime Minister of Israel and the Israeli Ambassador to the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention call on the Secretary of State of the United States to certify annually that no funds obligated or expended in the previous year by the United States for assistance to Israel have been used to support the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international humanitarian law; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention requests the Office of Government Relations to communicate this call to the Secretary of State of the United States as well as the President, Vice President, and the United States Senate.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1126-1127.



Resolution Number: 2018-D018
Title: Commit to a Negotiated Solution to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination and to live as sovereign peoples in their homeland, with full human and civil rights and with democratic rule of one person, one vote; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church reaffirm our commitment to a negotiated solution between the two parties guided by international law and supported by the international community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church acknowledge that such a peace agreement, agreed upon by both parties, may include a two-state solution as envisioned in the Oslo Accords, leading to a viable, sovereign state for Palestinians, comprising the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, alongside a secure and universally recognized State of Israel, or may encompass other solutions such as one binational state or confederation, recognizing that these possibilities are being raised as the material conditions for a two-state solution have deteriorated due to accelerated settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and the West Bank since the Oslo Accords were signed; and be it further

Resolved, That no people's right to self-determination should be exercised at the expense of another people's right to self-determination, and that any negotiated solution be founded upon mutual recognition of the humanity and past and present sufferings of all parties and provide guarantees for the human and civil rights of ethnic and religious minorities within any state, federation, or national boundaries that may be created, and that this right to self-determination has been robustly supported by the testimony of Palestinian Christians, Palestinian Muslims, American Jews and Israeli Jews at this Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1051.



Resolution Number: 2018-D019
Title: On the Topic of Opposing Israeli Occupation of Palestine
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 79th General Convention continue its firm support for the right of Israel to exist in secure borders as established and recognized by the United Nations, but also continues its strong opposition to Israel's occupation in perpetuity of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip which is now recognized by the United Nations as the sovereign state of Palestine; and be it further

Resolved, That in order to end The Episcopal Church's complicity in the 51 year old occupation, the General Convention direct the Executive Council's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of this Church and 70 years of Church policy on Israel/Palestine by General Convention and Executive Council as the basis for such a screen in the Israeli occupation of Palestine i.e., the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, and to present a recommendation to the Executive Council for action before the end of 2020.



Resolution Number: 2018-D027
Title: Call on US Government to Cooperate with Investigations into Israeli and Palestinian Human Rights Violations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That in light of Israel's escalating indifference to international law and the rights of civilians under the Geneva Convention and other treaties, the General Convention call on the Congress and President of the United States to cooperate with calls by the United Nations for independent, transparent investigations into the use of lethal force against unarmed civilians by the Israeli Defense Force, as well as by Palestinian forces; and be it further

Resolved, That if information of human rights violations by military forces is corroborated, the General Convention stress the obligation of the US government to enforce the Leahy Amendment, which prohibits the USA from providing funds to foreign military units when human rights violations have been credibly identified; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge both Israeli and Palestinian governments to engage in non-violent methods of conflict resolution, using justice-seeking non-governmental groups in Israel-Palestine and beyond.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1070-1071.



Resolution Number: 2018-D038
Title: On the Topic of Israeli Violations of Human Rights
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church express concern regarding the more than 50 discriminatory laws in Israel aimed at its Palestinian and ethnic minority citizens that have created an unequal system of access to land, housing, education and full rights in the political system that draws disturbing comparisons to the segregation and Jim Crow era in the United States which led to the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call on Israel to embrace a vision of a democratic state with equal rights for all citizens, including Jews, Christians and Muslims, recognizing that Israel cannot be both a democracy and a Jewish state that privileges Jews in its legal system over its other citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call on the President of the United States and Congress to suspend all military aid to Israel until Israel is in full compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by changing its laws, policies and practices that favor its Jewish citizens and discriminate against its Christian and Muslim citizens and other minorities; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call on the President of the United States and the Secretary of State to advocate with their Israeli counterparts to cease all actions that block equal access of all citizens in Israel in the following areas: a. legal system; b. citizenship privileges; c. income and employment; d. distribution of resources and social welfare; e. access to land; f. educational resources; g. availability of health resources; h. political participation, including freedom of speech and the right to dissent.



Resolution Number: 2018-D039
Title: On the Topic of Israel as a System of Apartheid
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church condemns laws and policies of the state of Israel that discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel and have inevitably led to the current state of apartheid, under which Jewish Israelis enjoy full civil and human rights while the civil and human rights of Palestinian citizens are diminished. The Convention directs the Office of Government Relations to inform US legislators and members of the Executive Branch of US government of our concern about these laws and to convey them to their counterparts in the Israeli government; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention condemns the system of military justice applied in the occupied Palestinian territories that subject Palestinians to detention without charges or counsel, detain minors without parental presence, deprive their right of peaceful assembly, and condones lethal violence against unarmed Palestinians without accountability; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention calls upon the State of Israel to cease its denial of travel to Palestine and Israel by members of human rights organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace who are committed to ending the conditions of apartheid in Israel and the occupied territories by bringing economic pressure to bear on Israel. The Convention supports the right of Palestinians to self-determination, freedom of movement, property rights, unrestricted access to water, electricity, medical care, primary and secondary education, economic opportunities, permission to build and retain homes, and commerce; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urges members of The Episcopal Church to pray, reflect and frankly and openly discuss whether the policies of the Israeli government toward Palestinians contribute to a state of militarization and apartheid, and whether such conditions are consistent with our Baptismal Covenant to struggle for human dignity and freedom for all people in the region.



Resolution Number: 2009-B027
Title: On the Topic of Peace and Statehood in Historic Palestine
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention, considering the Church's mission to promote peace for all God's people, warmly applauds the initiative of President Barack Obama and his Middle East envoy, George Mitchell, to bring stronger and more resolute American diplomatic leadership to the cause of peace between Israel and Palestine and to the Middle East; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention acknowledge the tragic histories of the Jewish and Palestinian people as victims of injustice, wars, dispersion and exile, the existential fear and insecurity this has created for both peoples, and the distress their conflict has caused throughout the Middle East; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention respect the profound commitment of Israelis and Palestinians to the land they regard as their homeland and their national aspirations, and call upon the U.S. Government, in keeping with American ideals of equality, justice and human rights, to pursue a fair and balanced approach to making peace that fulfills the fundamental needs of both peoples; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention acknowledge that peace between Israel and Palestine can be achieved only by a division of historic Palestine into two sovereign states, and that this division should be defined, more or less, by the 1949 Armistice line, with mutually agreed border adjustments; and be it further

Resolved, That the humanitarian situation in Gaza calls for the unrestricted opening of borders for both humanitarian and reconstruction resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention understand and respect the religious and historic claims of both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as of Jews, Christians and Muslims, worldwide, toward the Holy City of Jerusalem and its sacred holy sites, and that a just and lasting territorial division must include a shared Jerusalem in which the State of Israel and a future State of Palestine will maintain their respective capitals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention recognize that the use of force, violence or arbitrary power by Israelis or Palestinians to determine the outcome of this conflict must be condemned absolutely, and that peace can be achieved only through peaceful negotiations that would lead to the emergence of a Palestinian state living side by side and at peace with Israel; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge all Episcopalians to work and pray for the liberating of Israelis and Palestinians from generations of conflict, freeing the Middle East and the world from tensions wrought by this struggle, restoring harmony among Jews, Muslims and Christians worldwide for whom the Holy Land is sacred, and for creating peace based on the universal value of justice, as a compelling priority for the Church and for the United States of America.



Resolution Number: 2006-A012
Title: On the Topic of Israel's Occupation of Palestine
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died With Adjournment]
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention declare that the following positions constitute policies of The Episcopal Church ~~and direct The Episcopal Church's Office of Peace and Justice Ministries to advocate:~~

1. an end to the isolation of East Jerusalem and Bethlehem from the West Bank created by the continued construction of Israeli settlements, settler roads and the *barrier Wall*;
2. removal of the *barrier Wall* by Israel where it violates Palestinian territory and termination of the policy and practice of terrorism by any constituency of the Palestinian Authority;
3. assurance of human rights for Palestinians *and Israelis*;
4. support for the return of sovereign control of Gaza's airspace *and* coastline ~~and borders~~ to the Palestinian people *and mutual respect for borders*; and
5. *elimination of corruption within the Palestinian Authority and appropriate financial transparency to better serve human and economic rights of Palestinians*; and
6. assurance that no U.S. tax dollars are used, *directly or indirectly*, to finance the *building of the barrier and bypass roads that support the settlements* ~~Occupation, directly or indirectly~~.



Resolution Number: 2003-D008
Title: Urge Israel to End Policy of Demolition of Palestinian Homes
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention recognize that Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem is illegal under international law and is a deterrent to the peace process, and therefore call upon the President and the U.S. government to urge the State of Israel to end its policy of the demolition of Palestinian homes.

[At the request of the House of Bishops, the following reference is added: Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians, 1948. *Ed.*]

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 320f.



Resolution Number: 1994-D065

Title: Recognize Illegality of Israeli Settlements in Gaza and the West Bank

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize that Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and the occupied territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace, and, therefore, calls upon the United States government:

to withhold funds equivalent to those used by Israel for any settlement activity; and to make those funds available to Israeli settlers leaving the occupied territories for resettlement in pre-1967 Israel and equally for Palestinians accepting the principles of compensation for their lands and homes in Israel;

and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends the brave leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yassir Arafat for their bold steps towards peace.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 310.



Resolution Number: 1991-A147
Title: Support a Two-state Solution for Israel and the Palestinian People
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church supports the existence of Israel as a sovereign state, the democratic and humanitarian inspired homeland for displaced Jewish people, and calls upon the Government of the United States:

To assist in the creation of a Palestinian State, and,

To assist Israel to secure the human rights of indigenous Arabs within Israel through:

- a. ending the violation of civil and human rights and by stopping the brutalities committed against individual, families, and groups which now occur;*
- b. restricting the use of military force to measures and practices proportionate to the situation and suited to the control of civilian populations, and, to that end, to assure that military personnel and units, before assignment to duty, be given proper training in riot control and the techniques and practices of control of civilian populations;*
- c. causing the State of Israel to discontinue the use of administrative detention and collective punishment;*
- d. the permanent reopening of schools, universities, and other educational institutions for the Palestinians in the occupied territories;*
- e. causing the State of Israel to be even handed and fair in the recognition and enforcement of the rights and interests of the Palestinians with respect to their personal safety, property rights, water rights, and rights of access to commercial markets; and*
- f. encouraging the opening of candid and patient communication between the representatives of the Palestinians and the State of Israel and between the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples; and*
- g. reestablishing and safe-guarding the City of Jerusalem as inter-religious municipality in which full respect is accorded the rights and interests of Christians, Jews, and Muslims.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 794.



Resolution Number: 1988-D053
Title: Affirm Goals of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation for Israelis and Palestinians
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 69th General Convention:

- a) affirm the importance of the Church in the exercise of its prophetic role by standing on the side of the oppressed in their struggle for justice, and by promoting justice, peace and reconciliation for all peoples in the region;
- b) affirm the existence of the State of Israel and its right to recognized and secure borders, as well as the civic and human rights of all those who live within its borders;
- c) affirm the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, including choice of their own representatives and the establishment of their own state;
- d) support the convening of an international conference over Palestine/Israel under the auspices of the UN and based on all the UN resolutions in relation to this conflict, to which all parties of the conflict be invited; and
- e) commit itself to continued prayer for Israelis and Palestinians, for Muslim, Jew and Christian, for the achievement of justice, peace and reconciliation for all.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 293.