

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D009
Title: Swords Into Plowshares: U.S. Accountability and Responsibility in Rebuilding Gaza
Proposer: Lawton, Ms. Sarah
Topic: Human Rights, Middle East

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-C012 Refer a Resolution on Confronting Christian Zionism (Referred)
2022-C039 Urge Congress to Oppose Inequality in Israeli Laws
2018-D018 Commit to a Negotiated Solution to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
2018-D019 On the Topic of Opposing Israeli Occupation of Palestine (Rejected)
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)
2015-B013 Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East
2012-B019 Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace
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)
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
1991-D122 Distinguish Between Criticism of Israeli Policy and Anti-Jewish Prejudice
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)

2018-C038 Call for Guaranteed Basic Rights and Protection of Palestinian Children
2006-A011 On the Topic of Peace Between Israel and Palestine (Rejected)
2003-D008 Urge Israel to End Policy of Demolition of Palestinian Homes

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, 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](#).

D009 - Swords Into Plowshares: U.S. Accountability and Responsibility in Rebuilding Gaza

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Lawton, Ms. Sarah

Endorsed by: Murray, Mr. Alan, Lindeen, Ellen

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 06 - Social Justice & International Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the Episcopal Church call upon the United States Government to provide, as part of a process for building a negotiated and sustainable peace, significant funds for the long-term rebuilding of Gaza, such as: provision for extended medical and psychological support for the population, especially children, and financial support at a sufficient scale to rebuild homes, hospitals, schools, universities, libraries, factories, farms, and basic infrastructure such as roads and sea/air ports, and water, sewage, and electricity systems, investing equivalent funds to fund the rebuilding of Gaza as would have been spent on security assistance to Israel, all as part of meeting the moral and legal obligations of the United States to the people of Gaza given the U.S. role in providing military weapons and diplomatic cover for Israel's horrifically destructive and indiscriminate war waged upon the people of Gaza and indeed the whole of Gazan society, including the very means of life and irreplaceable cultural equities, in response to the Hamas-led attack and atrocities of October 7, 2023.

Explanation

At the time of this writing in early March 2024, at least 30,000 Gazans have been killed in the Gaza war, likely many more given the number of uncounted dead under the rubble, including at least 13,000 children. Even assuming a certain percentage of these numbers to be Hamas fighters, it is clear from all reports that most of the deaths are women, children, and the elderly. The number of wounded, including severely wounded, is reportedly over 72,000; 17,000 children have been orphaned, many of them grievously wounded, so that the phrase “wounded child, no surviving family” is an actual category of reporting for the hospitals. Hundreds of entire family lines, extended families of multiple generations, have been completely wiped out.

Meanwhile, 300,000 desperate people in northern Gaza are living on the verge of famine due to the severe restrictions imposed by Israel on incoming humanitarian aid over the past five months in violation of international humanitarian law, and refugees in the south of the barricaded enclave are still being bombed even in the tiny so-called “safe zones” to which 1.5 million people have fled on Israel army orders.

Gaza has also suffered profound loss of educated professionals that will leave a gaping hole in Gazan civil society, for example: six hundred healthcare workers as of January, according to the World Health Organization; over one hundred university professors and many more teachers; and nearly one hundred journalists per the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Over half of the housing stock of Gaza has been leveled. All the hospitals have been damaged, with most reduced to providing first aid only. Our beloved Al-Ahli Hospital, which is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, has miraculously remained in open despite significant damage and a dire lack of supplies, including clean water, and is receiving hundreds of people a day and even doing surgeries—but it will need to be rebuilt along with all the other hospitals. Schools, universities, and libraries have been blown up. Bakeries, factories, and farms have been bulldozed. Ancient cultural sites, including the Great Omari Mosque, which was built on the site of an ancient Philistine temple and the later site of a fifth-century Byzantine church, have been blown to bits.

Although we are still in a fog of war, we already know that Israel has waged this war in a more indiscriminate way than past conflicts with Gaza, both from reporting on how the government of Israel and the Israeli Defense Forces are making its targeting decisions (see the reporting in *The Guardian* on the IDF’s use of an AI system, dubbed “the Gospel,” to set bombing targets—“we are not being surgical,” said one source^[1]), and also simply from the historic scale of destruction in such a short period of time.

The International Court of Justice will take its time to reach a decision on whether this scale of destruction constitutes genocide, as alleged by the Republic of South Africa. The fact that their emergency ruling suggested that genocide could be unfolding in this case should be a huge warning to the United States as a major funder of the conflict, as the United States Government might reasonably also be named as complicit in genocide, ethnic cleansing, and at the very least, a great number of war crimes.

In no way does our church deny the trauma and devastation of October 7 attack for the people of Israel. We weep for the almost 1,200 people killed, and for all who were assaulted

and wounded, and the 230 people kidnapped from the Gaza border area of Israel, and for their families. We pray every day for the remaining hostages held in Gaza, and for their anguished families who only want their loved ones safe at home. We recognize the effects of multigenerational trauma as a terrible and shocking event like this carries with it the deeper memories of the Holocaust. The Hamas organization, its leaders and members, bear responsibility for the acts they planned and carried out that day and they should be held to account.

That is all true, and it is also true that two traumas can exist in the same time and place. In the case of the trauma inflicted upon the people of Gaza, which also has also triggered multigenerational traumatic memories, in this case of the Nakba of 1948, the United States bears a particular responsibility as it is a major funder and diplomatic partner for Israel that it has not been for Hamas in Gaza.

We understand the responsibility of Israel to protect its people from further harm and to call Hamas to account for the atrocities of October 7. However, under rules of war and international humanitarian law, having a cause to engage in conflict does not mean there are no rules for how to wage that conflict. Israel's war on Gaza has not destroyed Hamas, but it has largely destroyed Gaza and inflicted terror upon the civilian population of Gaza as whole. No one living in Gaza is untouched by unspeakable devastation. The conduct of the war is the basis for South Africa's petition to the International Court of Justice.

As the main provider of weapons and diplomatic support to Israel for this war, the United States may very well be complicit in Israel's war crimes or other violations of international law in this conflict because the U.S. government put few if any conditions on that assistance—in effect, there were no guardrails imposed. As of this writing, over one hundred separate military sales have been made from the United States to Israel since the invasion of Gaza, even as the nature and scope of the devastation has horrified the world.

In a deeper sense, the United States Government is also complicit in this conflict because of its own complacency in providing assistance to Israel for many years—Israel has been the largest recipient of U.S. assistance, by far, in the world over many decades—without insisting or pushing hard enough for a sustainable peace, even as Israel has allowed and even encouraged the illegal settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to grow and metastasize, thereby jeopardizing the Oslo Accords; even as longtime Prime Minister Netanyahu has tacitly supported Hamas's rule of the imprisoned enclave of Gaza for years in order to weaken the Palestinian Authority and divide the Palestinian national project so as to postpone the peace process (as described in a biting account^[iii] in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz shortly after October 7).

Without removing responsibility from Hamas for their actions, the deeper context for this conflict is the ongoing occupation and inequality of rights in the entire region, and the United States as a funder and diplomatic partner bears responsibility for funding and supporting that unsustainable system of occupation and inequality.

The minimal legal and moral responsibility of the United States Government to the people of Gaza in the wake of such massive destruction is to help fund in a significant way the rebuilding of Gaza. We would not expect that the Episcopal Church alone can move U.S.

policy on these issues, but we should join our voice with other faith groups, including our ecumenical Christian partners and our Jewish, Muslim and other interfaith partners for peace, to hold our government to this most basic standard of accountability and responsibility for its part in this war by committing to the rebuilding of hope and life in the land.

[ii] “The Gospel’: how Israel uses AI to select bombing targets in Gaza,” by Harry Davies, Bethan, McKernan, and Dan Sabbagh, in The Guardian, December 1, 2023.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/01/the-gospel-how-israel-uses-ai-to-select-bombing-targets?CMP=share_btn_url

[iii] “A Brief History of the Netanyahu-Hamas Alliance,” by Adam Raz, October 20, 2023.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-10-20/ty-article-opinion/.premium/a-brief-history-of-the-netanyahu-hamas-alliance/0000018b-47d9-d242-abef-57ff1be90000?gift=e15fc5f989c34a86abfb4ab16cf169f4>

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact gc.support@episcopalchurch.org.



Resolution Number: 2022-C012
Title: Refer a Resolution on Confronting Christian Zionism
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church reject the nationalistic theology of Christian Zionism which provides the ideological basis for Christian Zionist leaders and politicians seeking to influence United States policy in Palestine-Israel; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention not only reject the theology of Christian Zionism which is inherently antisemitic but also, critically, condemn the political policy positions that it sponsors and financially supports, which include Israel's expansion across the entire land of Palestine Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian people, including our indigenous Palestinian Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters; and be it further

Resolved, That, recognizing the extent to which the Prayer Book liturgy including prayers and the lectionary as well as the hymns contain frequent references to the Biblical land of Israel and the Israelites and that many Episcopalians confuse these with the current State of Israel, a conflation that reinforces the deceptive theology of Christian Zionism , the Episcopal Church commit to making clear in liturgy and in teaching the clear distinction between the current political situation and the Biblical past.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 763-764.



Resolution Number: 2022-C039

Title: Urge Congress to Oppose Inequality in Israeli Laws

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist and condemn the continued occupation, segregation and oppression of the Palestinian people; recognizing that for Israel to continue as a democracy it must allow for equality of all its peoples; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 495.



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-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: 2015-B013
Title: Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That The 78th General Convention reaffirm the vocation of the Church as an agent of reconciliation and restorative justice, and recognize that meaningful reconciliation can help to engender sustainable, long-lasting peace and that such reconciliation must incorporate both political action and locally driven grassroots efforts; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention, lamenting the diplomatic and political stalemate following recent elections in Israel, reaffirm this Church's commitment to a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated settlement between the parties resulting in two states for two peoples: a secure and universally recognized Israel living alongside a secure and viable state for the Palestinian people; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commend the United States government for its efforts during the past triennium to broker negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, but express grave sorrow at the collapse of those negotiations in 2014 and the subsequent deterioration of political relations between the parties; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church, recognizing that simple calls for the parties to return to the negotiating table are no longer sufficient to address the urgency of the situation, challenge the United States government, in coordination with global partners, to develop and offer a new, comprehensive, and time-bound framework to the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority for the conclusive negotiation of a two-state peace agreement and the resolution of all final-status issues; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge all national governments represented in The Episcopal Church to invest substantial diplomatic capital in support of such a framework; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge the Presiding Bishop and the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to continue its exemplary work to enhance understanding, build political consensus, and organize grassroots support within The Episcopal Church for this political action; and be it further

Resolved, That Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society: (1) convene a collaborative group of experts and interfaith partners to collect a wide range of resources designed to inform and enliven a conversation among those holding differing convictions; (2) encourage early travel of the 27th Presiding Bishop to the Holy Land, in the spirit of interfaith fellowship, to establish and build relationships with leaders of the communities of the Children of Abraham working for peace, justice, and reconciliation; and (3) continue its commendable efforts to assist Episcopalians to learn about and understand the traumas, hurt, suffering, fears, pain, aspirations, and hopes that shape the daily lives of all living in Israel and the Palestinian Territories; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's investment of \$500,000 during the last triennium in the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy as a tangible step toward building a viable Palestinian state and strengthening the economic well-being of Palestinian communities; and to urge Domestic

and Foreign Missionary Society to expand this loan investment at least twofold in the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage The Episcopal Church to (1) embrace the principles of restorative justice in its advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and (2) engage and support the voices of both Israelis and Palestinians — especially those who are themselves victims of violence and injustice—who seek peace with justice through nonviolent and restorative responses to the conflict; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention support existing efforts toward restorative justice by urging the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to identify and find creative ways to commend, support, and elevate the work of local peace-building and economic development initiatives, including those of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and grassroots organizations jointly led by Israelis and Palestinians; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$675,000 for the implementation of this resolution to be used as follows: (1) a total of \$60,000 over the course of the triennium to each of five existing local, grassroots peace-building initiatives jointly led by Israelis and Palestinians to support and expand their work; (2) \$300,000 to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East to support and expand its sustainable peace-building efforts in Israel and the Palestinian Territories through its ministries of health care and education; and (3) \$75,000 to cover other costs associated with the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 913-915.



Resolution Number: 2015-B019
Title: Recommend Appointment of Anglican Musician
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recommend that the Presidents of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies appoint one or more professional musicians of the Association of Anglican Musicians to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (or its successor organization) for the coming triennium to continue the close engagement of musicians from that organization with liturgical and musical decision-making in The Episcopal Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 919-920.



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: 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: 1991-D122
Title: Distinguish Between Criticism of Israeli Policy and Anti-Jewish Prejudice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize that a distinction exists between the propriety of legitimate criticism of Israeli governmental policy and action and the impropriety of anti-Jewish prejudice; and be it further
Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church deplore all expressions of anti-Jewish prejudice (sometimes referred to by the imprecise word "anti-Semitism"), in whatever form on whatever occasion, and urge its total elimination from the deliberations and affairs of the Episcopal Church, its individual members, its various units.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 773.



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.