



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

A Statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem on the kidnapping and killing of young people

We, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, are saddened and grieve the events of kidnapping and murder of young people and the violence which took place following these horrific incidents. We convey our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to their families, friends and communities.

We strongly condemn the kidnapping and killing of the three young Israelis, Naftali Frenkel, Gilad Shaar and Eyal Yifrach, and the abduction and murder of a Palestinian young boy, Muhammad Abu Khdeer. The killing of young and innocent people is not to be tolerated and should be stopped immediately. These dreadful actions do not help the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis, nor does it help build a better future for the young generations.

We call upon all sides to condemn these actions and to do all they can to stop all kinds of incitement, violence and bloodshed of innocent people, as well as to pursue peace and reconciliation.

We call upon both sides for an immediate ceasefire and the urgent resumption of peace talks.

We call upon both sides to respect human life and to end the inflammatory speech that dehumanises human beings.

We call upon all religious communities to uphold and promote the sanctity of human life, and to affirm that all people are made in the image of God and are to be treated with dignity.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem

+Patriarch Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
+Patriarch Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarchate
+Patriarch Nourhan Manougian, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Patriarchate
+Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, ofm, Custos of the Holy Land
+Archbishop Anba Abraham, Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate, Jerusalem
+Archbishop Swerios Malki Murad, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate
+Archbishop Aba Daniel, Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate
+Archbishop Joseph-Jules Zerey, Greek-Melkite-Catholic Patriarchate
+Archbishop Mosa El-Hage, Maronite Patriarchal Exarchate
+Bishop Suheil Dawani, Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East
+Bishop Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
+Bishop Pierre Malki, Syrian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate
+Msgr. Joseph Antoine Kelekian, Armenian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate

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