



United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network

We will Not Be Deterred!

A Statement from the United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network On the Recent Decision of the Trump Administration to Recognize Illegal Settlements

November 26, 2019



The United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network joins with leaders of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as well as other faith communities and activist organizations in condemning the recent decision by the United States government to recognize illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories including East Jerusalem. In its blatant disregard for human

rights and international law, the Trump administration continues policies aimed at delegitimizing Palestinian national aspirations and their right to self-determination.

It should not surprise us that this unilateral action by the United States comes shortly after a ruling by the European Court of Justice declaring that products from the illegal Israeli settlements can no longer be labeled made in Israel. Nor should it surprise us that this decision, at least in part aimed at domestic political audiences, was announced as Prime Minister Netanyahu was indicted and President Trump is facing possible impeachment.

The recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the moving of the United States embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the recognition of the Golan Heights, the defunding of UNWRA's crucial support for Palestinian refugees in Gaza and the West Bank, the revision of the National State Law marginalizing Arab citizens of Israel, and the assumption behind the Kushner plan that Palestinians would be willing to sell their birthright for a pledge of economic development are affronts to justice and obstacles to peace. The recognition of illegal Israeli settlements only adds to a demoralizing litany.

But the cause of justice in Palestine and Israel will not be thwarted; those who work for justice and peace must not be deterred. The United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network calls on members and congregations of the United Church of Christ to:

§ Protest the most recent egregious action of the Trump administration through public witness and in advocacy meetings with their members of Congress

§ Take actions to assure Palestinian partners of our continued support for self-determination and a just resolution of the conflict in Palestine and Israel

§ Implement the 2015 General Synod Resolution "A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions toward a Just Peace" ([here](#)) which called on the UCC to divest from companies profiting from the Occupation, to boycott products made in illegal settlements, and to call for an end to US military aid that supports human rights violations

§ Work for the end of Israel's military detention of children as called for in the 2017 General Synod Resolution "A Call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation by advocating for the passage of HR 2407, the "Promoting Human rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act" ([here](#))

§ Educate themselves about the issues using UCCPIN resources such as "Breaking the Stories" (see below) as well as from the UCCPIN website, <https://www.uccpin.org/>, and resources from Global Ministries, <https://www.globalministries.org>

Amid the shadows cast over our hopes for justice and peace, words from the Gospel of Luke for the Advent season, soon upon us, offer encouragement and hope: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Breaking the Stories: Special Issue Opposing US Policy on Israeli Illegal Settlements: More than Inconsistent----A War Crime

Curated by the Rev. Loren McGrail
UCC PIN Steering Committee

Statements

UCC & Disciples Leaders issue joint statement opposing US policy shifts on settlements [Here](#)

Kairos Palestine Statement on the U.S Secretary of State legalizing settlements [Here](#)

IPMN Condemns Unilateral Move on Israeli Settlements by the Trump Administration [Here](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Applauds the E.U.'s Labeling of Settlement Products and Strongly Opposes the U.S.' Subsequent Recognition of Settlements

[Here](#)

Presiding ELCA Bishops' Statement on Israeli Civilian Settlements [Here](#)

AMP condemns Trump administration's new position on Israeli settlements [Here](#)

Jewish Voice for Peace: Pompeo and the Trump Administration Don't Get To Rewrite International Law [Here](#)

United Methodist Church: Opposing Israeli Settlements since 1976 [Here](#)

The Jerusalem Fund: The US Stance on Israeli Settlements: The Law of Force Trumps the Force of Law [Here](#)

Other Resources

UN Security Council members rebuke US on Israel settlement [Here](#)

The Two-State Solution Is Not A Gift To Us Palestinians. It's The Only Way Israel Survives. [Here](#)

With softening of US settlement policy, is annexation train leaving the station? [Here](#)

Trump Crushes Palestinian Hopes Again [Here](#)

Don't legalize the illegal [Here](#)

Trump's elixir could prove to be an overdose for Israel [Here](#).

US says Israeli settlements are no longer illegal [Here](#)

Noura Erakat: U.S. Recognition of Israeli Settlements Is "Entrenchment of an Apartheid Regime" [Here](#)

Trump's gifts to Israel: Jerusalem, the Golan and now the settlements [Here](#)

'A threat to global stability': US denies Israeli settlements illegal [Here](#)

Made in Israel? European Union's high court says Israeli settlement products must carry different label. [Here](#)

Canada reverses UN stance on Palestinians in break with U.S. over settlements [Here](#)

