## **Christians4Palestine -Ireland**

Volume 1, Number 2, June 2025

'Peace, justice and equality for all our brothers and sisters in Palestine, Jew, Christian and Muslim'

### Introduction

**Christians4Palestine Ireland** is a multi-faith, cross-community activist organisation that works to raise awareness of the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people and the injustices perpetrated against them. The vast majority of the traditional news media has heavily censored the horrific events in Palestine and provided a narrative that is not balanced or objective. This bulletin, published on a fortnightly basis, aims to provide articles and information to broaden knowledge and understanding of the region. It will provide readers with projects they can engage with to stop the ongoing Genocide.

# Let us Know and help spread the word

Bulletin

We need your help. Please contact us if:

- you would like to know more about cross community services we hope to hold in the very near future in support of Gaza/Palestine.
- your church has demonstrated support for the Palestinian People suffering genocide.
- you would like to hold a crosscommunity service or fund raising activity for Palestine/Gaza.
- you could help distribute future editions of this bulletin outside churches or to place them in church foyer

Send your contact information

Your name Email Phone number Church Name Pastor/Priest name

To christians4palestine@outlook.com

### What is Zionism?

**Zionism** is a **political movement**. It has a number of very dangerous aims and objectives - one of the most repulsive is that Zionists believe they are a chosen or superior race of people. This infers that there are some races that Zionists view as inferior or sub-human. This has been the pretext for **apartheid** in **South Africa**, the holocaust **in Germany and the current genocide in Palestine**.

The dehumanising impact of these beliefs are completely contrary to the teachings of Jesus who preached a gospel of inclusion and mercy. **Zionism is therefore anti-christian. It** is rejected by an increasing number of Jews throughout the world.

#### Is anti-Zionism the same as anti semitism?

Antisemitism is a form of racial discrimination against people who follow Judaism, Jews. This is morally wrong and should be opposed along with all other forms of racism such as islamophobia.

Zionism is fundamentally a form of racial discrimination. It is also **anti-Christian** as it opposes the teachings of Jesus. As such it should be opposed morally and rejected.

The Israeli Regime, with the help of some western governments, have attempted to restrict free speech by merging criticism of Zionism with antisemitism. This will erode citizens right to criticise the Israeli regime.

### Is the Israeli Occupation of Palestine Illegal?

The **Internation Criminal Court** (ICC) has declared the occupation of Palestine (Gaza) illegal. Israel has failed to comply with this ruling as well as over 20 other UN resolutions.

The state of Israel uses '**settler occupation'** to encourage more external settlers, with no connection to Palestine, to move to illegal settlements and displace local Palestinians off their own land. This is fully supported by the Israeli Government and the Israeli Army.

### How can you help stop the Genocide?

It is difficult to watch horrific images coming from Gaza on a nightly basis. Nevertheless it is important to keep up to date with the current situation and how you can help. It is also vital to educate your friends and family on Gaza and the erosion of a free press and individual freedoms of citizens that have occurred as a result of the Government/Press bias.

## What is BDS and how do I get involved?

**Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions** (BDS) are a positive series of actions aimed at targeting the Israeli Regime and companies who support it. BDS was a key factor that ended the Apartheid Regime in south Africa that oppressed the majority black population. The strategy is to select a few significant companies and to have a big impact by getting people to focus their spending power on them.

We encourage you to change your buying habits and support local produce and companies by buying from them

### **BDS Targets**

- A. Check products country of origin and boycott Israeli products.
- B. Boycott Starbucks buy your coffee in local coffee houses
- C. Boycott McDonalds buy your food in local cafes and restaurants

### **Further Reading Online**

1. Christians face extinction amid Israeli assaults: Palestinian pastor

2. The Gospel According to Francis -Bradley Jersak

**3.** How Should Christians Respond to the Horror of Gaza? – Slugger O'Toole

Email: christians4palestine@outlook.com

#### Web: Christians4Palestine.org

Scan the QR Code Below



#### How should Christians respond to the horror of Gaza?

"Sadly, most of us remain silent, constrained perhaps by claims of Israel's centrality in 'End Times' Bible Prophecy and a movement that lobbies us to 'Stand with Israel'.

But a growing number now doubt that divine permission has been granted to 'park' Christ's call to show love of both God *and* our neighbour as ourselves; to embrace justice, compassion, and mercy, even in times of conflict.

We do not believe a Genesis promise of land to Abraham absolves the modern state of Israel from all accountability for its actions. Interestingly, Jesus never once mentioned 'The Land of Israel' as a priority. Rather, he sets His sights on a higher vision, encompassing *all* peoples. He was not, and we must not be, trapped in the Old Testament.

Once it was God promising land, then in Luke's Gospel, the land offer to Jesus – '*All* the kingdoms of the world' is now framed as idolatrous temptation from Satan.

The contradiction couldn't be clearer. The early Christian Church reconciled new revelation with the historic Hebrew Scriptures by focusing on John Ch:1's statement that *Christ, not the scriptures,* was the true 'Word of God.' Direct from the source of all. The Greek term 'Logos' deployed to describe this divine logic personified: the 'Word', creator of all, 'become flesh', becoming the hinge, as has been said, on which history turned.

The **New Testamental** writers contended that in **His** words and deeds, we see the **true face of God: merciful and compassionate, not violent, or vengeful.** Those were *our* projections upon deity. Ancient Israel's story of competing narratives was a work in progress, ever looking forward on a journey from dim light towards a daydawning recognition of the true nature of the divine.

Therefore, *their* scriptures – resulting in *our* Bible – cannot be read as 'flat', with every page of equal authority. **Christ takes precedence as** *our* **final authority**, the one who clarifies the flawed image of God found in the Old Testament, often saying, 'You have heard, but I say ....' etc. He is the towering light in the darkness and the peak of revelation. His words and actions the lens that illuminates both past missteps *and* the way forward.

Luke records Jesus quoting from Isaiah Ch. 61's Messianic Mission Statement – to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, setting the oppressed free, and proclaiming the Lord's favour. But he leaves out Isaiah's last half-line: 'and the day of vengeance of our God' upon Israel's enemies. Indicating His message is for all. He amends scripture, rejects a religion of revenge, and tells of God's mercy to those outside of Israel. The synagogue fills with rage, and they try to murder him. He was not, and we must not be, trapped in the Old Testament.

Jesus goes on to model out a new and living portrait of divine requirements: mercy, forgiveness, love of enemies, and sublimely, saying, 'What you do to the *least* (the most vulnerable, the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and imprisoned) you do to me.' (*Matthew 25:40*)

Becoming a God for *all* peoples. Created in His Image. Therefore, along with many early Celtic Christians, we may believe that we are sacred not because we belong to the right faith or church, believe the right things, or pray in the right way. All are sacred because they have been born.

There is no exemption from the law of love. Apostles and the early Church claimed **all** the 'Old Testament' promises made to Israel were fulfilled in the incarnation.

Do we really think that God permits a Genocide of the land's Indigenous peoples? And that if enough of the 'right' group congregate there, an Armageddon will be triggered, returning a now Martial Christ to dispatch millions as a means to a Millennial reign of peace? This is an incoherent, heretical, blood-drenched, and grotesque travesty of the true face of Jesus' loving, compassionate and merciful Abba Father.

Our Eschatology, our theory of the 'End Times', as one scholar has said, 'has run away with us, and our ethics have been left far, far behind.'

Will the 44,000 Palestinian Christians (yes, they do exist) who were denied access to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, regrettably, have to be ethnically cleansed or killed, along with their beloved Muslim friends and neighbours, because it is 'God's Will' to dehumanise and permit Genocide for the goal of a 'Greater' Israel?

I do wonder when a hypnotised church might shake itself awake from its stupor, and raise its voice in a prophetic cry midst this wilderness of destruction; a prophetic cry that will clearly call out our political actors to immediately cease arming and enabling the mass murderers of the innocents?