

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **EMO urges end to blockade, continuation of peace negotiations in wake of Gaza flotilla violence**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) joins our hearts and prayers with all of the people of the Middle East in light of the May 31 Israeli action on the international aid flotilla that led to the deaths of nine persons and the wounding of many others. EMO unites with our ecumenical partners and Christian brothers and sisters nationally and internationally in calling for the United States to work to encourage new, constructive Israeli policies toward Gaza. EMO reiterates our historic commitment to end every form of violence—the blockade of Gaza, as well as the bombings and assassinations of political leaders and civilians, and the firing of Kassam rockets.

We join with the National Council of Churches (NCC) in their statement: “The National Council of Churches strongly supports Israel’s right to exist with peace and security, but this attack on an aid convoy contributes to neither.”

We also support the statement released Wednesday by the Churches for Peace in the Middle East: “The incident highlights the need for the United States to work for new, constructive Israeli policies toward Gaza that end the blockade and provide for the humanitarian needs of those living there without diminishing Israel’s own security.”

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.*

#### MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches