

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon condemns violence and calls to lift the occupation of the Palestinian people

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) represents many different faith communities, traditions and perspectives, but today we are all united in our condemnation of the violence taking place in Gaza and Israel. We join others around the world in calling for an immediate ceasefire on both sides in the region and an end to the shadow of fear and violence that so many have lived under for so long. Simultaneously, we pray for the safety for people on both sides of this conflict—in Israel and in Palestine.

So even as we call on Hamas to renounce acts of terrorism, we must name clearly the need for Israel to lift the occupation. Though the situation is complex and the causes and conditions that have led to the current horrors are manifold, we must unambiguously call out the power imbalance inside this struggle and name the need for Israel to take the lead in ending the cycle of violence in the region.

Until basic human rights are restored to millions of Palestinians—including the right to self-govern—we know there cannot be peace. Thus, we call on President Biden to demand that Israel immediately end the occupation of the Palestinian people and re-open the U. S. Consulate in East Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organization mission in Washington, D.C.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of faith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through direct service programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, creation justice and public policy advocacy.