



Solidarity and Support

Justice and Peace Europe met the Holy Land Justice and Peace Commission

On 21 May, Justice and Peace Europe organised an online meeting with eminent members of the Justice and Peace commission of the Holy Land. Representatives of more than twenty European Justice and Peace commissions took part in the event.

As an introduction, they were presented with a brief recall of the complex history, preceding the brutal terrorist attack perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023. They also received distinct and in-depth information about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, and especially its small Christian community, which has lost at least 34 of its members since October 2023, who were killed or died due to lacking medical services. Moreover, one quarter has fled Gaza through Egypt. Other reports concerned the severe deterioration of living conditions in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

In his intervention, the Latin Patriarch emeritus of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah spoke about the situation of Christian Palestinians, who “belong to their people”. He insisted that “the conflict is not religious, but rather between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people”. Regarding the treatment of Christians, he listed incidents affecting daily life, matters of Christian property and Christian schools in East Jerusalem, and he stressed the important role of Christians in the Palestinian society. He concluded by asking the support of Justice and Peace Europe for “the efforts of Christians to not only stay in their homeland, but to actively contribute to the struggle in Israel/Palestine for liberty and equality, justice and peace.” In response, the co-presidents of Justice and Peace Europe, Mrs Maria Hammershoy and Archbishop Antoine Hérouard, pledged to keep a close contact with the Holy Land Justice and Peace commission and to consider further initiatives of solidarity and support, including a fraternal visit, in these extremely difficult times.

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