

مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط

The Middle East Council of Churches

The Middle East Council of Churches condemns terrorism and pray for the innocents

Beirut, November 12, 2015

With this statement, MECC denounces the terrorist attack that targeted once more innocent civilians who continue to pay with their lives the price for Radicalism and Takfiri acts:

“As we pray to God and ask mercy for the martyrs in the two explosions of Burj al-Barajneh (the southern suburbs of Beirut), we ask our Lord to heal the grief and pains of their families, who lost their loved ones, to heal the wounded and grace them a rapid recovery. We pray also for those whose hearts are filled with hate, we ask the Lord to place compassion in their hearts and enlightens their consciousness.

The Middle East Council of Churches calls upon all the Lebanese who are in charge of leadership to end internal conflicts and stand united to face terrorism, which threatens all the Lebanese regardless of their sectarian, political, and religious affiliation, and pray God to protect Lebanon and the Levant.



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Geneva, 14 November 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My heart laments as I once more write to you in grief over the recent terrorist attacks in Beirut, killing 41 people. As before, this is violence that has an impact beyond one city or place, with effects upon what is already a region experiencing fragility and too often fear.

On behalf of the World Council of Churches I share the assurance of prayer for your leadership as churches as you seek to offer spiritual comfort to those who are experiencing grief and apprehension at this uncertain time. We offer our prayers for those directly affected by these acts of terrorism and their loved ones. This solidarity that we offer is grounded in prayer, yet strengthened also by our commitment to work with you in every way possible to seek a lasting peace for all.

We have joined the Middle East Council of Churches in emphatic condemnation of this act of despicable violence, and the WCC will continue to work with the MECC in its strenuous efforts to advocate for just peace in the region and in its denouncing of all attacks on innocent life. We share in the responsibility of advocacy with governments and those in authority to find peaceful solutions to complex and volatile conflicts. We recognize the immense practical efforts of the MECC and churches to minister to all who are affected by violence and fear.

As Christians, we must return always to the sources of our faith to be reminded of God's presence with us, even when experiencing despicable assaults on the sanctity of life.

"God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." (Psalm 46:5, 11)

We share in the sorrow of those in Beirut, of all churches in Lebanon, Syria, and throughout the region. The World Council of Churches will not cease in its dedication to make known God's desire that all in the Middle East share in an abundance of life characterized by justice and peace.

Yours in our Common Lord,

With best wishes,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary



World Council of Churches

A worldwide fellowship of churches seeking unity, a common witness and Christian service

Documents

- [Statement on terrorist attacks in Paris](#)

Statement on terrorist attacks in Paris

The WCC has strongly condemned the latest terror attacks in Paris and Beirut, in a statement issued on 14 November by its executive committee during their meeting in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland.

14 November 2015

This statement is also available in [French](#) and [Arabic](#).

**World Council of Churches
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Bossey, Switzerland
13-18 November 2015
Doc. No. 35**

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

On Friday 13 November, the people of Paris again confronted terror, violence and death, following attacks that left more than 120 people dead and hundreds more injured. Today our hearts and minds are with the victims, their families and friends, with all those who mourn, and with all the people of France. We are with them in deep compassion and prayer. We pray that they may be comforted, by the love and care they have received from those who have now brutally been taken away, and by the support and solidarity of others, of their families and of their neighbours – whoever or wherever they may be.

The people of Lebanon faced the same violence and sorrow a few days ago, adding to the tragically long list of countries and people affected by such attacks.

Together as one humanity, as people of every faith and none, we should show that our shared respect for human life and dignity is stronger than this evil act of terror, this perversion of religion. As representatives of churches from across the whole world, we the executive committee of the World Council of Churches meeting at this time in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, pray and trust that God, the creator and the source of all life, will comfort, console and protect those affected by these attacks and all those who suffer and fear. We hope and pray that they will receive and be assured by these signs that they are not alone.

Statement by the President and the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation expresses its shock over the recent attacks in the cities of Beirut and Paris. It condemns in the most firm terms these despicable acts and conveys its condolences to all people suffering with the loss of the many lives that these attacks have caused. The hatred in the minds and hearts of some has found its way into the public again, claiming space and pretending to impose its vicious rationale and logics on societies at large.

The present time calls for robust moderation. The logics of exclusion and total disregard of human life have to be firmly rejected, as well as the totalitarian claim that seeks to impose hatred and fear of the other as the basis for societal interaction.

The present time calls for people of good will and followers of different religions to come together and work together for peace, justice and respect of human life, including love for the neighbor. Attacks like the recent ones should not discourage, but encourage even bolder witness for peace with justice.

This is a time for churches, synagogues and mosques to pray and work even harder for peace within and among their communities, and to do this together wherever possible. There is only one word possible when it comes to justifying violence with religious motives: No!

We hold fast to the vision expressed in Psalm 85:

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Rev. Dr. Munib Younan
President
Lutheran World Federation

Rev. Dr. Martin Junge
General Secretary
Lutheran World Federation

14 November 2015

Geneva