



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

April 15th 2021

This prayer ministry enables local and international friends of Sabeel to pray over regional concerns on a weekly basis. Sent to Sabeel's network of supporters, the prayer is used in services around the world and during Sabeel's Thursday Communion service; as each community in its respective time zone lifts these concerns in prayer at noon every Thursday, this "wave of prayer" washes over the world.

This week's Kumi Now online gathering focused on the Israeli policy of demolishing Palestinian homes. According to the Israeli Committee Against House Demolition (ICHAD) the Israeli authorities have demolished more than 60,000 Palestinian houses and structures in the occupied Palestinian Territories since 1967. Next week Kumi Now will consider the issue of 'Administrative Detention', as we remember Palestinian Prisoner Day on Saturday, the 17th of April.

- **Lord, we pray that the Israeli authorities will cease to use the policy of house demolition to force Palestinians from their homes and their land. Lord, in your mercy...*hear our prayers.***

'Hope will rise' was the theme of the Sabeel-Kairos UK Virtual Easter Service held on Saturday, the 10th of April. Father Fadi Diab, Pastor of St Andrew's Church, Ramallah spoke about how hope still exists in the Palestinian Christian community.

- **Lord Jesus, you came to renew your disciples' hope after your resurrection, saying to them, 'Peace be with you'. We pray that you will renew the hope in our hearts and bless us with your peace as we seek to serve you in the world. Lord, in your mercy...*hear our prayers.***

A Palestinian mother and her 2-year-old daughter were on their way to visit relatives in Ash- Shuhada Street in the old city of Hebron when they were assaulted by Israeli settlers on Tuesday evening, the 5th of April. The child's father, Mufeed Sharbati, reported that his son had also faced harassment earlier in the week.

- **Lord, we pray for an end to the constant attacks perpetrated by Israeli settlers on Palestinians. Lord, in your mercy...*hear our prayers.***

Israel's Jerusalem municipality has given approval to the construction of 540 housing units for settlers in occupied East Jerusalem. This construction will affect the Palestinian village of Beit Safafa and the neighbourhood of Sharafat, north of Bethlehem. It will also link two major illegal settlements, Har Homa and Givat Hamatos, isolating Beit Safafa from other Palestinian neighbourhoods to the east and from Bethlehem to the south.

- **Lord, we pray that voices around the world will cry out against the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and the division and disruption of Palestinian communities in occupied East Jerusalem and in the West Bank. Lord, in your mercy...*hear our prayers.***

Palestinians will vote for an elected legislature on Saturday, the 22nd of May and for presidential polls on Saturday, the 31st of July, after a fifteen-year hiatus. The Israeli government has not yet responded to Palestinian requests to allow citizens of East Jerusalem to cast their ballots, as they did in previous elections.

- **Lord, we pray that all Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, will be able to participate in free and fair elections this summer. Lord, in your mercy...*hear our prayers.***

Cassif, the only Jewish Knesset member in the predominantly Arab Joint List was beaten by Israeli police during a protest in East Jerusalem. Demonstrations by both Palestinians and Israelis take place regularly in Sheikh Jarrah to protest Israeli court decision to evict 550 Palestinians from their homes.

- **Lord, we continue to be overwhelmed by the unjust and abusive actions of Israel. We ask for your spirit to give us the strength to continue the nonviolent resistance to bring the insanity of the Israeli occupation to an end. Lord in your mercy...*hear our prayers.***

This week our Muslim brothers and sisters in Palestine, Israel and around the world will begin observing the holy month of Ramadan.

- **Lord, we pray that amidst the violence and oppression in much of the Middle East, and that those who observe Ramadan will find it a time of peace and reflection. We also pray that Ramadan will be a joyous time as family and friends break bread together. Lord in your mercy... *hear our prayers.***
- **We join with the World Council of Churches in their prayers for the countries of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. Lord, in your mercy...*hear our prayers.***