



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

Mar 15th, 2024

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.

On the 10th of March, the Muslim world marked the first day of Ramadan. Ramadan is the most important month in Islam which is observed with fasting, daily communal prayers, and recitation of the Quran, amongst other practices. Nearly every year in Palestine the month of Ramadan is marked with violence, provocation, and the obstruction of the freedom of worship by the State of Israel against the Palestinian Muslim population.

- **Holy God, we pray that all Palestinian Muslims will be able to practice their spirituality this Ramadan without restrictions and violence. We remember that our oppressors enforce rules not to protect, but to restrict. Lord, as millions fast this Ramadan let them remember the people in Gaza who are starving, and as they come together in community to break their fasts, may they be reminded of the collective strength communities possess to challenge injustices.**

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

People in Gaza are waiting for the outcome of ceasefire talks while Israeli attacks, starvation, diseases, and hellish circumstances continue, affecting 2.2 million people. Children are dying of starvation in northern Gaza, and many are experiencing severe malnutrition. Aid is systematically denied from entering Gaza, especially the northern part and the aid that does make it through is at times under fire from Israel's military.

- **God of the oppressed, the full extent of the suffering in Gaza is unknown. Lord, we come to you like the Psalmist asking "Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" (Psalm 10:1). Lord, we hold on to our faith that the depths of agony and pain are only truly known by you and the people of Gaza. Lord, deliver the people of Gaza and stop the starvation they are experiencing. Keep us from growing numb to the suffering that is occurring.**

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

An internal UN report describes widespread abuse of Palestinian detainees from Gaza in Israeli detention centers, including beatings, dog attacks, the prolonged use of stress positions and sexual assault. Moreover, some Israeli soldiers are seen enjoying the abuse of Palestinian detainees by sharing videos and photos of the torture.

- **God of life, for those humiliated, sexuality abused, tortured, and beaten, provide signs of your presence. Grant strength to those who are struggling. For those who have died, embrace them with your arms. Give courage to those who have committed horrific acts to repent and confess publicly for their crimes. Help us bring down the systems and decision makers who have caused so much torment.**

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

Since the 7th of October, Israel has stepped up its arrest campaign in the occupied West Bank, and mistreatment of prisoners in its overstuffed jails. Palestinian organizations are documenting abuses by Israel and its forces in the hope that one day they will be held accountable. Several Palestinian prisoners have died in the last few months for unknown reasons. Simultaneously, the Israeli families of hostages held in Gaza by Hamas set out on a four-day march from Kibbutz Re'im to Jerusalem advocating for the release of their loved ones who are being held hostage.

- **God of the captives, we pray for all the hostages, those in Israeli prisons who are considered administrative detainees, and those held by Hamas in Gaza. Lord, protect the Israeli hostages from the Israeli bombs that are dropped in Gaza and ensure their safe and soon release. Lord, protect all Palestinians unjustly held in Israeli prisons and bring an end to their suffering. Lord, help us find a vision in our land where political strategies which use hostages as pawns cease to exist.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Sabeel is immensely sad with the sudden passing of our dear friend Eric Merx. Eric was a good friend of Sabeel who often worshiped with us, attended meetings, and helped us with several projects. Last Christmas, Eric helped Sabeel support many Palestinian families in need. Thanks to him, over 100 families were able to access food and cover basic bills. This all-bears testament to his loving and generous heart. Sabeel will dearly miss our friend.

- **Loving Father, we join in mourning with Eric's family. Comfort all who were close to Eric and assure his family that he is in your presence. We celebrate Eric's life by continuing our mission and pray that we will continue to learn from his life and legacy. Lord, we are grateful for the ways you worked through Eric, and we were privileged to have known him.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Since the beginning of Lent, a network of autonomous Christian groups have been on a pilgrimage of solidarity for Gaza, also known as the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage. This group has been engaging in a prayerful show of solidarity, where people during Lent are walking the length of the Gaza Strip (41 kilometers long and 6-12 kilometers wide) advocating for an immediate ceasefire. These pilgrimages are taking place throughout Lent across 145 cities in 18 countries.

- **God of mercy, we thank you for those participating in the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimages who are praying with their feet. Help us, Lord, here in Palestine, and across the world to, "walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice" (Proverbs 8:20). Let this pilgrimage be a prophetic action which bears witness to the injustice of this world and to the revolutionary love which resists against all odds. Stir in us an unwavering zeal for a ceasefire.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**
- **We join with the World Council of Churches in their prayer for the countries of Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**