



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

Mar 22nd, 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.

Last week, Prime minister Netanyahu announced that the military plan for a ground invasion of Rafah, where about 1.4 million Palestinians are sheltering, has been approved. The UN and several countries that have supported Israel uncritically since October 7th have warned Israel against this plan. The majority of people in Rafah are displaced Gazans who have been living through hellish circumstances.

- **God of the oppressed, give us sight which recognizes that although structures, governments, and empires have powers to kill, starve, ethnically cleanse, and oppress our people for years, that you are amongst us, even those who are suffering alone and abandoned. Lord, we plead for an immediate ceasefire and hold on to our faith that you are faithful and your love is everlasting.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

It has been more than 160 days of bombings, starvation, torture, and overall catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza. According to UNRWA, the death toll in Gaza is higher than that of all wars around the world in the last four years. Furthermore, almost daily, aid seekers across Gaza have been killed by Israeli strikes.

- **Eternal God, your love to your precious children in Gaza cannot be separated through bombs, starvation, and hatred. Lord, you breathed life into each soul in Gaza that has been taken away by evil. Help us Lord, not to commit idolatry by being fatalistic, but be witnesses that you are a good God who restores justice, loves liberation, and is the source of hope. Multiply the food and aid in Gaza as you did when feeding the 5,000.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

In the last week, Israeli police forces prevented hundreds of Palestinian Muslim worshippers from entering the Haram al-Sharif compound. Some Palestinians who attempted to enter Al-Aqsa were faced with severe beatings as a large Israeli police force permitted only women and men aged over 55. Simultaneously, Israeli settlers have stormed the compound with the protection of the Israeli army.

- **All merciful God, help us to uphold people's freedom to express and live out their faith for what they believe. May we work for genuine tolerance by being intolerant for what is evil in all spheres of our lives. Lord, comfort those who are unable to express their faith in security and liberty this Ramadan.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

On the 12th of March, Rami Hamdan Al-Halhouli, a resident of the Shuafat refugee camp in Jerusalem, was shot and killed by Israeli police. Israeli police claim that Rami had pointed the fireworks at them, whilst Rami's father, who was an eyewitness, claims that this is a false allegation. Israeli Justice Ministry officials are not expecting the Israeli police to be indicted for the killing of Rami. Rami was only 12 years old.

- **God of justice, your Holy anger heals. Heal our wounded hearts, broken from the killing of Rami. We remember that you were powerless on the cross like Rami's father in seeking justice. You know how it is to see your son killed. Lord, assure us that not only the shooter of the bullet will be held accountable, but also the policies, decision makers, and ideologies who were responsible for the killing of Rami. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

The Custos of the Holy Land as part of its traditional collection for Good Friday is fundraising for Schools in the Holy Land. This is the result of the Pope's wishes for the bond between all the Christians in the world and the local Christian community and the Holy sites in Palestine-Israel to remain strong. The schools in the Holy Land, which are part of the Churches, are in great financial difficulty due to the events taking place after October 7th.

- **Loving Father, may every contribution, small or big, be a blessing to the children of the schools in the Holy Land. We see how the events in Palestine are affecting our children. We are grateful for your work through the fundraisers and work of individuals, organizations, and churches. Help us Lord, participate in the works of your kingdom though we might not see it or understand it. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

After February's successful webinar on "Zionism and Antisemitism", Sabeel is looking forward to hosting a panel titled "Islam and Islamophobia" as part of our preconference webinars leading to the Sabeel 2024 conference in November. The speakers for the upcoming webinar include Santiago Slabodsky, Mariam Barghouti, and Iskander Abbasi.

- **God of truth, use the speakers and this panel to educate the listeners for better understanding of truth, which leads to truthful action. We pray that our fight for justice will be in all spaces, and we pray that this webinar creates a ripple effect which causes actions of love throughout the world. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**
- **We join with the World Council of Churches in their prayer for the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**