



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

Nov 11th, 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, amid U.S. presidential elections, Israel officially confirmed that Palestinians will not be allowed to return to homes in northern Gaza, an area that still has hundreds of thousands of civilians unable or unwilling to follow evacuation orders. For over a month, the Israeli Occupation Forces -IOF has obstructed most humanitarian aid and medical assistance, allowing widespread famine and diseases to spread while it continues indiscriminate bombing campaigns.

- **Loving God, we lack the words to fully describe the continued suffering of the people of Gaza, who like the Psalmist, face death all day long. (Psalm 44:22) Amid famine, disease, and genocide, we know you can hear the cries of your people under the rubble of homes, from hospitals struggling to care for the wounded and sick, and from families who know not where to turn for safety. We ask you to intervene for the people of Gaza and be their shield against these unimaginable acts of violence. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the depths of your justice and awaken the hearts of the international community that we may end the violence that has robbed people of their lives and dignity. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Last week, the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority stated that the Israeli forces have dropped more than 85,000 tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, surpassing the amount dropped during World War II. The Authority added in a statement that "the ongoing Israeli shelling of the Gaza Strip has led to the destruction of vast areas of agricultural land and the contamination of soil with toxic chemicals that will hinder farming for decades."

- **Creator of the Earth, we grieve for the people of Gaza which have borne the weight of violence, and for the generations to come who may never know the land as it was. Lord, we lift up those who have cared for and loved this land for centuries, who are now left without the means to plant, to grow, or to reap. We pray for the families who relied on the soil for their sustenance, for the children who will be denied its harvest, and for all whose heritage and hopes are bound to this earth. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Last week, Israel sentenced 70-year-old Sheikh Jamal Mustafa, an imam of a mosque in the al-Issawiya neighborhood of Jerusalem, to three years in prison for “incitement to terrorism.” Israeli authorities have also imprisoned two other imams in Jerusalem on similar charges. Unfortunately, the crackdown on religious figures in the region is nothing new. In August, the Israeli occupation banned Grand Mufti and preacher of the al-Aqsa Mosque, Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, from entering Al Aqsa for six months. Sheikh Sabri was arrested the same month after Israeli forces raided his home in the al-Sawana neighborhood of East Jerusalem. He was later released.

- **God of Freedom, protect those who worship amid fear, and grant courage to those barred from sacred spaces. Soften the hearts of those in power, that they may choose mercy over oppression. Bring peace to every street and let justice flow through the land. May all worship in freedom and safety, and may peace and dignity be restored to all. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Last week, Qatar suspended its mediation efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza until the parties “show their willingness and seriousness to end the brutal war and the ongoing suffering of civilians.” Over the last few months, there has been evidence indicating Netanyahu’s plans of thwarting any ceasefire agreement, and due to the impasse of talks, a top member of Israel’s negotiating team for the release of the hostages had already resigned.

- **God of Peace, with no ceasefire in sight, we live in fear of this situation of instability and the spreading of violence across the region. In a world where belief in international law and human rights has been shattered, we ask you to bring light and healing to us. Lord, bring willingness and urgency to those in power to end the suffering of civilians and pursue a vision of human rights. Renew the spirit of all who seek accountability, and soften all hearts that peace may prevail and suffering may end. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Last week, the Israeli Knesset on 6 November voted for a collective punishment law that allows authorities to deport family members of Palestinians who carry out armed operations against Israelis to the Gaza Strip and “other locations.” Parents, siblings, children, and spouses would be targeted by the law. They can also be deported on the basis of expressing “support or sympathy” for the act of “terrorism” committed or for publishing “praise, admiration, or encouragement.”

- **God of Justice and Compassion, we cry out for those in the Holy Land facing unjust laws and relentless oppression. We grieve for families torn from their homes and exiled. We see mothers, fathers, children stripped of their rights, their dignity trampled, and we lament for a system that punishes them for who they are. Holy Spirit, awaken the world to the suffering of those crushed beneath the weight of occupation and unjust systems. May your light shine into the darkest halls of power, and may your love bring freedom to the oppressed and courage to the persecuted. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Starting this week, many are arriving at Sabeel Jerusalem for a pre-pilgrimage tour before the actual Solidarity Pilgrimage on November 16-21.

- **God of all nations, we ask you to bless those who journey to Jerusalem in solidarity and support of those under oppression and occupation. Protect them and the communities they visit, who welcome them with open hearts amidst great hardship. May their pilgrimage to Sabeel bring understanding, empathy, and a deep commitment to peace and justice. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**
- **We join with the World Council of Churches in their prayers for the countries of Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**