

## **Appeal to humanity**

Oct 30, 2023

### **pax christi delegates' assembly votes for immediate ceasefire in Israel and Palestine**

pax christi condemns the heinous massacre by Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists and is deeply concerned about the explosion of violence in Israel and Palestine.

Our compassion is with the people who have lost loved ones and mourn them, with the injured, with the captives, among them children and elderly, and their families, and with all who live in fear.

After the deaths of over 1,400 people from Israel and over 5,700 people from Gaza, including over a third of children (figures from the UN humanitarian agency OCHA through Oct. 24, 2023), we understand the pain, bitterness and anger on all sides. All people in the region have a right to live in security and peace.

With our friends from Israel and Palestine, we are concerned that the renewed cycle of violence and reliance on security through military superiority is destroying the prospect of living in peace. With them, with the churches in the Holy Land, and with UN Secretary General Guterres, we call for an end to the bloodshed, an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and negotiations to create a lasting just and secure peace for both sides. We call on the German government to stop blocking these demands in the EU.

The catastrophic humanitarian situation suffered by vulnerable people requires immediate and unrestricted access to water and food, as well as to hospitals, medical ambulances and medicines, fuel and electricity. Humanitarian organizations must also be allowed access to save lives.

We call on the Israeli government to stop displacing civilians, especially families, and asking them to flee and allow them to return. Hunger, denied supplies and displacement must not be weapons of war. International humanitarian law, and in particular the protection of civilians, applies to all people.

With Pax Christi International, we call on the international community to ensure the protection of civilians, and in particular to ensure the protection of vulnerable people in Gaza through international observers, peacekeepers and humanitarian corridors.

Only the future prospects for both peoples with the right of Israel to exist and the creation of an independent Palestinian state and serious political negotiations with the support of the International Community support our hopes for a lasting peace in the region.

This appeal was decided by the pax christi delegates' assembly on 29.10.2023 in Mainz.