

- 1 access to resources, benefits and services,
- 2 • segregating the population into geographic areas based on identity, and
- 3 • establishing laws and policies designed to suppress opposition to the regime and
- 4 enforcing domination through arbitrary imprisonment, torture, cruel and inhumane
- 5 treatment, and other violations of human rights.

6

7 Within Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the Israeli government has
8 established its control over the lives of Palestinians with discriminatory laws and policies
9 specifying where they can live, whom they can marry, where and when they can travel short
10 distances, which roads they can drive on, how much water they can use, when they can access
11 their own farms, what land they can purchase, which justice system they are subject to, whether
12 they will receive due process, and the kinds of punishment they will receive. In addition, Israel
13 has seized more than three-quarters of the land of its Palestinian citizens and continues their
14 dispossession today. Palestinians in the OPT have lived under Israeli military law for
15 generations without any protected civil rights, while the Israeli government has blatantly codified
16 a racist governing principle in the Nation State Basic Law of 2018, which grants self-
17 determination exclusively to the Jewish citizens of Israel.

18 Many authoritative scholars and organizations have conducted in-depth investigations and
19 issued reports regarding Israeli apartheid, including, most recently, the powerful and
20 comprehensive report from the global leader in human rights advocacy, Amnesty International in
21 February 2022: “Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians (“Israel’s Apartheid against Palestinians:
22 A Look into Decades of Oppression and Domination”
23 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>).

24

25 The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state that United Methodists “commend
26 and encourage the self-awareness of all racial and ethnic groups and oppressed people that
27 leads them to demand their just and equal rights as members of society,” and furthermore “call
28 the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities,” (The Book of Discipline of The
29 United Methodist Church 2016 [https://www.umc.org/en/content/social-principles-the-social-
30 community](https://www.umc.org/en/content/social-principles-the-social-community)).

31

32 Additionally, the United Methodist Church has forcefully declared its opposition to the crime of
33 apartheid, calling it a “heresy” and “a sin” that must be “condemned unequivocally – within
34 Southern Africa and neighboring countries and throughout the world.”

35

36 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

37 Members of the Holy Land Task Force and MFSA will provide educational materials to
38 congregations and individuals who request them. Information will also be provided to district
39 and conference newsletters and other forms of media, to encourage our fellow United
40 Methodists to advocate for justice in this area.

41

42 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

43 The Holy Land Task Force has a small treasury that can be used if needed to offset the nominal
44 costs of printing and staff time.

1 AR 1 Attachment

2

3 Dear (Senator/Congressman)

4 I am writing on behalf of the Oregon/Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist
5 Church to request that you support legislation conditioning U.S. funding to Israel upon
6 Israel's willingness to dismantle its apartheid system and implement all the rights due to
7 Palestinians under international law.

8 As I'm sure you are aware, Amnesty International released a report in February, 2022,
9 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>), which
10 sets out how massive seizures of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible
11 transfer, drastic movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to
12 Palestinians are all components of a system which amounts to apartheid under international
13 law (<https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cspca/cspca.html>.)

14 As Christians – and as human beings – we are disturbed that our government continues to
15 provide vast amounts of funding to a government that does not follow the basic tenants of
16 human rights, and equally concerned that our tax dollars continue to support the atrocities
17 reported by Amnesty and other human rights organizations.

18 Members of our church community have visited the “Holy Land” and personally witnessed
19 many of the cruelties cited in the Amnesty report. As an Annual Conference, representing
20 approximately 75 United Methodist churches in Oregon and Idaho, we have recently passed
21 a resolution seeking your help in addressing the wrongs being perpetuated against the
22 Palestinian people. We pray for your compassionate response.

23

24 /s/

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