

1 **ACTION REQUEST #1**  
2 **2022 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
3

4 **TITLE: Identifying and Opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land**

5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force; Methodist**  
6 **Federation for Social Action**

7 **SPOKESPERSON: Dee Poujade**

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1441 SW Clay St. #308, Portland OR 97201**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: [traveling.mimi@gmail.com](mailto:traveling.mimi@gmail.com)**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-310-5577**  
11

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommended for defeat, 9-10-0**  
13

14 **We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

15 To affirm that apartheid is antithetical to the Gospel message and that we recognize and oppose  
16 Israeli apartheid as we strive to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they  
17 present themselves,"  
18

19 To call on the U.S. government to condition U.S. funding to Israel upon Israel's willingness to  
20 dismantle its apartheid system and implement all the rights due to Palestinians under  
21 international law. This shall be accomplished by the Conference Secretary sending the  
22 attached letter to Senators and Representatives who represent the Annual Conference (Oregon  
23 and Idaho), and  
24

25 To urge all United Methodist clergy and laity to listen to the voices of Palestinians regarding  
26 their situation, by meeting with them in their homeland, by seeking opportunities to hear from  
27 them at online or in-person events, and through the study of the Palestinian Christians'  
28 landmark 2020 document entitled "Cry for Hope: A Call for Decisive Action,  
29 (<https://www.cryforhope.org>), which congregations and individuals are encouraged to read.  
30

31 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

32 **What will this action accomplish?**

33 if apartheid is to be opposed and abolished, it is essential for the international community to  
34 recognize and name apartheid where it exists.  
35

36 **Why is it important?**

37 Apartheid is not defined by the conditions that existed in South Africa, but by the United Nations  
38 Convention on Apartheid of 1973 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of  
39 1993 (The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of  
40 Apartheid, United Nations – <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cspca/cspca.html>).  
41

42 Apartheid is named as a "crime against humanity" under international law and the primary  
43 features of apartheid include:

- 44 • codifying into law a preferred group of people and giving that group preferential

- 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/

25