



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

**President Donald J. Trump
United States of America**

Geneva, 06 December 2017

Subject: Urgent request to refrain from recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to you to express our deepest dismay over the news that you are considering recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and thereafter relocating the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This unilateral action contravenes the long-held position of the international community according to which Jerusalem is a city shared by two peoples and three religions.

We are extremely alarmed that such a move will thwart the prospects for Israeli-Palestinian Peace and trigger widespread violence in the Middle East and the rest of the world. The Middle East and the world need peace not more violence.

The Lutheran World Federation, which is a communion of 145 member churches at its 12th Assembly in May 2017, called for:


A final status agreement that affirms two states for two peoples, internationally recognized borders between Israel and a viable, contiguous Palestine based on the 1967 armistice lines, security guarantees for Israel and Palestine, mutual recognition and full and equal rights for their citizens, a fair resolution to the Palestinian refugee issue and a shared Jerusalem between Israelis and Palestinians with free access to the holy sites for the three monotheistic faiths— Judaism, Christianity and Islam.


The LWF therefore unequivocally opposes any unilateral action that prejudices the status of Jerusalem or constitutes its recognition as a city within the sovereign territory of one State.

In view of the above, the LWF urges you in strongest terms:

- To continue pursuing multilateral solutions to such complex long-standing issues rather than resorting to unilateral actions;
- To neither recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, nor relocate the US Embassy; and
- To support the Israelis and the Palestinians to come back to the negotiating table and resume face-to-face peace process.

We pray that God grants you wisdom as you continue to discern the appropriate actions for sustainable peace in the Middle East.


Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa
President


Rev. Dr Martin Junge
General Secretary