



PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF LOCAL CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

April 20th, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Church leaders from the United States and the Holy Land have met in an unprecedented Summit of Church Leaders in Atlanta - Georgia on April 19th and the 20th praying to bring peace and justice and strengthening the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

We hereby submit to you the Atlanta Document which delineates our affirmations and recommendations for pursuing peace and strengthening the Christian presence in the Holy Land -- the Cradle of Christianity -- and call upon you to continue your effort to put an end to the Palestinian Israeli conflict so that peace can prevail in the land of the prophets.

As Holy Land church leaders, we approach you, Mr. President, to stress to you the gravity of the situation in our region. The hopes and aspirations of many of the faithful in the Holy Land for a two state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders are quickly fading.

As prescribed in the relevant international legal instruments and in other UN resolutions, as well as the Arab Peace Initiative, the continuation of the settlement enterprise and the Israeli unilateral measures in the Occupied Palestinian Land remain the paramount obstacles confronting the viability of peace. Moreover, the

separation of the Holy City from the Bethlehem, the city of the Nativity, through a separation wall, is another indication to the seriousness of this calamitous situation.

Mr. President

We plead to you, during the remainder of your term, to invest in a just peace and to refrain from exercising the US veto rights in the United Nations Security Council in order to deliver new hopes for a just peace in the region and an end to extremism, terrorism, death and destruction in the entire Middle East.

We pray for your wellbeing. May God afford you the strength, the inspiration, and perseverance to take additional steps to leave a legacy, prior to your leaving of office, to bring peace, justice, and stability to the land of peace. This is a prerequisite for a peaceful coexistence between the contentious parties to live side by side in their own sovereign and secure states. Without this, no one will be able to enjoy freedom and tranquility.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are the children of God.

Respectfully,

Patriarch Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Jordan & the Holy Land

Patriarch Nourhan Manogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Jordan and the Holy Land

Patriarch Fuad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Jordan and the Holy Land

Archbishop Suheil Dawani, Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land

Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Custos of the Holy Land