



Jerusalem
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A Message to Our Partners from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)

In the face of yet another escalation of war in our region, our hearts are filled with deep anguish. As we journey through this Lenten season, a season that calls us nearer to God and closer to our neighbor, we here in the Holy Land are confronted once more with the devastating cost of military aggression. Families are anxious. Communities are unsettled. The fragile rhythms of daily life are again disrupted. This latest war does not stand alone; it imposes yet another layer of pressure, fear, and restriction upon an already burdened people. No people are created to live under the sound of war. War is not the life God intends for humanity.

We must speak with moral clarity: the continued decision to resort to war is a failure of human responsibility before God. Each new escalation tightens the grip of dread, deepens the lived reality of siege, and further constricts the space in which human dignity can breathe. Political calculations and security arguments must never be allowed to eclipse the sacred worth of human life.

From our Palestinian Christian context, we affirm without hesitation: life, not death, is God’s choice for humanity. Yet from this land we call holy, wounded yet steadfast, we refuse the temptation of despair. With the prophet Isaiah, we raise our voice with renewed urgency: *“They shall learn war no more.”* We remain committed to preaching the Gospel of reconciliation entrusted to us, the good news that through Christ, God reconciles humanity to Godself and calls us to the hard and holy work of reconciliation with one another.

Dear partners, we urge you: pray, and pray fervently. But do not let prayer become a substitute for responsibility. Let your prayers be joined with courageous and concrete action. Stand publicly with those who are afflicted. Advocate persistently for a just peace that safeguards the dignity and security of all people. Challenge policy makers whose narratives make endless war appear inevitable.