

Eglise Protestante
Unie de Belgique



Verenigde Protestantse
Kerk in België



To: Dar Annadwa – International Center of Bethlehem
P.O. Box 162 – 109 Paul VI Street
BETHLEHEM - PALESTINE

SHF/jjv 2019/032
Brussels, 18th April 2019

RE: Kairos Palestine Easter Alert

Dear sisters and brothers,

Peace be with you!

We would like to thank you for sharing your Easter Alert with us. It is a powerful account of the challenges that you are facing as well as a moving testimony to steadfast faith in difficult circumstances.

As you quite rightly observed in the Easter Alert, the situation in your part of the world has not improved since the Kairos-document was issued ten years ago. Last year's nation-state law basically de-classified people other than Jews to second-class citizens of the State of Israel. Israeli settlements on the West Bank were further entrenched and expanded, and during the recent election campaign the threat was voiced that land on the West Bank could even be annexed by Israel. These developments as well as the results of the elections do not bode well for prospects of peace with justice in the Holy Land.

At the tenth anniversary of the Kairos-document, we should not underestimate the influence your document has had in the world. In our church we worked with your document and produced educational materials around it in order to inform and conscientize our parishes. In that context, a pastor of our church participated in the EAPPI-programme. On several occasions, we also intervened in political debates, inspired and prodded as we are by the Kairos-document. Your Easter Alert will be on the agenda of our Church in Society working group which will advise us on further steps to take.

Dear sisters and brothers, in the journey throughout the history of the Holy Land, the Cross of Jesus Christ has been joined by the crosses of many others who suffered and died because of their convictions and because they refused to abide by unjust laws and policies of powers and principalities. In these days, we remember and celebrate that the Cross does not have the last word, as it was followed by the open grave. Together with you we celebrate at Easter new life, new hope and the promise of a new heaven and a new earth:

"...he has been raised again, as he said he would be."
(Matt. 28:6b)

Yours in the risen Christ,

The Revd Steven H. Fuite,
President of the United Protestant Church in Belgium