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| **Message of encouragement**1 bericht |

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| **President [EPUB-VPKB]**<president@protestant.link> | 11 mei 2023 om 16:10 |
| Aan: "kairos@kairospalestine.ps" <kairos@kairospalestine.ps> |
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| Dear sisters and brothers, On 15th May we commemorate that the Nakba took place 75 years ago. Some 750.000 Palestinians were expulsed from their homes and land. Hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed to erase their memory.Many Palestinians still have images in their minds of their parents and grandparents living and working on their land. Many still have the keys of what used to be their homes. The pain and tragedy of the Nakba continues today, as Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza relive these realities. Palestinian homes continue to be demolished or seized and their land confiscated to enable the expansion of illegal settlements. In the meantime, the State of Israel is in turmoil and mass protests are being held to defend democracy. On the one hand we understand these protests but on the other hand we are longing for the day that such mass mobilisation would take place to promote the rights of Palestinians, both inside and outside of the State of Israel. We have sent information about the Nakba to all the parishes of our church and asked them to pay attention to 75 years of Nakba around the 15th of May. With you we are united in our faith in God who, through His Son, tore down the barriers between people and who taught us that all human beings are God’s children. We pray that walls of enmity and hatred are broken down and that the power of the Holy Spirit strengthens those who strive for justice with peace and reconciliation in your part of the world. The night is dark and long but we know that eventually the dawn of justice will shine. Yours in the risen Christ,

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|  | **Pastor Steven H. Fuite**President of the Synodal Council  |
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