

## **An Open Letter from an Arab Syrian Priest To Whom It May Concern...**

Regarding what has been happening and is happening since October 7, 2023, in Gaza, in occupied Palestine,

In terms of the Palestinian Resistance uprising, Operation 'Al-Aqsa Flood'...

And regarding the organized genocide carried out by the occupation forces...

And regarding the silence of all Christian churches, who are all responsible, both in the East and the West...

And regarding the rush of “senior” political officials in the West to 'Israel'...

And regarding the growing global popular movements in support of Palestine...

And regarding the absolute inability of the major international institutions to issue a single explicit condemnation against 'Israel' since its establishment in 1948 until now...

I felt it was my duty, once again, to mention historical facts, both old and recent, which may have been overlooked by many, to conclude my approach with a single question.

### **The First Truth**

The Lord Christ, while on the cross, said about His tormentors: 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing!'

### **The Second Truth**

Conversely, the Church, which, with magnificent faith and determination, faced the horrors of persecution first by the Jews and then by the Roman authorities until year 313, when Emperor Constantine declared the right of Christianity to exist alongside other religions, was, from that time onwards, taken over by many of its leaders, who revelled in forming alliances with those in power... Instead of living love and forgiveness in its entirety, following the example of the Lord Christ, it became complicit in the Empire as a whole, both in the East and the West, enacting unjust laws against the Jews. These laws prohibited them from working in all imperial administrations, owning Christian slaves on their extensive estates, restricted their residence to specific neighborhoods, and prevented them from leaving their homes during major Christian holidays like Easter and Christmas.

The Christian Church, for hundreds of years, went so far as to practice, preach, pray and sermons, hoping to force Jews to convert to Christianity.

### **The Third Truth**

There is no one who is unaware that this very stance was the main reason for the development of a racist ideology that is diametrically opposed to the Lord Christ and Christianity as He willed it. However, it grew, deeply rooted, and evolved into what is now known as anti-Semitism. It swept through the entire West and, along with it, Slavic countries, especially Russia. And it is not unknown that they inflicted various horrifying forms of pain and arbitrariness on all Jews in all countries, spanning centuries, under the watch of all churches and with their support, until it culminated in what happened in the mid-twentieth century with Hitler, known as the Nazi Holocaust.

### **The Fourth Truth**

There is another truth that must be acknowledged: it is the inevitable result of this long tragic history and is no longer a secret to anyone. It is the fact that most Jews are now completely overwhelmed by a sick, rampant hatred against all people, especially the weaker among them, such as the Arabs today,

bearing in mind that Jews in general, in the ancient Arab and Islamic societies, mostly shielded from some of the suffering they experienced in the west Christian.

Historians, including French, American, and even Israeli ones, agree, as stated in a book by Abba Eban titled "My People", in its French translation on page 155, that some of them achieved wealth and influence in the ancient Islamic societies, especially in Al-Andalus and Morocco, surpassing what they achieved in Germany and Austria in the nineteenth century, and in the United States in the twentieth century. As for their hostility towards Christians in general and the Catholic Church in particular, it is not unknown. However, in reality, it raises chilling questions about the extent of its magnitude and penetration.

Now, it is sufficient to point out an undeniable fact. They have absolute control over global media, and they closely monitor and actively target all officials within the Catholic Church, especially in the United States. They rush to levy the most severe accusations against those who dare to speak out, as happened to Cardinal Bernard Lo, Archbishop of Boston, when he dared to write to President George Bush in 2002, accusing him of deceiving the American people and distorting the truth!

What is happening today in Gaza is more than a glaring testament to the extent of their" inhumanity" which has crossed all boundaries and limits.

Can anyone forget what has been ingrained in them over thousands of years, the conviction of their racial superiority over all peoples, due to their belief in "God's" choice of them over all other humans?

### **The Fifth Truth**

As for the fifth truth, it is that sickening complex, the guilt complex, which has come to entirely dominate all Western societies in general, and all of its Catholic churches in particular. This complex is the key to understanding the Western society's support for the establishment of "Israel", with all that this "establishment" entails, and the subsequent blatant violations of international laws and norms. It also explains the silence of the churches, especially the Catholic ones, with the Vatican at their helm, regarding the glaring and escalating injustices committed against Palestine. To the extent that its name was replaced with "Israel" and for what remains of Palestine under Arab control, it is no longer referred to as anything other than the "Holy Land" in the documents of the official Catholic Church.

What is happening today in Gaza, characterized by cold-blooded acts of genocide, particularly affecting thousands of children and women, is happening without a single word from a single high-ranking Catholic authority in any corner of the world. In my view, this is clear evidence of everyone's deep, sickening sense of great responsibility for what previous church officials have directly or indirectly committed, from the time of Emperor Constantine to the Nazi Holocaust. These errors justified and fueled "anti-Semitism" in a way that nothing should ever justify or explain in the Christianity of Jesus the Nazarene."

### **The question**

Here, I find myself, through this concise approach, led to the single crucial question:

Isn't it time for the Church of Jesus to break free from its millennial unhealthy subservience to Emperor Constantine, to fully regain its freedom, courage, and strength and allegiance to Jesus the Savior, and thus to Humanity, every human?

Damascus, October 24, 2023

**Father Elias Zahlawi**