

*“Let justice
and peace flow
like a river.”*

**DaKaTeo Statement on the
War of Israel against Hamas**

God desires *shalom/salaam* for all of God's creation. In this light, DaKaTeo condemns the attack of Hamas on Israel, the killings that were part of it, and the kidnapping of hostages. We recognize the right of Israel to live peaceably, and to defend itself in accord with international law. At the same time, we affirm the rights of Palestinians to their own homeland and to self-determination.

We condemn the excessive bombardment of Gaza, and the deaths, injuries, and the untold suffering of innocent Palestinians. It is unconscionable that civilians are waived off as collateral damage in Israel's war against Hamas. Those attacks are in violation of international law. We call for a cessation of all hostilities and for humanitarian aid to be given to Palestinians. Let there be an end to all forms of discrimination against them.

We urge Hamas and Israel to come to the negotiating table, address the root causes of the conflict, and arrive at a just political solution to it. We support civil society groups in both Palestine and Israel who are working for peace. Both the people of Gaza and the people of Israel deserve to live in peace and harmony.

As Pope Francis says, “We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common” (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation).

With all people of good will, we pray with Pope Francis that justice and peace will flow like a mighty river, “like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures” (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation).

**Kapatirang DaKaTeo
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