



APPG On Christianity in the Holy Land

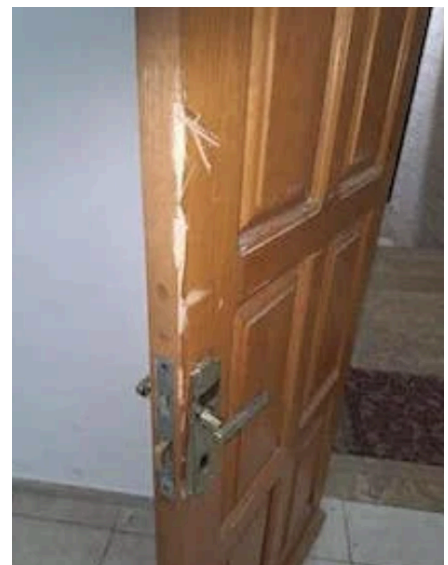
The APPG continues to monitor the situation as it unfolds in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. We are in touch with our contacts and scanning websites for updates as it pertains to Christian institutions and communities throughout the region.

Israeli Army raids Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Nablus

In the early morning of Sunday 19th May, Israeli soldiers stormed the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in the Rafidia neighbourhood of Nablus in the West Bank. According to reports, the soldiers broke down several doors leading up the church, damaging the walls, leaving behind bullet castings, vandalising the parish hall and removing security cameras.

No advanced notice was given for the raid, which is being investigated by the American Embassy for potential inclusion in its annual International Religious Freedom Report.

The Episcopal Church described the attack as “evil and cowardly”.



[Read More about the Raid](#)

European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Meets with Christian leaders



Oliver Varhelyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, met with Jerusalem-based Christian leaders to discuss the challenges they are facing in the current geopolitical context.

Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem visits Christian Community in Gaza, describing conditions as “dire”

Earlier this month, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem visited Gaza to examine the conditions of the Christian community living in Gaza. He described the scale of the destruction as “unbelievable”, and their living conditions as “dire”, particularly noticing the lack of water, electricity and security.



Following his visit, the Patriarch called on decision-makers to end the war, and open avenues for aid to avoid what he described as an “imminent humanitarian crisis”.

Delegates from Latin Patriarchate, Patriarchal General Vicar and Bishop Emeritus Visit Latin Monastery in Jenin



Following the raid, Msgr. William Shomali, Patriarchal General Vicar, accompanied by Msgr. Bolous-Marcuzzo, Bishop Emeritus, and a delegation from the Latin Patriarchate visited the Latin Monastery in Jenin.

During the visit, the Parish priest of Jenin highlighted the impact of the repeated attacks on Jenin had on its residents, particularly as the end of the academic year approaches. Msgr. William described the storming of the church building a “sacrilege to one of God’s houses”, and called for a “just and comprehensive peace”.

Archbishop of Canterbury Pleads with Israel to consider Human Cost of Incursion

In a social media post on 14 May, The Archbishop of Canterbury called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, calling on the Government of Israel to consider the “atrocious human cost” of an incursion into Rafah. His statement further urged for the protection of civilians, as required under international humanitarian law.



Christian presence dwindling in Gaza after 7 months of War

According to International Christian Concern, 25% of the Christians who lived in Gaza before the war, have fled, with an additional 25% applying to leave.

Gaza Baptist Church leader Shady Al-Najjar described those sheltered in the church’s remnants as “too tired to suffer” and living “very difficult” days.



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