



## **Press Conference for the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem**

*18.11.23 12-12.30pm*

### **Speaking: The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem**

- **'We stand as churches united together in condemning this dreadful and devastating massacre, and regard this as a crime against humanity'**
- 'We call on all sides to end this war'
- 'As churches, we have issued two statements so far asking for an end of violence in the Holy Land, asking people of all goodwill to intervene to stop what is going on in this land'.
- 'I would like to thank all those people who have come to stand with us in solidarity as we live out the atrocities that have come upon all of us.'
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- 'The hospital will continue to be open'.
- **'We are determined...as all churches to...keep our institutions open, to keep our churches and our places of worship open'**
- 'I would like to thank all of us round the world who have expressed their feelings of support to Gaza'
- 'We will continue with our medical mission, with our pastoral mission'

[4:28] Q: Did the hospital receive warnings from Israelis?

- At least 15 hospitals received warnings to evacuate
- 'From an ethical point of view...we had the moral obligation to notify everybody in hospital...of the warning'

[5:28] Q: Do you know who bombed the hospital?

- 'All we know is what we saw on the TV'- 'We are not military experts'
- 'There are many buildings and houses that have been bombed'. **'Let people see what is happening on the ground and come to the conclusion that this is enough of this war'.**

[8:34] Q: Do you know the exact time of the strike?

- Around 7.30pm

[10:09] Q: Are you afraid to put the name Hamas in publications to protect Christians in Gaza?

- **'As churches, we are against any violence against any civilians and any innocent people'.**

[11:17] Q: Warnings question

- 3 warnings given in previous days to evacuate the hospital.

[12:06] Q: What resources do you have to continue to have in the hospital?

- 'This is a non-profit hospital run by the church...serving the people of Gaza for so many years'.
- **'One thing about our hospital in Gaza; it is essential to people because it does not belong to any establishment.'**
- **People know that 'as churches, we continue to be a beacon of hope in the time of war and even in the absence of peace.'**
- 'It is a matter of a few days until we run out of supplies'

[19:50] Q How many people were killed in the attack?

- Reports of 500 casualties

[22:10] Q Pope Francis called another day of prayer. Are you going to do something altogether?

- **'We are united in prayer as churches'**
- **'We are offering hope and encouragement to our people everywhere, in every place.'**
- **'We feel we have a responsibility...to strengthen our people both pastorally and spiritually.'**
- **'We want people to stand for justice and peace, to end this conflict.'**

[24:29] Q How do you react to Biden's statement that the 'other team' (ie. Hamas) did it?

- 'We are not in a position to say anything and get political here'
- 'Please understand that we are in a position trying to care for our people'

[25:23] Q How many Christians are there still in Gaza? What do they go through in times like this?

- Approx 1000 in City of Gaza
- **'Like every Gazan, they are running out of water and supplies. We hope this will end soon so that all civilians will be safe in their own homes.'**

***The full recording of the press conference can be found here:***

***<https://fb.watch/nLBWIMdQ-L/>***