



# Cease Fire!



## A Pastoral Letter for Peace and the End of the Killing in Gaza and Israel

*Israel has a moral right to defend itself, but it does not have a right to visit genocide on the Palestinian people of Gaza. The Israeli Army, who has confessed to killing the innocents of Gaza, should be charged with War Crimes!*

Washington D.C. — The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 150,000 African-American and Latino churches that constitute 27.7 million churchgoers, issues a pastoral letter for peace and stopping the killing in Gaza and Israel.



Rabbi Joshua Davidson, Senior Rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El of New York

My Dearest Rabbi Joshua Davidson,

The 150,000 Black Churches wholeheartedly condemn Hamas for the killing of the innocents.

We realize this moment is both difficult and painful for our Jewish brothers and sisters all over the world. You are once again the victim of world hatred. The Black Church will not abandon you and vows to stand with you and the Jewish people until the end of times.

But, why has the Synagogue not condemned the Israeli government and army as they systemically perform genocide on the Palestinian people in Gaza right before our eyes? Why the silence? Evil is evil, there is no good evil, and it can never be justified. The Church is opposed to evil, and it must be condemned.

The Torch condemns all who are silent and those who refuse to help those in need. The Synagogue is the body and mouth of Yahweh. Does Yahweh have anything to say to Palestinian mothers whose babies were killed by the Israel bombing? Is the Jew's life more valuable in God's eyes than the Palestinian baby's?

In Leviticus 5:1 it says, *“And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.”*

Is collective punishment (murder) justified in Judaism or Islam? It is not! Why are you so silent in the face of mass murder?

Even the Secretary-General of the United Nation António Guterres has said; *“We already have reports of Israeli missiles striking health facilities inside Gaza as well as multi-storied residential towers and a mosque. Two UNRWA schools sheltering displaced families in Gaza were also hit. I am deeply distressed by today's announcement that Israel will initiate a complete siege of the Gaza Strip, nothing is*

allowed in – no electricity, food, or fuel. It's time to end this vicious circle of bloodshed, hatred and polarization.

*“Israel must see its legitimate needs for security materialized – and Palestinians must see a clear perspective for the establishment of their own state realized.*

*“Only a negotiated peace that fulfills the legitimate national aspirations of Palestinians and Israelis, together with their security alike – the long-held vision of a two-state solution, in line with United Nations resolutions, international law and previous agreements – can bring long-term stability to the people of this land and the wider Middle East region.”*

We beg you in GOD's name to join with us to help stop the killing. I have sent word that I am willing to go to Gaza along with other religious leaders and help negotiate the release of all hostages.

I am prepared to do as the Holy Scripture commands in Romans 12:1 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

May Almighty God have mercy on all our souls! I hope to visit with you soon.

*Your Humble Servant in Christ,  
The Right Most Rev. Anthony Evans  
Presiding Bishop  
National Black Church Initiative*



The Right Most Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative (NBCI)

### About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment.

NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public.

The National Black Church Initiative's methodology utilizes faith and sound health science. Visit our website at [www.naltblackchurch.com](http://www.naltblackchurch.com).

Please donate to NBCI <https://tinyurl.com/4jn42e3t>

