

1 INTERIM RESOLUTION 2025-001

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3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENCOURAGE THE
4 GOVERNMENT OF STATE OF ISRAEL TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE ATTACKS ON
5 CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.
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7 WHEREAS, the Christian village of Taybeh in the West Bank, which is
8 Israel's only majority Christian village, recently experienced violence and
9 intimidation reportedly perpetrated by extremist settlers, disrupting the
10 spiritual, cultural, and daily life of its residents; and
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12 WHEREAS, attacks on Christian individuals and their institutions in the
13 occupied Palestinian territories infringe sacred religious rights,
14 international law, and human dignity; and
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16 WHEREAS, protecting the religious freedom and physical safety of Judeo-
17 Christian communities must be a guiding priority for all responsible
18 governments; and
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20 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has consistently affirmed its strong
21 support for Israel, recognizing Israel's right to defend itself, bolstering
22 the sovereignty of Israel, and affirming collaborative ties, most recently
23 with:

24 (1) Interim Resolution IR-2023-001 encouraging Israel's decisive
25 self-defense in October 2023; and

26 (2) House Resolution 1086 and House Resolution 1088 in April 2023
27 praising Israel's seventy-fifth anniversary and affirming strategic
28 partnerships in innovation, agriculture, archaeology, history, religion, and
29 education; and
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31 WHEREAS, Arkansas is among twenty-six (26) states that enacted
32 legislation that discourages boycotts, divestments, and sanctions of Israel
33 between 2015 and 2017, which prohibits state contractors from participating
34 in boycotts of Israel, demonstrating ongoing legislative solidarity with
35 Israel's national and economic security,
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NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Arkansas Legislative Council OF THE NINETY-FIFTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council condemns in the strongest terms
all acts of violence, intimidation, property damage, or forced displacement
against Christian individuals, clergy, churches, and communities in the West
Bank and Gaza.

THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council calls upon the Government of the
State of Israel to:

- (1) Immediately investigate alleged violent incidents in
Christian communities;
- (2) Dismantle or restrict extremist settler cells responsible
for such violence; and
- (3) Ensure full protection of Christian rights, including
worship, property, movement, and cultural expression under both Israeli
security measures and applicable international humanitarian law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council affirms
this state's continuing commitment to peace and religious pluralism in the
State of Israel, recalling its support for:

- (1) Israel's right to defend itself and its sovereignty;
- (2) Strengthening state-to-state partnerships and cooperation in
innovation, archaeology, agriculture, history, education and religion; and
- (3) Measures opposing economic pressure aimed at undermining
Israel's democratic and economic freedoms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon the adoption of this resolution, that
a copy be provided by the Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Legislative
Council to:

- (1) The President and Prime Minister of Israel;
- (2) The United States Secretary of State;
- (3) The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
and relevant committees of the United States Congress;
- (4) The congressional delegation of Arkansas; and

(5) Other regional and faith-based peace-building entities in
the State of Israel.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Aaron Pilkington
District 45
Prepared by: JMB/JMB

