



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

July 18, 2025

The Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) condemns the attacks on the people, religious sites, and livelihoods of Taybeh by Israeli settlers, all of whom are illegal under international law. Taybeh—known in the Gospel as “Ephraim,” the place to which Jesus withdrew before His Passion (John 11:54)—is the last remaining wholly Christian town in the occupied West Bank. Like all Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land and in the diaspora, its inhabitants are the Living Stones of Christianity in the cradle of our faith; through their existence and daily lives, they witness to the indigenous Christian presence in Palestine and Israel.

We amplify the [statement of July 8, 2025](#), issued to the global ecumenical family and the world by the Priests of the Churches of Taybeh-Ramallah/Palestine, “Regarding the Repeated Attacks by Settlers on Land, Holy Sites, and Property.”

Aware of these attacks, delegates meeting for the 2025 National Convention adopted this motion: *In solidarity with the people of Taybeh, in the Israeli occupied territory of the West Bank of Palestine, the ELCIC decries attacks on Palestinian Christians - their churches, towns, and land. We call on the National Bishop to continue the work of advocacy on behalf of the ELCIC to be in solidarity with our Arab Christian sisters, brothers, and siblings in Holy Land. We call on our National Bishop to continue to pray and advocate for a just peace for all people in the Holy Land and to encourage our partners to join us in the prayers and efforts.*

We share the demands of the Christian community of Taybeh with you.

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The ELCIC acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

"We call upon local and international actors—especially consuls, ambassadors, and church representatives around the world—to take the following actions:

1. Launch an immediate and transparent investigation into the incidents of arson and the ongoing assaults on property, agricultural land, and holy sites.
2. Apply diplomatic pressure on the occupying authorities to halt settler actions and prevent them from entering or grazing in Taybeh's lands.
3. Dispatch international and church delegations to conduct field visits, document the damages, and bear witness to the deteriorating reality on the ground.
4. Support the people of Taybeh through economic and agricultural initiatives, and strengthen their resilience with effective legal accompaniment."

Our prayers and actions for justice are always intertwined, and so we join in prayer with the people of Taybeh who have said, "Yet we remain steadfast in our shared faith and hope that truth and justice will ultimately prevail."

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan C. Johnson", preceded by a small cross symbol.

Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop

Cc

Michael Chong, MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Conservative Party of Canada

Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe, MP, Critic for Foreign Affairs, Bloc Québécois

Heather McPherson, MP, Critic for Foreign Affairs, New Democratic Party

Arvin Singh Dang, Foreign Affairs Critic, Green Party of Canada

National Church Council, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada