



**Mennonite
World Conference**
A Community of Anabaptist
related Churches

**Congreso
Mundial Menonita**
Una Comunidad de
Iglesias Anabautistas

**Conférence
Mennonite Mondiale**
Une Communauté
d'Eglises Anabaptistes

www.mwc-cmm.org
info@mwc-cmm.org

General Secretariat:
Calle 28A No.16-41 Piso 2
Bogotá, Colombia
T: (57) 1 287 5738
F: (57) 1 287 5738

50 Kent Avenue, Suite 206
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 3R1
Canada
T: (1) 519 571 0060
F: (1) 226 647 4224

September 19, 2014

Regional Representatives

Africa

Central Africa
Francisca Ibanda
franciscalbanda@mwc-cmm.org
Eastern Africa
Rebecca Osiro
rebeccaosiro@mwc-cmm.org

Asia

Southeast Asia
Adhi Dharma
adhidharma@mwc-cmm.org
Northeast Asia
Kyong-Jung Kim
kyongjungkim@mwc-cmm.org
South Asia
Cynthia Peacock
cynthiapeacock@mwo-cmm.org

Europe

Henk Stenvers
henkstenvers@mwc-cmm.org

Latin America

to be appointed

North America

Lynn Roth
lynnroth@mwc-cmm.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We greet you in the name of the Risen Lord: the same one who wept over Jerusalem but then, in the midst of tragedy, violence, execution, and the intrigue of empires, greeted his disciples three times in one week with:

Peace, be with you (John 20:19, 21, 26).

We too greet you with the fervent hope that “Peace, be with you.”

We are aware of the statement issued on July 21, 2014 by Fr. Dr. Michel Jalakh, General Secretary. You describe a situation that is sombre, dramatic, and tragic. In the midst of this, it is good to hear the voice of the churches. As you well know, there is a much misinformation that bombards us all via the global media. It is good to hear your voice.

We have distributed your Statement to each one of the 102 national churches in 57 countries that make up the membership of MWC. Many of these member churches have agencies and opportunities that are already responding in many of the ways you also indicate as needed. We invite you to review some of these initiatives via Mennonite Central Committee at

<http://mcc.org/learn/where/middle-east/syria>
<http://mcc.org/learn/more/syria-crisis-response>.

We have also asked our member-churches to shower you in prayer, solidarity, and blessing, with the knowledge that God does have the power to transform situations that we cannot imagine at this point.

Continued page 2



Contact:
Mennonite World Conference
PO Box 5364
Lancaster, PA 17606-5364 USA
pennsylvania2015@mwc-cmm.org

We are grateful to hear the solidarity you express with H.B. Patriarch Sako of Chaldean Catholic Church of Iraq, as well as with the moderate Muslim groups in the region. The context and complexity you describe is best addressed with the solidarity among Christian groups, as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We thank God for your ministry, witness, and presence in the Middle East. We express our solidarity with you. You are not alone. God's people are with you in the suffering you are presently experiencing.

May God grant mercy to those who suffer the pain of torture, kidnapping, murder, rape, and loss of home;

May God transform the hearts and imaginations of those who instill violence and injustice;

May God give wisdom to those of us who feel helpless and who cry with the saints under the altar of heaven: "how long" (Revelation 6:5-6);

May God make us instruments of peace in a world of misguided paths of justice.



Robert Suderman
Secretary Peace Commission
Mennonite World Conference



Cesar Garcia
General Secretary
Mennonite World Conference