



Susan Kerin

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Bethlehem

Dear Susan Kerin,

Thank you for your e-mail addressed to Patriarch Sabbah, Rifat Kassis and to me.

Patriarch Sabbah, a former President of Pax Christi International and Rifat Kassis, our former General Coordinator, both co-authors of our document “ A Moment of Truth” and Board members of Kairos Palestine have asked me to respond to you **with blessings for the very courageous step that Pax Christi, Metro DC, Baltimore Chapter is considering: endorsing BDS.**

I am including Hind Khoury, our new General Secretary, in this correspondence for continued connections.

Both of us met with some of the Pax Christi leaders who were here in Bethlehem for the Pax Christi conference last May, and Hind renewed contact with Marie Dennis in Washington a month ago.

Kairos Palestine is thrilled that your small chapter of Pax Christi will be a pioneer in the American Catholic entity to endorse BDS. The Catholic Church that has tremendous clout around the world and led by a visionary pontiff, Pope Francis can be a driving model standing for justice, as we have witnessed through efforts of Pax Christi, Germany, Britain and elsewhere. We are counting on you in the USA, to be more vocal and active in translating the prophetic voice of the Church and its related branches into concrete actions. You are definitely on the right track. The proposed anti-BDS bill in USA has had an opposing positive effect and has emboldened conscientious people who know that BDS is a non-violent creative tool that “integrates the logic of peaceful resistance. These advocacy campaigns must be carried out with courage, openly sincerely proclaiming that the object is not revenge but rather to put an end to the existing evil, liberating both the perpetrators and the victims of injustice.” (A Moment of Truth 4.2.6).

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BDS, at a time when international law and human values are being replaced by dehumanization and violence is a practical, feasible method of drawing attention and yielding results as we have seen in South Africa and elsewhere where the role of the Church was obvious. Despite the vehement attacks on all fronts from the Israeli government and the pro-Israeli lobbies, the boycott movement in all its economic, cultural and academic forms is growing and boosting growth in the productive Palestinian productive sectors.

We are confident that your group will diligently work to achieve your goal of endorsing BDS and to respond to the call: “Are you able to help us get our freedom back, for this is the only way you can help the two peoples attain, justice, peace and love?” (A Moment of Truth, 6)

It is Advent and from the land that sent out the message of peace, where the suffering continues, Kairos Palestine wishes you all a renewed challenge of trust and hope in the Savior, the Prince of peace (FOR ALL).

We look forward to receiving your good news and offer further assistance as needed.

Sincerely,

Nora Carmi  
Project Coordinator

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