Secretary John Kerry  
The State Department  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20520  

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As Christian leaders, we commend you for your active efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement to end the long-standing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians with the mutual recognition, dignity, justice, and security that each side deserves.

Given the difficulties involved, a framework for conclusive negotiations seems an essential step if there is to be progress towards a final status agreement. Without progress now, we fear an important opportunity for peace will be lost.

Lack of a resolution will have negative consequences for both Israelis and Palestinians and exacerbate other grave problems in the region. Failure would have detrimental consequences for the entire international community, including the United States, as well as exacerbate ongoing humanitarian concerns. We hope that the framework will be based on principles of international law.

The preservation and welfare of the Christian communities affected by this conflict are important to us.

A comprehensive agreement should greatly strengthen opportunities for them to flourish. Moreover, the support and inclusion of all three Abrahamic faiths is critical as they will have an important role to play in promoting the peace process.

Recalling the blessedness of peacemakers, we pray for your success and pledge to help you in every way we can in building a secure and just peace.

Most sincerely,

His Beatitude Fouad Twal  
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem  

Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa ofm  
Custos of the Holy Land  
Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land  

His Grace Dr. Anba Abraham  
Archbishop  
Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem & the Near East
His Grace Dr. Munib A. Younan
Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

His Grace Suheil Dawani
Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem
Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Armenian Orthodox Church of North America

Rev. Donald H. Ashmall
Council Minister
International Council of Community Churches

Rev. Geoffrey Black
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

Dr. Joel Boot
Executive Director
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Tony Campolo
Professor of Sociology at Eastern University
Red Letter Christians

Archbishop of Oklahoma City Paul S. Coakley
Chairman of the Board
Catholic Relief Services

Rev. Dr. Tom De Vries
General Secretary
Reformed Church in America

Paula Dempsey
Director of Partnership Relations
Alliance of Baptists

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Very Rev. John Edmunds, ST
President
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Adam Estle
Executive Director
Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding

Rev. Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Lott Carey

The Rev. David Guthrie
President, Provincial Elders’ Conference
Moravian Church in America, Southern Province

Rev. Dr. Stephen Allen Hayner
President
Columbia Theological Seminary

Dennis Hollinger
President
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. Joel C. Hunter
Senior Pastor
Northland, A Church Distributed

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim
Archbishop
Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church for the Eastern USA

Mark Labberton, PhD
President
Fuller Theological Seminary

Gerry Gardner Lee
Director
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Dr. Ron Lush
President
Global Initiatives, Inc.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington

Reverend John L. McCullough
President and CEO
Church World Service

Rev. Dr. Alex Roy Medley
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA

Rev. Dr. Bruce Norman Merton
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International Council of Community Churches

Sister Janet Mock, CSJ
Executive Director
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Stanley J. Noffsinger
General Secretary
Church of the Brethren

Reverend Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Bishop Richard E. Pates
Chairman
U.S. Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace

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Franciscan Friars (OFM) English Speaking Conference

Executive Secretary Diane Randall
Executive Secretary
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Bob Roberts
Senior Pastor
NorthWood Church

Metropolitan Philip Saliba
Archbishop
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonides
Director of Ecumenical Affairs
Greek Orthodox Church of America

Jim Wallis
President and Founder
Sojourners

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

James Winkler
President and General Secretary
National Council of Churches