



Protestant Church writes letter to Israeli government

Utrecht, February 18th 2010. Today moderator reverend P. Verhoeff and general secretary Dr. A.J. Plaisier handed over a letter from the board of the general synod to the ambassador of Israel in the Netherlands, mr. H. Kney-Tal. The board writes this letter with reference to 'A moment of truth', written by Palestinian Christians. According to the board this document should not be understood as a negative call which turns against Israel, but as a call for justice and peace.

The board is of the opinion that the Israeli government has an important key in hands for the peace in the Middle East. Precisely therefore the board asks the government of Israel to pay attention to the fate of the Palestinian people. The government is called upon to apply her power in such a manner that a positive opening is created in the relation between the Jewish and the Palestinian people.

In the letter the synod board expresses the unrelinquishable solidarity with the Jewish people. The board underlines that the Israeli-people's right to exist should not be up for discussion in any way and that the Israeli people should also be able to live in safety in their land. At the same time this security should not be at the cost of the right of others.

Based on international law, which also guarantees Israel's right to exist, the board calls upon the Israeli government to take a number of concrete measures as a result of which the rights of Palestinians are better observed:

- Complying with the verdict of the International Court of Law on the course of the safety-wall, revision of the course and compensation of the damage sustained.
- Application of international law on the Israeli settlements on the West-Bank, which – in spite of calls by the international community to quit this – are still being expanded, or not dismantled.
- Application of international law and with that termination of the restrictive policy regarding renovation and building of homes by Palestinian citizens in Eastern Jerusalem or the West-Bank and termination of dispossession and "house-demolitions".

Wherever possible the Protestant Church will support the dialogue between Jews and Palestinians and help to build bridges.

[*The letter to the ambassador*](#)