



Christian Conference of Asia

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CCA's concern on the escalation of war in Iran and the West Asia region

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) condemns the escalation of war in Iran and across the West Asia region, including in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. The recent military actions have caused irreparable loss of life, following indiscriminate strikes launched by the United States of America (USA) and Israel against Iran on Saturday, 28 February, resulting in the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The continuing military strikes and retaliatory missile attacks by Iran, including those targeting countries not involved in the initial US and Israeli operations, endanger the lives of millions of civilians and risk precipitating a wider international conflict with catastrophic humanitarian consequences. This grave escalation threatens to unleash uncontrollable violence and draw key regional actors, including the USA's Arab allies in West Asia, into a broader regional war. Such developments further destabilise an already fragile region and seriously undermine peace and security beyond West Asia.

The intensifying military confrontation at this critical moment exacerbates suffering and insecurity among vulnerable populations and contributes to a more hostile international order. Hundreds of thousands of passengers are stranded at airports across GCC countries due to flight cancellations and the closure of airspace since the military operations began. It is also a matter of deep concern for CCA that communication with its member constituency in Iran cannot be established at a time when the country and its people are facing extremely vulnerable and uncertain circumstances.

CCA urges all parties to prioritise the protection of civilians and to strictly adhere to the principles of international humanitarian law. CCA calls upon all states, particularly those exercising significant power and influence, to value and uphold the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the peaceful settlement of disputes and full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the USA bears particular responsibility to exercise restraint and international law. We likewise call upon Iran and Israel to refrain from further military retaliation that risks widening and prolonging the conflict in an already volatile region.

We appeal to all parties involved in the conflict in West Asia to demonstrate political will for de-escalation, to respect international law, and to exercise maximum restraint in order to prevent further hostilities, deaths, and destruction. Reasoned engagement, dialogue, and mature and sincere diplomatic initiatives to end the war at the earliest are urgently needed at this moment.

We urge CCA member churches and councils to pray fervently for the restoration of peace and security in the West Asia region, and for wisdom, courage and moral clarity among leaders to choose the path of restraint, protect civilian lives, and ensure peace with justice and reconciliation.

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