ICEJ Global Christian Leaders Solidarity Mission Joint Statement of Support for Israel

We, the undersigned, are delegates of the latest Global Christian Leaders Solidarity Mission to Israel organized by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem during this time of war and crisis for the Jewish nation and people. Collectively, we oversee church, prayer and ministry networks that reach tens of millions of Evangelicals in over 150 nations worldwide.

Over recent days, we have visited sites in Israel indelibly linked to the savage Hamas massacres of October 7, including Kibbutz Be'eri, the Nova music festival site, and a parking lot filled with 1200 burned-out cars from that infamous day of carnage. We also have heard first-hand from Israelis deeply impacted by the conflict, including those bravely defending the nation and those longing for the return of loved ones still held hostage in Gaza. In response to all we have seen and heard, we join in making this declaration of unwavering support for Israel and the Jewish people.

Firstly, we have been impressed by the strength, faith and resiliency of the people of Israel in the face of the devastating attacks they suffered and the alarmingly swift way in which the international community has forgotten their pain and turned on Israel. The mass atrocities inflicted on Israel by Palestinian terrorists on October 7 touched the raw nerve of the Holocaust, and Israel's moral right and duty to defend its citizens from such vicious slaughter has not diminished one iota. Israel's cause remains just, and we encountered a united nation well on its way to a necessary and deserved victory.

Even so the wounds of October 7 remain grievously open, and the nation of Israel will find it hard to move on so long as those taken hostage into Gaza remain captives of the barbaric terror militias who abducted them and hold them in unbearable conditions. Every pressure must be brought to bear to free the Israeli hostages. We especially urge Christians worldwide to support and pray for their safe return.

We can further attest that the cruelty of Hamas knows no bounds, even toward its own people. While Israel is taking unparalleled measures to protect civilian lives in Gaza, and to ensure sufficient food and humanitarian aid reaches Gaza, Hamas persists in using Gazans as mere pawns and human shields and in compounding their suffering and hunger.

We also have witnessed in our own nations the alarming surge in antisemitism worldwide since October 7. In a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz, challenged us to join the battle against this dangerous wave of Jew hatred, which our own convictions already compelled us to do. We call on Christians everywhere to reject antisemitism in all its forms.

Lastly, we come away from this visit to Israel more fully resolved to engage in the battle for truth in this conflict between Israel and Hamas. It is wrong for the media to publish such patent lies as that the Israeli military is deliberately targeting women and children in Gaza. No one should believe callous conspiracy theories which allege, for instance, that the October 7 massacres never really happened, or even worse that Israel was actually behind the mass murder of its own citizens to justify the re-taking of Gaza.

Christians owe so much to the Jewish people, and in their hour of great difficulty and need, may we arise to our calling and duty to stand with Israel and see this nation through to its promised destiny in God. Signed this Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2024.

Rev. Kym Farnik, Australia Rev. Omar Cabrera, Argentina MP Marco Antonio Feliciano, Brazil Apostle Rene Terra Nova, Brazil Alberto Figueira Marinho, Brazil Judith Yanira Gonzalez, El Salvador/USA Rev. Suzette Hattingh, Germany Giovanni Tagliaferri, Italy Alessandro lovino, Italy Rev. Akira Mori, Japan Bishop Sylvester Gamanywa, Tanzania Mattheus Van Der Steen, Netherland Dr. Jason Hubbard, USA Jennifer LeClaire, USA Vanessa Shawn Angelini, USA