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IMC Statement on the War in Iran

7-29-26

As followers of Jesus in the Anabaptist tradition, the IMC leadership is grieved by the current war that our country and Israel are waging against Iran. As Christians working to love our enemies, we mourn the 3,400 people killed in Iran, nearly half of them civilians and hundreds of them children. We mourn the 40,000 Iranians who have been injured in this war.

We mourn the hundreds of people in other Mideast countries that have been killed. We mourn the thousands of people killed in Lebanon and the West Bank in Israel's ongoing armed aggression. We mourn all those from the U.S. and Israel who have been killed in this war. We mourn the suffering caused by war throughout our world.

We are pained by the \$37.5 billion dollars expended on the bombs that killed these people and the additional \$95 billion just passed by the House of Representatives to rebuild munitions and supplies to continue the war. We are pained by the destruction in Iran including more than 100,000 residential units, 23,500 commercial units, multiple medical centers, at least 65 schools, and centers affiliated with the Red Crescent, the Muslim aid organization equivalent to the Red Cross. US strikes on power plants, bridges, petroleum facilities and other infrastructure have caused localized power blackouts and damaged crucial water and agricultural sanitation. ([greenpeace.org](https://www.greenpeace.org); [time.com](https://www.time.com)) We are pained that it could require much more than \$1 trillion to repair the damage done in the months of war. We are pained that there are funds for the war, but not for childcare, healthcare, housing and food assistance. We are pained that these funds used for war could have been used to completely redo the US air traffic control system (estimated \$31.5 billion) or to repair 10,200 bridges in US infrastructure. We are pained that the health of the global climate is being significantly worsened by this war. (costsofwar.watson.brown.edu)



We are saddened that our political leadership is claiming that our soldiers are fighting for Jesus. We are saddened that our leadership initiated this war asserting that Islam “is not a religion of peace” when compassion and care are a key part of the practice of Islam. We are saddened by the dehumanization of the human targets of aggression in Iran, Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and beyond. We are saddened that our government has only recently released accurate numbers of US human losses in this war: 624 injured and 18 dead.

We are strengthened by our trust in a loving God. We are sustained by the tenacity of compassion. We are emboldened by Mennonite World Conference which has joined in an ecumenical statement to “affirm that war is incompatible with God’s very nature and will for humanity and against our fundamental Christian principles.” With this support, we will commit ourselves to be instruments of God’s peace.

We call on our congregations to stand for peace and against war in words and actions, through local and national initiatives for peace. We call on our congregations to continue to witness as followers of Jesus in caring for “the least of these” in their communities. We call on our congregations to encourage each other in their walk and witness for peace in the midst of the violent words and actions that characterize our national words and actions.

The IMC Missional Leadership Team and Conference Ministers release statements that highlight critical issues in order to name them and to encourage action and mutual support. We welcome your feedback.

Resources:

Economic and other costs to the US: costsofwar.watson.brown.edu

For those who object to war and participation in it: <https://centeronconscience.org/>

