


- Palestine's original Christian community, in continuous existence since the time of Christ, faces today a mortal threat to its existence, a threat perpetuated by American policy.
- The Holy City of Bethlehem lingers under siege for the 5th year, while Israel has almost completed its apartheid wall (on land expropriated with no compensation) to isolate the city.
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities frequently prevent Palestinian Christians, as well as Muslims, from traveling to Bethlehem or Jerusalem to pray.
- By what amounts to slow economic genocide, Israel has since 1948 forced the Christians of Palestine out of their homeland. Today, less than 2% of the Holy Land's inhabitants are Christian, down from 18% just 56 years ago!
- Palestinian Christians who have no option of leaving continue to face daily threats to their lives as a result of the Israeli occupation. Shootings, home demolitions, curfews, checkpoints, etc., are the daily bread that we Americans send.
- **Of the \$10,000,000.00 the USA gives Israel each day**, less than 3 million are used for civilian programs. The bulk consists of military aid in the form of Apache helicopters, Caterpillar bulldozers, and F-16s, all of which Israel has repeatedly used to destroy civilian lives and property.

While you mention Bethlehem in your prayers this Christmas, please ponder these facts about America's relationship with the Holy Land:

1. Educate Ourselves!
2. Donate our time and money to support the Christians of the Holy Land and enable them to endure the hardships of war (e.g., by buying Bethlehem's products):
www.hcef.org
www.perf.net
www.upa.org
www.celebratepresence.org
3. Talk to your family and friends. Word of mouth is a sure mean for combating media disinformation.
4. Write to your elected representatives in government, particularly Congress and the president, and write to the media. Let them know you do not support Israel's wanton disregard of Human Rights.
5. 2006 may seem far away, but it is never too early to start planning for an election year. Exercise your right to vote.
6. Get involved (see back)

What Can We Do?

Prayer alone, while necessary, is not enough! We need to also use the hands, eyes, and mouths that God gave us to work for justice.



Here are some ideas:

For more information on Palestinian Christians, visit:
www.hcef.org

For Palestine-related events, nationwide, visit
al-awda.org/events

For book resources and more, visit
www.DCPalestine.org



**Published by al-Awda-DC
 (the Palestine Right to Return Coalition)**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article XIII: "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

According to **Article II:** "no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty,"

Support the rights of 5 million Palestinian refugees to return to homes they were forcefully evicted from.

Support the Right of Return: www.al-awda.org

Merry Christmas
 &
 Happy Holidays!!