

An Urgent Message From Bethlehem

To our beloved brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ

This is a concerned warning from Rev. Dr Munther Isaac to churches around the world today. Below are *excerpts* from an interview he gave recently. They are echoed here - trusting the Holy Spirit will convict the hearts of His children to courageously speak out about the horrific and ongoing genocide in Gaza. (A link to the full interview is provided below.)

“The majority of church leaders and church bodies are not using the word **GENOCIDE**. It’s an indictment against the church. I think history will remember that. ***I think they will be remembered as GENOCIDE deniers.***”

My Goal Is Not to Have a Dialogue: My Goal is to Solve This Madness.

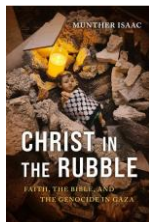
- Now I want you to think about the logic behind the assumption that the solution to Palestinian misery, or the occupation, lies in the question, to who does the Bible say that the land belongs? – I now realize, what a stupid assumption. Is there any other context in which we impose a solution based on a religious understanding? **This issue is about colonialism and theft of land and ethnically cleansing the indigenous people.**

The Pope recently placing Baby Jesus in the rubble, wrapped in a Keffiyeh - although it was - an emotional boost. - It’s not making any difference because it’s still very soft. Imagine if all these church leaders, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Vatican, whoever, make a statement, **“Netanyahu must be put in jail. Netanyahu must be tried.”**

Or **“We call on the international community to sanction and isolate Israel.”**

Imagine The Impact of That?

I Think That Could Actually Make A Difference In Our World

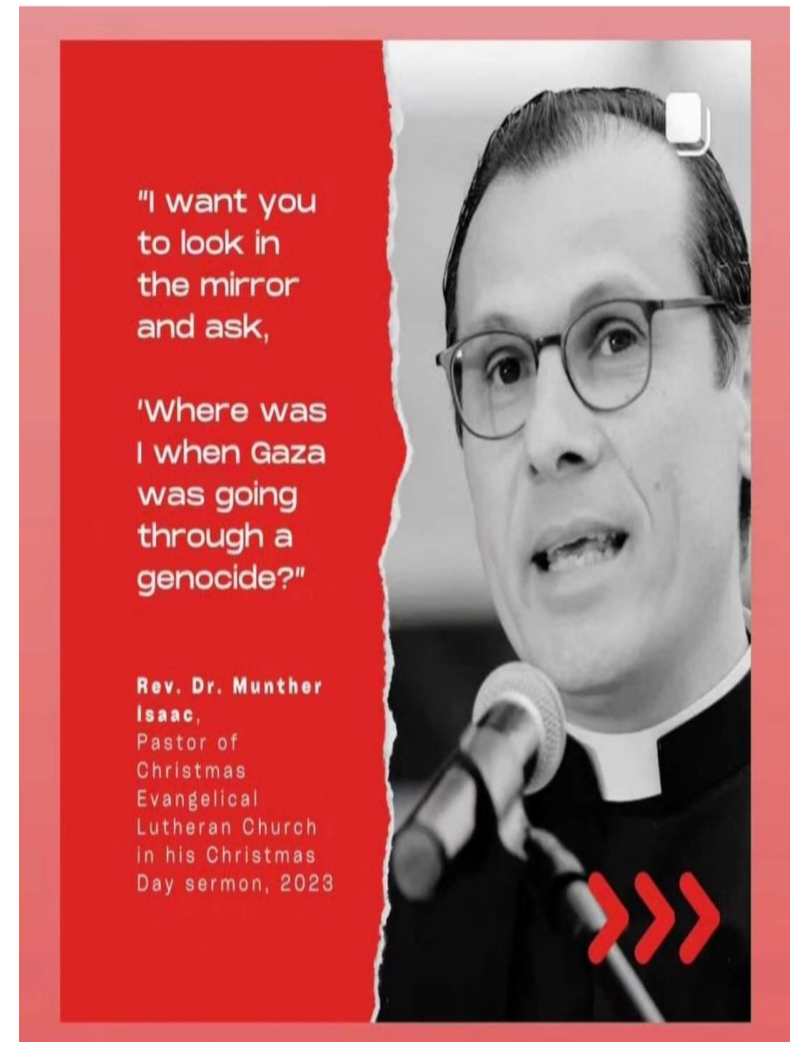


Rev Munther Isaac (PHD, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies) is the academic Dean of Bethlehem Bible College in Palestine and director of the Christ at the Checkpoint conference. He is also pastor of Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.

Link to the interview site: <https://sojo.net/articles/interview/reconstruct/munther-isaac-warns-church-against-denying-genocide-gaza>

Australian contacts: Father Dave Smith, Sydney – www.israelandpalestine.org

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Simple Support Ideas For Every Person

There **WILL** be people in your church who are saying, “What can we do to help?” – Praying is of course invaluable but hands on support is paramount at this extremely crucial time.

There ARE many simple ways EVERY person can take action.

One way is to learn about BDS and select one or more products from their list of companies that support Israel financially.

BDS - Boycott Diversify Sanction (For more information about BDS go to: <https://bdsaustralia.net.au>)

BDS is having massive successes on a number of fronts around the world. **Australians can also support this movement.**

The image to the right shows just a few of the companies being targeted.

Provide this information to your parishioners and ask them to select one or more products to actively boycott.

Your church may choose to make a group commitment to this action OR can also

- Go to rallies in their area – many organisations in Australia are organising these. Information about these groups is easily available on the internet. Fr Dave or Diane Bates will assist you to locate these. (See pg 1 for contact details)
- Click “Like” and/or “share” on as many items as possible on social media platforms that support Palestine. This helps keep them in focus on the platform, resulting in many more views. ie facebook, Instagram, X etc.
- Phone, email or write to your local MP and express your concern and desire for Australia to support the United Nations and International Criminal Court.



A surge in world wide support for Palestine is occurring – Be a Part of It

The United Nations on 12 December 2024 voted 158 to 9 for this resolution.

“ The General Assembly resolution demanded – “an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the release of all hostages. It also reaffirmed its full support for the embattled UN agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

The resolution demanded parties “fully, unconditionally and without delay” implement – an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, the exchange of Palestinian prisoners, the return of hostage remains; the return of Palestinian civilians to their homes and neighbourhoods in all areas of Gaza, including in the north; and the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. **Australia voted in support of this resolution**

WHY has a massive majority of the United Nations voted for justice for Palestine while **ONLY** the western block of 9 nations have voted against this **AND** blocked it?

WHY can any United Nations **massive** majority vote be controlled by just five nations - China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States?

AND WHY does it take **ONLY 1** of these nations to veto any decision made by the remaining 158 + nations?

Like **sheep** we have followed leaders of our western governments, believing them to be the protectors of world democracy. **WE HAVE BEEN DECEIVED!!!!**

The answer to these three questions above is simple – Follow the money!! \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

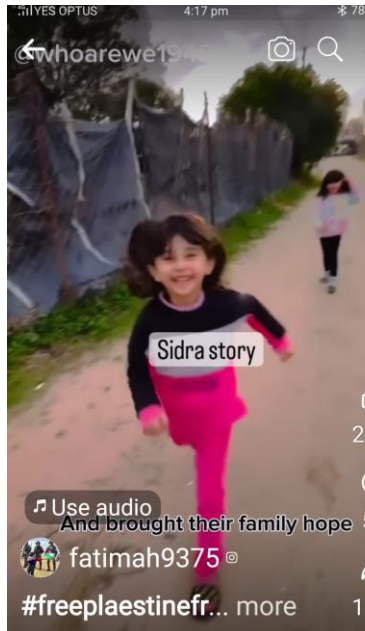
Or, as Christians, perhaps we need to courageously confront that Satan is well and truly alive in today's world!

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

NOTHING JUSTIFIES THIS



Stop press

The ceasefire is not a reason to stop speaking out.

The killing continues in both Gaza and the West Bank.

The perpetrators must be brought to justice.

The apartheid regime has to end.

The Palestinians must have self governance.

The world must help rebuild the lives of the displaced and traumatised victims of this horror.

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING – NOT THE END