

Independence Day Declaration

DECLARATION ON OCCASION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL



on May 14/15, 2018

The March of the Nations has the motto, "From the Shoah to New Life"! Already three years after the Holocaust, God fulfilled His ancient Biblical promises. 70 years later, the very existence of Israel is the greatest miracle of this time!

We are assembled from 40 different nations to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the State of Israel in Jerusalem according to the word in Micah 4:1-2.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (ESV)

We have come to honor the Jewish people and Israel. At the same time, we as Christians confess our guilt towards the Jewish people. In complete contrast to what the Bible says, the most influential leaders of early Church, the Church Fathers, have distanced themselves from the Jewish people as early as the second century of our time. Among them were honored and revered Church Fathers like Origen, Athanasius, Ambrose, Eusebius of Caesarea, the first Christian emperor Constantine, Augustine, Chrysostom and many others.

Judging by the tragedies of two lost Jewish wars (70 and 135 AD) with the destruction of both the Temple and Jerusalem, and by the worldwide dispersion of the Jewish people, without exception they reached the fatal conclusion that God had rejected the Jewish people as "Christ killers" for ever.

- They declared the Church had now taken Israel's place as bearer of God's promises for all eternity.
- With their sermons and writings they spread unveiled Jew hatred.
- They cursed the Jewish people, spreading lies and malicious slander.
- They laid the foundation for increasing deprivation of rights, pogroms, persecution, and burnings of synagogues.
- They fanned the flames of antisemitism and Jew hatred, which killed more than 13 million Jews between 70 AD and today.

We as Christians from all churches and denominations from all nations of the earth, we carry this evil root which is common to us all. It lies buried in Church history of the first few centuries. Wherever the Christian message was taken and in all the countries it reached, with it

the seed of Christian anti-Judaism also reached every new country. On most occasions, newly established churches or denominations embraced this deadly seed of anti-Judaism.

We confess therefore that Christians have become the source and driving force of the persecution of Jews under the symbol of the Cross as early as the second century AD. We knowingly or unknowingly have embraced the destructive seed of the anti-Judaism of our Church Fathers and still carry it within us.

This seed of anti-Judaism and Jew hatred is still evident in the hearts of many Christians today in the shape of indifference, an inner distance or inward reservations towards the Jewish people or Israel.

We humble ourselves and repent before God and the Jewish people for our guilt as Christians, and with all our heart we ask forgiveness.

We confess:

- God's covenant with Abraham is an eternal covenant. It was never broken or cancelled!
- The Jewish people and the land of Israel are loved and chosen by God!
- The Jewish people is chosen as God's "beloved people" to be the light to take His revelation to the world as His "firstborn" and "servant". They are called to be a tremendous blessing for all nations and peoples.

We declare that according to Genesis 12:1-3 the land of Israel with its capital Jerusalem is part of this election.

Today we are going up to the Mountain of the Lord with many nations and peoples, as it says in Micah 4:1-2, and we declare that we will no longer look down contemptuously, with indifference or arrogant pride on God's covenant with the Jewish people and with the land of Israel. We want to humbly respect, love, and honor it, and we want to receive instruction. For "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem"

(Micha 4:2; ESV).

So today we corporately want to express our solidarity, respect, appreciation, and our friendship and love to the Jewish people and to the land of Israel.

We believe that from Israel blessing is coming to the nations! Therefore we proclaim: Arise and be a light! Together raise your voices against antisemitism and Jew hatred, stand with Israel in friendship and be a light! United to be a light!

May Israel live! Am Yisrael chai!

For the "March of the Nations"

Signed by: