

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D075
Title: The Immediate Release of Ms. Layan Nasir, 24 from Administrative Detention in Israel
Proposer: Evans, The Rev. Boyd
Topic: International Relations, Middle East

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-D018 Commit to a Negotiated Solution to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
2018-D019 On the Topic of Opposing Israeli Occupation of Palestine (Rejected)
2018-D027 Call on US Government to Cooperate with Investigations into Israeli and Palestinian Human Rights Violations
2018-D039 On the Topic of Israel as a System of Apartheid (Rejected)
1991-A147 Support a Two-state Solution for Israel and the Palestinian People
1991-A148 On the Topic of the Middle East (Rejected)

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).

D075 - The Immediate Release of Ms. Layan Nasir, 24 from Administrative Detention in Israel

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Evans, The Rev. Boyd

Endorsed by: Atkins-Romero, The Rev. Hannah, Culbreath, The Rev. Leeann, Nyback, The Rev. Dr. Rachel

Supported by: Palestinian Anglicans and Clergy Allies

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 06 - Social Justice & International Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents:

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention condemn the April 7, 2024 arrest and imprisonment of Palestinian Anglican Layan Nasir by the Israeli military, taken from her family home in the occupied West Bank city of Birzeit; and be it further

Resolved, That 81st General Convention call for Layan's immediate release from Administrative Detention at the notorious Damon Prison in Israel, and that she be returned to her home and family; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church to continue its advocacy at the U.S. State Department, U.S. Embassy, Israeli Embassy, White House and among influential members of the Senate and House of Representatives, to demand Layan's release; and be it further

Resolved, That 81st General Convention denounce and object to the use of administrative detention wherein thousands of Palestinians—including children—are held for months without charge, trial, or conviction with no, or extremely limited, access to legal counsel or family visitation; and be it further

Resolved, That 81st General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations to advocate for the U.S. government to pressure Israel to end the practice of administrative detention; and be it further

Resolved, That members of The Episcopal Church be invited to pray daily for Layan, together with other Palestinians held in administrative detention, to share Layan's story, and to advocate for her and others' immediate release from prison.

Explanation

The case of Ms. Layan Nasir, 24 year old Palestinian Anglican woman detained by Israeli Security Forces

Layan Nasir, a young adult Palestinian Anglican was re-arrested by the Israeli military in the early hours of April 7, 2024 at her family home in Birzeit.

Layan is currently the only known Palestinian Christian woman held in Israeli Administrative Detention. She and her family are members of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Birzeit in the occupied West Bank.

Layan was first arrested by Israeli military forces in the summer of 2021, reportedly because of her nonviolent educational and organizing efforts at Birzeit University, where she was an undergraduate student.

Layan was one of more than twenty students arrested in a sweep by the Israeli military. She was interrogated, mistreated and held without trial in an Israeli military prison for several months before public pressure, actions by her lawyer, and payment of bail by her parents saw Layan released to her home and family in the occupied West Bank.

Since the fall of 2021, Layan had been living in her Birzeit family home, together with her parents and two brothers. She completed her studies and graduated from Birzeit University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition. Immediately prior to her current detention, Layan was employed by the Ramallah based NGO Women's Capacity Development, socializing with friends and trying to put the trauma of her 2021 arrest and imprisonment behind her.

Despite having met all the conditions of her bail, including multiple court hearings, Layan and her family were awakened at 4 AM on Sunday, April 7th when, according to her father, four armored Israeli personnel carriers with at least 15 heavily armed soldiers, stormed the Nasir family home, held her parents at gunpoint, thoroughly searched the house, blindfolded and handcuffed Layan, and took her away.

The soldiers offered no explanation or indication of what charges were being made against Layan or where she would be taken. The family has since learned she was one of eight young people abducted by the army that morning. The Nasir's family lawyer later learned that she was transported across the border into Israel, itself a violation of international law, and returned to Damon prison.

Unsurprisingly, Layan has not been allowed to speak with members of her family and has only spoken with her lawyer a few times for very short periods of time. Family visits are not permitted, and despite requests, her priest Fr. Fadi Diab has not been permitted access to Layan although it is a right under Israeli law. The family are deeply concerned for her physical and emotional well-being.

According to reports by Palestinian, Israeli, and international prisoners' rights groups, life has become far more difficult for imprisoned Palestinians since October 7th. The Israeli military has arrested thousands of Palestinian men, women and children, so overcrowding, in unsanitary conditions, is typical.

Credible reports about sleep deprivation, stress positioning, psychological pressure, and including physical torture and sexual abuse, denial of, or poor-quality food, withheld beds and bedding, and denial of soap and female hygiene items are widely circulating. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which normally oversees treatment of prisoners, is currently being denied access to Israel's prisons.

Recently, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby publicly criticized Israel over Layan's ongoing detention. The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church has also urged "the end of continued detention of thousands of Palestinians without charge, as particularly highlighted by the case of Layan Nasir."

Requested Actions:

1. Pray for Layan's immediate release and for her safety until then
2. Write to your political representative asking that the petition for her release and for access to Layan from her priest
3. Object in all possible ways to Israel's practice of administrative detention
4. Sign the petition to secure Layan's release, organized by a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, via [Change.org](#) [here](#).

More Information and Sources:

-Church Times: [Archbishop of Canterbury voices concern at Israeli arrest in West Bank](#) (April 10, 2024)

-The Guardian: [‘Shhh or I’ll shoot you’: family of jailed Christian woman tell of Israeli raid](#) (April 13, 2024)

-[Resolution on Gaza](#) - MB 013 (April 18-20, 2024)

-ZENIT - Español: [Israel sigue violando derechos humanos de cristianos solo por ser palestinos](#) (Abril 22, 2024)

-Sky News: [Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby criticises Israel over Palestinian Christian woman in detention](#) (April 28, 2024)

-Episcopal News Service (ENS): [Archbishop of Canterbury expresses deep concern for Palestinian Anglican woman held by Israel without charges](#) (May 1, 2024)

-Diocese of Chelmsford (Church of England): [Bishop Guli’s Prayer Pledge to detainee Layan Nasir’s mother](#) (June 6, 2024)

-Office of Government Relations (TEC): [Episcopal Church Statement on Layan Nasir and Detained Palestinians](#) (June 18, 2024)

Background Information Regarding Administrative Detention

Administrative detention has been defined as the “arrest and detention of individuals by the state without trial,” often for so-called “security reasons.” or as a means to “combat terrorism or rebellion,” or to “otherwise protect the ruling regime.” As this measure is supposed to be preventive, it has no time limit although there might be given an initial term, 3, 4 or 6 months but this can be indefinitely extended.

The person is detained without legal proceedings, by order of the regional military commander, based on classified evidence that is not revealed to them. This leaves the detainees helpless – facing unknown allegations with no way to disprove them, not knowing when they will be released, and without being charged, tried or convicted.

There is a process of legal review through the Military Court of Appeal and ultimately to the High Court of Justice but in practice this process is rarely permitted. When it is, evidence on which a decision is made continues to be kept confidential excluding the defense.

There are currently more than 3,400 Palestinians held in administrative detention by Israel Security Forces. Of these approximate 30 are aged 12-18.

It is illegal under international law to transfer people out of their own land (Occupied Palestinian Territory) to imprison them in another country (Israel).

Since the creation of the Geneva Conventions there have been significant developments, mainly under international human rights law, which places restrictions on the possibility to detain individuals indefinitely without charging them. Human rights law establishes:

1. An obligation to inform the individual of the reasons for their detention;
2. An obligation to bring a person arrested on a criminal charge promptly before a judge; and
3. An obligation to provide a person deprived of liberty with an opportunity to challenge the lawfulness of detention (habeas corpus).

The Resolution C038 “[Call for Basic Rights and Protection of Palestinian Children](#)” was written in 2018 to enable the Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church to advocate on legislation introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum of Minnesota. The Office of Government Relation’s active alert on this legislation can be found [here](#), and has been highlighted every year since 2018.

As already mentioned above, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church recently urged “the end of continued detention of thousands of Palestinians without charge, as particularly highlighted by the case of Layan Nasir.”

Sources

-B’Tselem: www.btselem.org

-Military Court Watch: www.militarycourtwatch.org

-Addameer: www.addameer.org

-Wikipedia: wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_detention

-ZENIT - Español: [Israel sigue violando derechos humanos de cristianos solo por ser palestinos](#) (Abril 22, 2024)

-Resolution C038: [Call for Guaranteed Basic Rights and Protection of Palestinian Children](#) (2018)

-Office of Government Relations: [Episcopal Church Statement on Layan Nasir and Detained Palestinians](#) (June 18, 2024)

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact gc.support@episcopalchurch.org.



Resolution Number: 2018-D018
Title: Commit to a Negotiated Solution to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination and to live as sovereign peoples in their homeland, with full human and civil rights and with democratic rule of one person, one vote; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church reaffirm our commitment to a negotiated solution between the two parties guided by international law and supported by the international community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church acknowledge that such a peace agreement, agreed upon by both parties, may include a two-state solution as envisioned in the Oslo Accords, leading to a viable, sovereign state for Palestinians, comprising the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, alongside a secure and universally recognized State of Israel, or may encompass other solutions such as one binational state or confederation, recognizing that these possibilities are being raised as the material conditions for a two-state solution have deteriorated due to accelerated settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and the West Bank since the Oslo Accords were signed; and be it further

Resolved, That no people's right to self-determination should be exercised at the expense of another people's right to self-determination, and that any negotiated solution be founded upon mutual recognition of the humanity and past and present sufferings of all parties and provide guarantees for the human and civil rights of ethnic and religious minorities within any state, federation, or national boundaries that may be created, and that this right to self-determination has been robustly supported by the testimony of Palestinian Christians, Palestinian Muslims, American Jews and Israeli Jews at this Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1051.



Resolution Number: 2018-D019
Title: On the Topic of Opposing Israeli Occupation of Palestine
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 79th General Convention continue its firm support for the right of Israel to exist in secure borders as established and recognized by the United Nations, but also continues its strong opposition to Israel's occupation in perpetuity of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip which is now recognized by the United Nations as the sovereign state of Palestine; and be it further

Resolved, That in order to end The Episcopal Church's complicity in the 51 year old occupation, the General Convention direct the Executive Council's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of this Church and 70 years of Church policy on Israel/Palestine by General Convention and Executive Council as the basis for such a screen in the Israeli occupation of Palestine i.e., the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, and to present a recommendation to the Executive Council for action before the end of 2020.



Resolution Number: 2018-D027
Title: Call on US Government to Cooperate with Investigations into Israeli and Palestinian Human Rights Violations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That in light of Israel's escalating indifference to international law and the rights of civilians under the Geneva Convention and other treaties, the General Convention call on the Congress and President of the United States to cooperate with calls by the United Nations for independent, transparent investigations into the use of lethal force against unarmed civilians by the Israeli Defense Force, as well as by Palestinian forces; and be it further

Resolved, That if information of human rights violations by military forces is corroborated, the General Convention stress the obligation of the US government to enforce the Leahy Amendment, which prohibits the USA from providing funds to foreign military units when human rights violations have been credibly identified; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge both Israeli and Palestinian governments to engage in non-violent methods of conflict resolution, using justice-seeking non-governmental groups in Israel-Palestine and beyond.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1070-1071.



Resolution Number: 2018-D039
Title: On the Topic of Israel as a System of Apartheid
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church condemns laws and policies of the state of Israel that discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel and have inevitably led to the current state of apartheid, under which Jewish Israelis enjoy full civil and human rights while the civil and human rights of Palestinian citizens are diminished. The Convention directs the Office of Government Relations to inform US legislators and members of the Executive Branch of US government of our concern about these laws and to convey them to their counterparts in the Israeli government; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention condemns the system of military justice applied in the occupied Palestinian territories that subject Palestinians to detention without charges or counsel, detain minors without parental presence, deprive their right of peaceful assembly, and condones lethal violence against unarmed Palestinians without accountability; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention calls upon the State of Israel to cease its denial of travel to Palestine and Israel by members of human rights organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace who are committed to ending the conditions of apartheid in Israel and the occupied territories by bringing economic pressure to bear on Israel. The Convention supports the right of Palestinians to self-determination, freedom of movement, property rights, unrestricted access to water, electricity, medical care, primary and secondary education, economic opportunities, permission to build and retain homes, and commerce; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urges members of The Episcopal Church to pray, reflect and frankly and openly discuss whether the policies of the Israeli government toward Palestinians contribute to a state of militarization and apartheid, and whether such conditions are consistent with our Baptismal Covenant to struggle for human dignity and freedom for all people in the region.



Resolution Number: 1991-A147
Title: Support a Two-state Solution for Israel and the Palestinian People
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church supports the existence of Israel as a sovereign state, the democratic and humanitarian inspired homeland for displaced Jewish people, and calls upon the Government of the United States:

To assist in the creation of a Palestinian State, and,

To assist Israel to secure the human rights of indigenous Arabs within Israel through:

- a. ending the violation of civil and human rights and by stopping the brutalities committed against individual, families, and groups which now occur;*
- b. restricting the use of military force to measures and practices proportionate to the situation and suited to the control of civilian populations, and, to that end, to assure that military personnel and units, before assignment to duty, be given proper training in riot control and the techniques and practices of control of civilian populations;*
- c. causing the State of Israel to discontinue the use of administrative detention and collective punishment;*
- d. the permanent reopening of schools, universities, and other educational institutions for the Palestinians in the occupied territories;*
- e. causing the State of Israel to be even handed and fair in the recognition and enforcement of the rights and interests of the Palestinians with respect to their personal safety, property rights, water rights, and rights of access to commercial markets; and*
- f. encouraging the opening of candid and patient communication between the representatives of the Palestinians and the State of Israel and between the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples; and*
- g. reestablishing and safe-guarding the City of Jerusalem as inter-religious municipality in which full respect is accorded the rights and interests of Christians, Jews, and Muslims.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 794.



Resolution Number: 1991-A148
Title: On the Topic of the Middle East
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died With Adjournment]
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church commends the initiatives taken by the United States in pursuing peace in the Middle East that have been recently proposed by the Secretary of State, and this General Convention decries the refusal of nations in the region to demonstrate a willingness to meet and negotiate for peace; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention call upon leaders and members of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions to use every means of influence and persuasion to help bring all nations to the peace table immediately, and if finding no peace conference among nations, we call upon the three religious communities to form a shadow peace conference to address the pressing issues, and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention call upon the United States government to establish a time certain for a regional peace conference, and failing to receive a positive response, to initiate a process of the reduction of military assistance and sales of military equipment to all nations in the Middle East, at the same time seeking the full support of other nations elsewhere in the world in the curtailment of the flow of arms to the Middle East.