

Statement on President Trump's announcement on Jerusalem

We, the people of Tucson and Southern Arizona, strongly oppose the Trump Administration's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the plan to move the US embassy to Jerusalem. This action by President Trump signals total disregard of international law and the global consensus which consider east Jerusalem occupied Palestinian land.

As individuals and organizations who care about peace and justice we believe that this unilateral action by our country will have negative consequences for the people of Palestine as well as Israel. This reckless move by our government is an invitation to violence and a unilateral attempt to determine the future of Jerusalem and the whole area without respect to the rights of the Palestinian people. It will, as has been expressed by analysts everywhere, encourage the most extreme elements in Israel to accelerate their colonization of Palestinian land, demolish Palestinian homes, steal their resources, impose discriminatory laws on them and subject them to daily humiliation and harsh treatment. And, the most dangerous consequence of this move, it will legitimize Israel's brutal military occupation and will negatively affect our vital interests in the Middle East and worldwide.

Furthermore, it will undermine all efforts to help bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict and has been condemned by governments and communities all over the world.

We the undersigned

- Declare our strong opposition to recognizing Jerusalem the capital of Israel and the plan to move the United States embassy to

Jerusalem. The United States will be the only country in the world to take this illegal action.

- Strongly stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom, equality, justice and peace.
- Demand that our government stop its collusion with the Israeli government in its continuous efforts to violate the rights of the Palestinian people and destroy any real possibility for an equitable and just agreement;
- Call on people of conscience everywhere, especially here in our community and our nation as well as in Israel, to stand firmly with the Palestinian people in their non-violent struggle to end the brutal Israeli occupation and gain freedom, equality and peace;
- Demand the end of the unconditional, unlimited and uncritical support of Israel until it abides by international law and ends the occupation;

*** affiliations listed for identification only ***

Arizona Palestine Solidarity Alliance	Rev. John Fife, Pastor Emeritus, Southside Presbyterian Church
Tucson Jewish Voice for Peace	Rev. Randy J. Mayer, Pastor, The Good Shepherd UCC
Alliance for Global Justice	Rev. Jim Wiltbank, Pastor, St Francis in the Foothills
Coalición de Derechos Humanos	Carol Rose, Co-Pastor, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship
Tucson Peace Center	Rev. Bart Smith, Pastor, St Mark's Presbyterian Church
Casa Maria	Fr. Bill Rimmel, SDS, St. Francis Cabrini Parish
Tucson Anti War Committee	Rev. Elizabeth Smith, Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program
SplitSeed Productions	Rev. Matthew Funke Crary, Unitarian Universalist Association
Tucson Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)	Tina Schlabach, Co-Pastor, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship
Frank Jents, Veterans for Peace	Sylvia Thorson-Smith, Elder, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Ariel Tinney, PhD Candidate, University of Arizona	Rev. Mike Smith, Parish Associate, St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
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Arizona Peace Council	Joe Bernick, Director of Salt of the Earth Labor College
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José Serrano, U.S. Citizen	Mary Whitehead, Tucson Samaritans
Pat Hammes, Tucson Samaritans	Karen O'Hara, Tucson Samaritans
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Tucson SURJ, Showing Up for Racial Justice	Brittany Fitzgerald, L.U.P.E.
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Laurie Melrood, LMSW	Michael Elsner, Jews Against Trump
Blake Gentry, MPPM	Betts Putnam-Hidalgo, Public Education Advocate
Brian Flagg, Casa Maria	Dwight Metzger, Gloo Factory Ink.
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Border Patrol Victims Network (Ana Maria Vasquez, Sarah Roberts, Shena Guterrez, Richard Boren)	Rick Saling, Tucson Samaritans, Seattle Mideast Awareness Campaign and retired Microsoft engineer
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Wendy Emmert, Tucson Resident	Laura M. Martinez
Judge Andrew Somers (retired)	Sara Busey
Eduardo Quintana, past President, Machinists Union Local 933	John Warriner, retired
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Margo Cowan	Tim A. Janes, actor
Kathryn Rodriguez	Janet Valencia, activist
Debbi McCullough	Paul Fuschini
Tracy Carroll	Martin Quezada, Arizona Senator
Joan E. Reidy	Mary Goethals
Art Harvey	Leilani Clark
Jack Knox	Linda Knox
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Rosemary Mancillas	Nancy Chilton, artist and educator
Protection Network Action Fund (Pronet)	Nancy Moore Bennett
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