



## Candle Light Vigil for Peace and Justice in Palestine

Jointly organized by the India Solidarity Ecumenical Network – Kairos Palestine  
(ISEN)



17<sup>th</sup> April 2011 - Sacred Heart Cathedral (7:00 to 7:30 pm)

### A Report

A candle light vigil, in support and solidarity of the Palestinian struggle for Peace and Justice, was held, in the centre of the Capital, where members and friends of various churches & movements representing the CBCI, NCCI, YMCA and the YWCA, gathered with lit candles and wearing peace dove badges.

An opening prayer by *Archbishop Vincent Concessao* – Archbishop of Delhi called on all peoples to pray for sustained peace and reconciliation, especially at a time of Holy Week, when Christians are called to reflect on the message of sacrifice, love, faith and hope. And a special prayer was offered especially for the Palestinian Christians who continue to endure suffering with patience and courage.

*Leila Passah* of the YWCA of India spoke on the responses from the Indian churches and ecumenical movements, which are in support of the Palestinian cause. The heavy presence of the Israeli army around religious sites and restrictions on entry to places of worship for Palestinian Christians during the Holy week, detention of children in prisons, increasing number of settlements and military check points are only some of the human rights violations experienced by the Palestinians. In response ecumenical movements and churches have initiated advocacy & action programmes where concerned citizens and peace activists from all over the world can participate in the ecumenical accompaniment programme, the pilgrimage visits designed for people to have an encounter with the local Palestinian communities, the YM-YW olive tree campaign, world week of peace, continue to create awareness and sensitize people on the current situation in Palestine.

*Our combined effort ,persuasion & prayers will certainly go a long way for establishing a just Palestine.*

- **Aloke, CASA**

*Our solidarity with the people of Palestine, especially the Christians who are detained from the place of worship.*

- **Anjan, YMCA**

*Rev Dr. Dominic Emmanuel*, a social activist stressed that Palestinians were victims of violence, occupation, terror, persecution and there needs to be continued efforts to stop the violence. He shared heroic stories of people who gave their lives for the Palestinian cause, and work in such areas often calls for courage and uncompromising positions. Based on his own personal work experiences in Palestine he called for Peace to prevail, and said that there can be no peace without justice.

*His Excellency Adli Sadeq* – Ambassador, Embassy of the State of Palestine was very encouraged and grateful that ISEN has initiated a concrete process of solidarity. He referred to the Kairos Palestine document, where facts about the impact of the illegal military Israeli occupation were recorded. He also commended on the work of the Christian leadership in the region who have fought with resistance for an end to the occupation and strive for an independent and secular State of Palestine.

He wished all ecumenical partners in their continued efforts to stand for just peace in Palestine and he has offered his office to lend any form of support that would enhance the advocacy campaigns for Justice and Peace.

A concluding prayer for action by *Rev .Asir of NCCI*, expressed the urgency for all partners to work tirelessly for social justice issues. While praying for peace and justice for the oppressed and victims of injustice, he called for social action by all communities, including churches, faith based movements and civil society organizations.

Vote of thanks was given by *Rev Charles* of CBCI, and he acknowledged the presence of all the special guests and the large gathering and the media, and thanked each and everyone for their support and solidarity.

A closing song was sung in Hindi – “*Hum honge kaamiyaab*” which translates into “We shall overcome!”.

*We pray for peace in Palestine!*  
- **Sneha; a young woman**

*May Palestine be a source of peace for the entire world.*  
- **Antony; CBCI**

