

The WILDERNESS Road to GAZA

"... Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a wilderness road'. So he got up and went..." (Acts 8:26-27)

As the world turns around and most people ignore injustice and suffering as humanly as possible, we sometimes need to stop turning around and focus a little before we lose our balance. In our face these days, like it or not, is the war waged by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza, civilians and fighters alike. The war that is still unfolding is not the first one and it is equipped exclusively by American weapons, and funded and empowered mostly by American tax dollars. The trapping of Palestinians under siege, targeting, and killing of children and civilians are all defended and absolved by our government. Below, is a brief toll of tragic proportions as of July 14, 2014:

- 178 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 138 civilians of whom 36 are children
- Among those killed: 18 people from a single family (including 6 children and 3 women, one of whom was pregnant) and 9 people watching the World Cup at a café
- 1,361 Palestinians have been injured (including 386 children)
- 73 schools in Gaza have been hit by Israeli airstrikes
- 1,255 homes have been destroyed or severely damaged, and tens of thousands of people have been displaced
- 600,000 people are at risk of losing their water supply

Source: http://www.unochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_sitrep_15_07_2014.pdf

It is very unlikely that the US government will take any courageous steps to stem the violence and risk sponsoring a just peace either in Israel/Palestine or in the Middle East. Hence, it is imperative on the faith community, including PCUSA, to make a difference through non-violent resistance, meaningful advocacy, and abundant acts of compassion. Will we heed God's call and travel "the wilderness road to Gaza"? Will we travel the Christ way or the colonialist military way?

Related sources:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q71R9jW6oR8&feature=player_embedded&list=PLTpcK80irdQhC4g_HvHvc73DEgswu287W

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=gaza+war&stid=b0d2821e-3b3c-da77-f568-05aa5026b2c2&qpvvt=gaza+war&FORM=IGRE>

<http://consortiumnews.com/2014/07/15/israels-war-crimes-in-gaza/>

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<http://www.wrmea.org/action-alert-archives/12673-send-help-to-gaza.html>

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