

**STANDING RESOLUTION SR-2**  
**2018 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

1 **TITLE: Supporting Middle East Peace Efforts**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OR/ID HOLY LAND TASK FORCE / OR/ID Methodist**  
3 **Federation for Social Action (MFSA)**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: DEE POUJADE**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 2545 SW TERWILLIGER BLVD, APT 510, PORTLAND OR 97201**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: [traveling.mimi@gmail.com](mailto:traveling.mimi@gmail.com)**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-299-4510 (home) 503,310-5577 (cell)**

8 **This Petition is:**

9 **A renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (no or minor revisions);**

10 **AMENDED IN YELLOW**, ADD IN **BOLD**, ~~DELETE IN STRIKEOUT~~

11 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: 28 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN**

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14 We call upon the churches of the United Methodist Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to seek  
15 ways to advocate for supporting peace efforts in the Middle East, involving our national  
16 elected leaders and our Pentagon staff and State Department leaders and military  
17 contractors. United Methodists may work in a supportive way to various actions – signing  
18 petitions, phoning our legislators, talking with our national officials and with staff in their  
19 local offices, and participating in marches and vigils to work for peace in the Middle East. We  
20 can join with other United Methodists and people of faith to help support renewal, human  
21 rights and justice.

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23 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

24 **What will this action accomplish?**

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28 As United Methodists, we continue to believe that war is not the answer. The current  
29 situation in the Middle East appears to be continually regressing. The failure of governments  
30 in several Middle East countries, and the rise in violence throughout the area contribute to  
31 the instability in the region, while increasing the number of refugees and the rise of  
32 extremist terrorist groups, such as ISIS/Islami State of Iraq and al-Sham. This is a complex  
33 situation. We urge our US and world leaders to carefully explore appropriate actions that will  
34 eventually help to end the terrorism that continues to be nurtured in the Middle East.  
35 We call upon United Methodists and other people of faith and good conscience to work for  
36 peace, to help change policies for the better and to improve human rights for all people

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40 **Why is it important?**

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42 In 2010 a massive popular movement of uprisings, revolutions and change spread around  
43 many countries in the Middle East. People in the Middle East were upset with harsh

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1 dictators, ineffective governments and failing economies, with many people experiencing  
2 crushing poverty. With many protestors world-wide using non-violent actions, people hoped  
3 to change the status quo, but with limited or little success in the intervening years.

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5 Another critical human rights issue arose in the summer of 2014 with the war between Gaza  
6 and Israel called Operation Protective Edge, which raged for seven weeks in July and August.  
7 The number of Israelis killed were 66 soldiers and six civilians, with 469 soldiers and 87  
8 civilians wounded. The number of Gazans killed were 2,300 (including 513 children).  
9 Approximately 10,800 civilians were injured. The United Nations calculated that 520,000  
10 Palestinian residents of Gaza (about 30% of Gaza's population) were displaced. The UN  
11 further calculated that more than 7,000 homes for 10,000 families were razed and another  
12 89,000 homes were damaged. Rebuilding costs were calculated to be \$4-\$6 billion dollars  
13 over a 20 year period and, although many countries have pledged to provide resources for  
14 rebuilding, the Israeli-imposed blockade of Gaza (which continues to this day) has prohibited  
15 building materials from reaching the Gaza Strip. We further urge US and world leaders to  
16 work together to allow Gaza to rebuild both its buildings and its infrastructure.

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18 In the meantime, countries such as Iran, Iraq and Syria continue to struggle to maintain  
19 stability in the face of aggression from internal and external forces working to destroy their  
20 governments and infrastructure.

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23 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

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25 Individuals and churches will give prayerful consideration to how best they can express  
26 support for the individuals from these regions, as well as opposition to the regimes and  
27 policies that contribute to the unrest. Some will write letters and/or call their elected  
28 officials. Others will take to the streets to participate in marches and vigils. And all will pray  
29 – for leadership to end the conflict and bring peace to the region and for the lives and safety  
30 of those affected by the violence.

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33 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?** There will be no additional cost  
34 except for the cost of compiling and publishing the *Journal*.