



13 May 2016

To General Secretary Olav Fykse Tveit and our sisters and brothers in the World Council of Churches,

We, the Executive Committee of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, meeting in Havana, Cuba, were distressed to hear about the detention and deportation of numerous members of the World Council of Churches' Working Group on Climate Change by Israeli security forces as they attempted to enter the country for a conference.

We join with you, Rev. Dr. Tveit, in protesting the "excessive, unreasonable and wholly unwarranted treatment by the Israeli authorities" and join in the call on the government of Israel to:

- apologize to those detained and to the WCC
- address these incidents meaningfully
- ensure they are not repeated in the future
- enter into a discussion with the WCC about this incident

We also join with you—and everyone in the WCC—to lift up those sisters and brothers who were wrongly detained and deported. We pray for their comfort and renewal of their hearts after this inexcusable and traumatic experience. And we lift this Scripture up for all:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me" (Matthew 5:9-11).

In Christ,

Jerry Pillay  
President

Chris Ferguson  
General Secretary

Calvin Center  
Knochenhauerstr. 42  
30159 Hannover  
Germany

tel. +49 511 897383-10  
fax: +49 511 897383-11  
email: [wrcr@wrcr.eu](mailto:wrcr@wrcr.eu)  
web: [www.wrcr.ch](http://www.wrcr.ch)

President:  
Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay

General Secretary:  
Rev. Chris Ferguson