

To: Social Ministry and Rice Bowl contacts

From: Missions Office, Archdiocese of Seattle/ CRS archdiocesan representative

[www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions)

*We are forwarding from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services the following information and request for action. We are very thankful for you taking time to read this, and taking action. One can learn more about Catholics Confront Global Poverty at [www.confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org).*

Israel is seizing land from mainly Christian families and 2 Salesian Catholic Convents near Bethlehem in order to move its so-called security wall. The families and sisters will be deprived of their livelihood.

The Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services believe that we can do something about it by electronically signing and getting as many others as possible to sign the petition **by February 12**. See the below Alert and **click on the "Sign the Petition" box** – it's easy and takes 2 minutes yet it is critical.

CATHOLICS  
CONFRONT  
GLOBAL  
POVERTY

# Take Action

**Sign the Petition to Take  
Action Now!**



**Photo by Paul Jeffrey for CRS**  
The Israeli-Palestinian separation barrier has sealed off the city of

**Sign the Petition that Supports  
Bridges, Not Walls by February  
12th: *Raise your voice for Peace in the  
Holy Land***

The Cremisan Valley, an agricultural area near the Palestinian city of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, is

best known for its olives, fruits and grapes used in local wine production as well as a recreational area for family outings.

This area is now in danger of being destroyed due to Israeli occupation and security policies that would reroute the Israeli-Palestinian separation barrier through it. More than 50 Palestinian families and two Salesian convents will lose their lands and their livelihoods. The Salesian Sisters Convent and School that provides education to more than 400 children in the adjacent villages will be surrounded by a military presence and inhibit many children from going to school. Families will lose access to important green space that defines the community, and Palestinian youth will be cut off from friends, teachers, and mentors.

The Cremisan Valley situation is just a small glimpse of what has been happening throughout the West Bank, seriously impacting the possibility of lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace. This [recent statement](#) by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Holy Land reiterates this point. As the wall moves and constricts more and more Palestinian families from their lands and livelihoods, their resentment against the State of Israel will grow and could lead to more violence. Such policies ultimately put Israeli citizens at risk and weaken initiatives for reconciliation and peace as stated in [a recent letter](#) by Bishop Richard Pates, Bishop of Des Moines and Chair of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The Catholic Bishops of the United States and Catholic Relief Services have long called for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that will build just and lasting peace for all people of the Holy Land. This will require strong U.S. leadership to ensure that both parties are held accountable-for the Palestinians to end violence and improve their security measures and governance and for Israelis to stop further West Bank settlements, ease residency requirements, cease home demolitions in East Jerusalem, allow movement of people and goods in the West Bank, and review the route of the security barrier for its impact on Palestinian lives and livelihoods, including in the Cremisan Valley.

**[Raise your voice for peace and prosperity for all the people of the Holy Land.](#)** Join the Catholic community of the Holy Land to oppose the re-routing of the separation wall in the Cremisan Valley. [Your signature](#) will be delivered to the appropriate Israeli authorities. The final court ruling will be held on February 12 so make sure to sign now.

Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, from Jerusalem and other neighboring areas. The proposed rerouting of the barrier threatens to divide communities in the nearby Cremisan Valley.

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[www.confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org)

**Catholics Confront Global Poverty** is an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services.



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