



**STATEMENT ON THE DEATH AND FUNERAL OF SHIREEN ABU AQLEH FROM THE DESK OF
BISHOP SANI IBRAHIM AZAR**

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had” Acts 4:32.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land expresses deep heartbreak and devastation at the murder of cherished Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh. Shireen’s voice proclaimed the truth about the occupation, persecution, and oppression of the Palestinian people that is so often suppressed by Western media and perceptions.

In the wake of her death, the reception of her mourning and funeral by Israeli occupation forces was cruel and unacceptable. A day of grieving that was meant to be a peaceful last goodbye from the Palestinian people to Shireen was stained with disgracing her body, attacking those in mourning, and an overall show of disrespect and brutality.

While the persecution shown during Shireen’s funeral will not leave our memory, the outpour of unity, solidarity, and love shown for Shireen and for the Palestinian people shines most prominently. Last week was nothing short of historical in the number of people who came to mourn the loss of Shireen and prove the steadfast presence of Palestinians and our ability to come together in times of devastation. The sea of Palestinians present to grieve the woman who told their untold story was not divided by Muslim and Christian, but was one body in grief together, and in prayer for a future of justice and peace.

In this moment, the voices of our international partners hold a lot of influence to our global audience. We call upon you to be the expression of justice, condemning the murder of Shireen and the outright dishonor of her funeral to those who look to you to discern integrity.

We lift you all up in our prayers, and we pray for the family by blood and family by love, of Shireen Abu Aqleh. May her tragic death inspire those around the world to continue her lifelong legacy of telling the powerful story of the steadfast people of Palestine.


Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land

