



*Interfaith Communities
United for Justice & Peace*
**STATEMENT ON
COMMENCEMENT OF WAR
AGAINST IRAQ:
MARCH 19, 2003**

*Religious communities must
stop blessing war and violence...*

Today we are filled with grief and anger that the escalation of the war against Iraq, which we have worked so hard to prevent, has begun. Today we pray for the living and the dead, the victims and the vanquished. We know that half of the people of Iraq – eleven and a half million people – are children under the age of 15 and we fear for their safety. Our prayers also go out to our service men and women who are now fighting and may perish in this unjust and unlawful war.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE (ICUJP), and the 80 organizations and thousands of individuals included in its membership, condemn the war against Iraq in the strongest possible terms and call upon the people of this nation to renew our commitment to peace and to challenge the policies of military domination and economic exploitation that have led us to this terrible moment.

Decades of resistance have taught us that violence is counter-productive, serving only to mirror and to perpetuate the violence and militarism we oppose. Now is the time when all must exercise discipline and restraint, with the understanding that effective opposition requires strategic planning and coordinated mobilization.

Above all, we must disengage from the endless cycle of violence and ensure that in word and act we demonstrate our absolute commitment to nonviolent resolution of conflicts.

We urge you to get connected with other peacemakers for the long struggle of creating a world of peace. ICUJP meets each Friday from 7:00 am - 9:00 am at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3300 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, and the first Monday of each month at 7pm at various religious venues.

*“When a war starts,
we are one human family
with one weeping heart.”*

www.icujp.org

For more information: call 626-683-9004



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WE SUPPORT:


Non-violent peaceful civil disobedience that is focused, targeted and strategically planned, with well-articulated goals. Trainings are being coordinated by ICUJJP, Pax Christi, AFSC and others. See www.icujp.org, www.paxchristi.org, and www.afsc.org/iraq.


 ICUJJP will be sponsoring an Interfaith Service, Witness for Peace and March to the Downtown Los Angeles Federal Bldg. – Assemble at 8:00 am on Friday March 21 at Temple and Alameda in Los Angeles.


 Every Wednesday Morning: Nonviolent Anti-War Action – assemble 8:00 am at Alameda and Temple, proceed to the LA Federal Building. This will continue through April. For information, call Pax Christi (323) 223-9047

 Legislative pressure campaigns that focus on specific policy makers who play a key role in Congress. These can take the form of visits to Congress people or vigils, picket lines and other protests at the local offices of Congressional representatives demanding that they use the power of their office to stop the war. See www.icujp.org and www.californiapeaceaction.org.

 Pressure campaigns focusing on the media giants and the FCC, challenging the misinformation provided to the American people on the public airwaves, including the Bring Peace to TV Initiative (see www.icujp.org and www.coalitionforworldpeace.org for details); Flood Fox on Fridays and other proposals (see www.icujp.org for details).

 Economic boycotts focusing on companies that make significant financial contributions to the Bush Administration. Go to www.bethecause.org

 Public education and witness. On April 4-6, ICUJJP is sponsoring Break the Silence, a weekend of reflection and discussion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s groundbreaking speech, *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence*, in which he linked the issues of racism, militarism and poverty in ways that continue to be relevant today. For more information, www.icujp.org.

 Walk-outs from schools and work places; marches, rallies, vigils, picket lines. Over 80 vigils are held weekly in Los Angeles. See www.icujp.org

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