



INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE & PEACE
% THE REGAS INSTITUTE
215 North Marengo Avenue, Third Floor
Pasadena, California 91101
626-683-9004 • icujp@pacbell.net • www.icujp.org

Agape International Spiritual Center
All Saints Episcopal Church - Pasadena
American Friends Service Committee
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
California Peace Action
Calvary CME Church
Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence
City of Angels URI-LA
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Coalition for Justice in Hawaiian Gardens and Jerusalem
Coalition For World Peace
Coalition LA
Environment Justice and Peace – United Methodist/Interfaith
Fellowship of Reconciliation - Los Angeles
Immaculate Heart Community– Peace and Justice Commission
Jovenes, Inc
Masjid Ibaadilla
Mobilization for the Human Family
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church 9-11 Response Group
Office of the Americas
One Light International Inc
Pax Christi - Los Angeles
Peace Project 2001
Physicians for Social Responsibility– Los Angeles
Silent Sacred Walks
South Coast Ecumenical Council
Southern California Ecumenical Council
Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Los Angeles
St. Camillus Catholic Church for Pastoral Care
St. Phillips Episcopal Church
The Regas Institute
United University Church– Peace Centre, USC
Womens' Circles of Los Angeles
ZCLA Buddha Essence Temple

CALL TO CONSCIENCE OF INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE CONCERNING WAR AGAINST IRAQ

Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace (ICUJJP), a coalition of over 80 religious, civil liberties and civic organizations, calls upon people of conscience to reject the Bush Administration's call for a war against Iraq and to refuse its new foreign policy of endless, unilateral war as a solution to world conflict.

The 21st century's first international crisis – the response to the Sept 11th attacks against the World Trade Center, of which the Iraqi campaign is one leg – has been labeled a war against terrorism, but it is a call for a return to barbarism. The World Wars of the last century taught the devastating cost of hate and the will to domination among nations. In the ashes of the firebombed cities, in the smoke of the crematoria, the nations of the world founded the United Nations, vowing to act in concert to resolve their differences and swearing never again to blacken the world's skies with nuclear wind.

In the days after Sept 11th, the world stood with the United States and grieved for the citizens of all nations killed in the attack. "We are all Americans," the foreign newspapers proclaimed: Those who seek to solve their differences by slaughtering the innocent, oppressing the powerless and misusing religious beliefs to demonize our fellow human beings threaten all peoples and nations.

Yet today, we stand close to squandering an historic opportunity to work together with the international community to contain and to disarm belligerent nations. If we, the richest and most powerful nation on earth, will not honor our treaties, then no other nation will consider itself bound. If we go war to change the regimes or to control the resources of other nations, will not other countries follow our lead against their neighbors and us? Where can such bankrupt policies lead but to more devastation and to the unimaginable suffering of millions?

We categorically reject the assumption that violence is the necessary response to our loss or that "pre-emptive" strikes against other nations will guarantee the peace and security of our own. Our diverse faith traditions teach that human life is sacred; that security is the fruit of peace and terror the harvest of war; that the way to peace lays in the transformation of structures of injustice and the politics of exclusion; and that the earth and its resources belong to all its peoples.

Let us turn away from the false doctrines of the past and work together to find true solutions to the world's problems. Let us be peacemakers in the council of nations and say "No" to war against Iraq.

Approved by the ICUJJP Steering Committee on October 9, 2002

For further information:
(626) 683-9004 • www.icujp.org • icujp@pacbell.net