



INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE & PEACE
c/o 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

AN INITIAL STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

The terrible escalation of violence in Israel – Palestine over the last few weeks is a clear and bitter testimony to the utter failure of violence as a means to end violence.

Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJJP) is a coalition of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Native Americans and representatives of other faith traditions as well as secular peace organizations. We grieve for the untold numbers of people who are being killed.

From ICUJJP's Mission Statement:

“The big lie back of all killings – whether street gang murders, deaths among Israelis and Palestinians, death at the hands of terrorists on September 11 or deaths in Afghanistan – the lie behind them all is that the victims deserved to die. Our consciences, shaped by the Divine Spirit, proclaim that when life is cheap and disposable anywhere, life becomes cheap and disposable everywhere. Every human being is of sacred worth – both friend and foe. They bear on themselves the image of the Divine. All are children of God.”

Therefore:

1. We cherish all the efforts of peace-loving people in the Middle East who are struggling for a nonviolent resolution to the conflict.
2. We affirm the two-State solution: the State of Israel alongside a viable Palestinian State, with secure borders for both.
3. We welcome the Saudi initiative that calls for Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 borders and for all Arab States to normalize relations with Israel.
4. We support the deployment of an international peacekeeping force, under the command of the United Nations, to enhance security of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace refuses to give in to the despair that marks this relentless conflict. We insist on being among those who hope and pray and work for peace with justice. It would be a betrayal of everything our faiths have taught us to believe about God and the sacredness of humanity if we were to lose faith in the possibility that Israelis and Palestinians can find a way to live in peace. We are committed to being among those who strive to reduce the distrust, hopelessness and fear that block the way.

Approved by the ICUJJP Sponsoring Group on April 12, 2002

For further information:
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