

MEDIA ALERT

Embargoed until January 13 at 10:00 a.m.

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**PROMINENT WASHINGTON JEWISH, CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM
LEADERS ANNOUNCE URGENT APPEAL TO PRESIDENT BUSH
TO MAKE MIDDLE EAST PEACE A TOP PRIORITY OF HIS
SECOND TERM**

In an unprecedented unified initiative, Washington State religious leaders, part of a nationwide interreligious campaign by leaders of organizations representing over 100 million Americans, press for active and visible U.S. leadership to help Israelis and Palestinians resume negotiations and end the cycle of violence

Interview opportunities available to detail the religious leaders specific requests to President Bush and their plans to build support for the appeal with their congregations and their Senators and Representatives

WHAT: Washington State religious leaders, part of a nationwide interreligious campaign by more than 28 leaders of Jewish, Christian and Muslim organizations representing over 100 million Americans, are pressing for immediate, high-level U.S. leadership in restarting negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The election of new Palestinian national leadership and Israeli plans to withdraw from Gaza create a new opportunity for progress toward peace, and with it, a moral and political imperative for active and visible U.S. leadership

Endorsing the Appeal are those (see list at end) who are determined, in the early days of the new administration, to advance the goal of a secure Israel, along side a viable, independent, democratic Palestinian state. Interviews will detail the specific steps for immediate U.S. involvement. The Washington State leaders are part of an unprecedented multi-city nationwide campaign to press for determined U.S. leadership in Middle East peace negotiations. The local effort in Washington State supports the

National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East, which will appeal to President Bush and the Congress in Washington, D.C. on January 13th to provide the necessary leadership for the peace process.

Acting together, the network of local and national religious leaders will press the case for active U.S. leadership with the Administration and members of Congress in the coming weeks and months.

WHY: There is a renewed sense of opportunity and urgency that religious leaders must exert their moral authority and take action to underline the importance of U.S. leadership for Middle East peace. It is time for supporters of peace and reconciliation to raise our voices to press extremist views to the margins and support the deep desires of the majorities of Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace.

There is firm evidence that majorities of Israelis and Palestinians accept that what each side needs most - real security for Israelis and a viable state for Palestinians - cannot be achieved by violence, but only by negotiations, and that supporters of peace on both sides believe negotiations will succeed only if there is active, fair and firm U.S. leadership for peace.

WHERE: Interviews can be arranged. For assistance, contact Rev. Tom Quigley (425-349-3637) tomquigley@mindspring.com or Ronald Young, Co-Coordinator of the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East (425-327-7545) USICPME@aol.com

WHEN: **January 13, 2005**

WHO: **Christian Leaders include:**
Rev. Chris Boerger (Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) 206-783-9292;
boerger@lutheransnw.org
Rev. John Boonstra (Executive Director, Washington Association of Churches) 206-625-9790; boonstra@thewac.org
Rev. Dr. Sanford "Sandy" Brown (Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle) 206-525-1213;
sbrown@thechurchcouncil.org
The Most Rev. Alexander J. Brunett (Archdiocese of Seattle) Contact Sister Joyce Cox; 206-999-7939; joycec@seattlearch.org
Rev. Gail Crouch (Interim Conference Minister, Pacific Northwest Conference, United Church of Christ) 206-725-8383;
GECrouch@earthlink.net
Rev. Earl Palmer (Senior Minister, University Presbyterian Church, Seattle) 206-524-7300

Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton (Executive Minister, Evergreen Baptist Association) 253-859-2226; marciaeba@comcast.net
Rev. Dr. Edward W. Paup (Bishop, Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, United Methodist Church) 206-728-7674
Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan (Regional Minister, Northwest Region, Christian Church-Disciples of Christ) 206-938-1008;
JSullivan@disciplesnw.org
The Rt. Rev. Vincent W. Warner (Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia) 206-325-4200; ywarner@ecww.org

Jewish leaders include:

Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman (Temple Beth Or, Everett) 425-259-7125;
rabbi@templebethor.org
Rabbi James Mirel (Temple B'nai Torah, Bellevue and President of the Washington Coalition of Rabbis) 425-603-9677;
rabbi@templebnaitorah.org
Rabbi Jonathan Singer (Temple Beth Am, Seattle) 206-525-0915;
spinozal@aol.com
Rabbi Daniel Wiener (Temple De Hirsch Sinai, Seattle) 206-323-8486;
Radbam@tbhs-nw.org

Muslims leaders include:

Hisham S. Farajallah (Idriss Mosque, Seattle and President of the Islamic Center of Washington) 206-985-0087;
Hishamaf@comcast.net

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The National Interreligious Leadership Delegation was initiated by **A Different Future** (www.adifferentfuture.org), the **U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East** (www.usicpme.org), and the **United Religions Initiative** (www.uri.org) with assistance from Ruder Finn public relations firm and financial support from the Foundation for Middle East Peace and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

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National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East

Christian Leaders

His Eminence, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, DC
His Eminence, William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore
The Most Rev. William Skylstad, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, Primate, Greek Orthodox Church in America
His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., President, National Council of Churches in Christ
Bishop Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold III, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church
Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church
The Reverend Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church
The Reverend John Thomas, General Minister & President, United Church of Christ
The Reverend Chris Hobgood, General Minister and President, Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)
Richard J. Mouw, President, Fuller Theological Seminary
The Reverend Leighton Ford, President, Leighton Ford Ministries
Richard E. Stearns, President, World Vision
David Neff, Editor and Vice-President, Christianity Today
The Reverend John M. Buchanan, Editor and Publisher, Christian Century

Jewish Leaders

Rabbi Janet Marder, President, Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform)
Rabbi Harry K. Danziger, Vice President, Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform)
Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein, Executive Vice President, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi Amy Small, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Rabbi Paul Menitoff, Executive Vice President, Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform)
Rabbi David N. Saperstein, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Chancellor, University of Judaism (Conservative)
Rector Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Conservative)
Rabbi Peter S. Knobel, Beth Emet the Free Synagogue, Evanston, Illinois
Rabbi Merle S. Singer, Temple Beth El, Boca Raton, Florida
Rabbi David E. Stern, Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, Texas

Muslim Leaders

Dr. Sayyid Muhammad Syeed, Secretary General, Islamic Society of North America
Dawud A. Assad, former President, Council of Mosques, USA
Naeem Baig, General Secretary, Islamic Circle of North America
Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, The Mosque Cares
Imam Hassan Qazwini, Islamic Center of America
Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Founder, American Sufi Muslim Association
Iftexhar A. Hai, Founding Director, United Muslims of America
Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim Chaplain, Georgetown University