

PRESS CONFERENCE AND STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

Press Statement

Released at a Press Conference held 10:00 AM Thursday October 5, 2000

Muslim Community Center, 745 Heim Road., Amherst, NY 14068

As we assemble here today, as the descendents of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him), we are saddened about the renewed violence in the Holy Land. We deplore the provocation for this violence as much as we do the killings of the innocent. With every stone hurled and every bullet fired, we are inviting more violence. This is not the road to peace that we all so badly cherish.

We mourn the latest victims of this conflict. Neither our faiths nor our scriptures teach us hatred and violence. Time has come to say enough is enough. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathies are with the victims and their families. We hope and pray that this colossal loss of life unite forces of reason for a just and lasting peace for the Peoples of Israel and Palestine.

We call upon all the people of faith to return to conversation and not confrontation. We ask the Israeli and Palestine authorities to act with restraint and responsibility. We ask President Clinton to redouble his personal efforts in mediating in this latest episode of violence and bring the parties back to the negotiating table for the final settlement of this conflict.

Representatives of the following organizations spoke and signed the above document.

American Muslim Council
Arab American Federation
Buffalo Board of Rabbis
Catholic Diocese of Buffalo
Islamic Society of Niagara Frontier
Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo
Lackawanna Islamic Mosque
Masjid Nu'man
Network of Religious Communities