



**Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Communications**

4000 Saint Joseph Place NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714

From: Celine B. Radigan, Director

Voice 505.831.8180, FAX 505.831.8248, Email cradigan@archdiocesasantafe.org

**Inter-Religious Statement on the
Middle East Crises**

ALBUQUERQUE - Wednesday August 9, 2006 - IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The issues in the Middle East are generations old and very complex. Many of us--Jews, Catholics and Muslims --have lived in that region or have relatives and friends who live in the countries where strife is occurring. It is very sad, disturbing and heart breaking to witness acts of violence and killing in the Middle East and most recently in Lebanon. We do not necessarily agree on the path forward to bring about a lasting solution to the issues. However, we all agree that no progress can be made when weapons of war are being used. No one can have honest and fruitful negotiations at gunpoint.

Therefore, we, the leaders of diverse religious communities in Albuquerque, New Mexico call for an end to attacks and violence that have already killed hundreds of innocent civilians. Most importantly, we call for all sides to meet, face to face, and openly, honestly and fairly work together to find a just and lasting solution to the disagreements that are at the root of the current violence.

We may call God by different names, yet we all recognize His supremacy and His desire that we find peace among each other. God calls us to see each other as His people of the covenant. Hatred has no place in God's world. God calls us to come together with respect, justice and partnership in making His world a better place for all.

We call upon our communities of faith to use prayer and fasting for peace. We pledge to work together to root out hatred, misunderstanding and mistrust in order to fulfill God's covenant of Peace.

May our work together as brothers and sisters in faith here in Albuquerque, serve to inspire others to work for true peace, in the name of God.

Signed

Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe

Rabbi Art Flicker, Congregation B'nai Israel

President Imtiaz Malik, Islamic Cultural Center

Father Michael Demkovich, OP Inter-Religious Officer Archdiocese Santa Fe.

Contacts

Father Michael Demkovich, OP, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, (505) 243-0525

Abdul Rauf Campos-Marquetti, Islamic Cultural Center (505) 440-8036 Email: raufislam@aol.com

Rabbi Art Flicker, Congregation B'nai Israel (505) 266-0155 rabbi@bnaiisrael-nm.org