

AN OPEN LETTER AND EMPHATIC PLEA TO
PRESIDENT BUSH AND SECRETARY OF STATE POWELL

In our shared humanity we mourn the loss of life and escalation of violence between Israelis and Palestinians. We deplore all violence against innocent civilians. It is time for an end to bloodshed and a return to peace negotiations. The United States has the strength and strategic position to help bring an end to violence against innocent civilians and to bring the two sides together to resume peace negotiations. In order to begin the healing process towards peace, Palestinians need the hope of a future of freedom and independence and Israelis need confidence in their personal and national security.

We therefore ask our government to act quickly and decisively to put forth a declaration of principles that expresses American support for the right of the Palestinian people to a viable Palestinian State in the land occupied by Israel in 1967 along with fully protecting the right of Israel to be a peaceful and secure homeland for the Jewish people. We believe it is in the interest of the United States to work urgently and tirelessly for a resolution to the conflict in which an independent, democratic State of Palestine will live side by side, in genuine neighborly cooperation, with a regionally-recognized and secure State of Israel.

We, the undersigned citizens of San Antonio, Texas, urge you to use fully the influence of the United States to bring about this resolution to the conflict.

SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	MAILING ADDRESS	PHONE
Include title if desired			

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An interfaith group of San Antonians is seeking signers for the above letter to be sent to President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell urging the U.S. government to maintain an active role in the Middle East peace process. To be listed, each signer is asked to donate \$10 so the letter can be disseminated, including publication in the San Antonio *Express-News*. We urge you to copy and circulate this letter.

The drafters of the letter are The Rev. Bill Lytle, Dr. Saber Elaydi, The Rev. Ann Helmke, The Rev. Caleb Harms, The Rev. Phin Washer, Imam Nadir Faris, Hajj Ali Moshirsadri, Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan, Barbie Gorelick and Pat Konstam.

Please send signed letters and checks by Feb. 14, 2002 payable to:

peaceCENTER
Attn: Middle East Peace
1443 S. St. Mary's
San Antonio, TX 78210