

PRESS RELEASE:

**TO LAUNCH A MEETING OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST (TRCME)**

**WE INVITE ALL PEACE, RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL, MORAL, AND
INTELLECTUAL ACTIVIST GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST TO
BECOME PARTNERS OF THIS PROJECT**

The Project will address several outstanding issues:

- 1. Resolving the Ongoing War And Conflict In Iraq and restoring order, prosperity, freedom, security and well-being to the long suffering people of Iraq**
- 2. Afghanistan: how to stop the fighting and restore order through the country ?**
- 3. Palestine: how to provide a decent quality of life for all Palestinians in their own autonomous country ?**
- 4. Israel: how to secure the long term future of Israel living in peace and prosperity with her neighbors, free of all terrorist attacks ?**
- 5. Lebanon: how to ensure the long term stability and prosperity of the country, living in peace internally and externally ?**

It will provide a forum for discussion for all parties to come up with non-violent solutions to the problems of the region.

It will address primarily the intellectual, moral, ethical and philosophical dilemmas which are preventing the discovery of non-violent solutions o the crises of the region. It is an interfaith, academic and philosophical initiative premised on the possibility of cultural harmony and coexistence, but open to the wider community. We hope that a launch meeting for this project will take place in Israel and Palestine in August 2008 but we seek to find partners to work with inside Iraq, Afghanistan and other Middle Eastern countries to organise local chapters of the overall TRCME.

**The launch meeting establishing the
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDdle EAST
(TRCME)**

Will take place at Galilee / Bethlehem

August 6-12, 2008

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE SYMPOSIUM

ON

Ending The Wars, Making The Peace

And announcing the formation of an

ECOCOUNCIL OF THE MIDDLE EAST

This gathering is open to all whom have the long term interests of peacemaking in Israel and Palestine and throughout the Middle East, and particularly in finding a solution to the philosophical, cultural and religious aspects of the conflict. It is being held in both Israel and Palestine to make it possible for participants to come both from both sides of the dispute.

The Sea of Galilee is a sacred place for Jews, Christian and Muslims, and Bethlehem is also an important spiritual centre for all sides. Among other participants we hope a number of Islamic scholars, Sufis, Rabbis, Kabbalists, Christian clergy, Christian mystics, Bahais, secularists and peace activists from both contemporary Israeli and Palestinian society as well as internationally will be in attendance.

With the peace process in the Middle East having stalled for too long, having moved so far, it is the hope of this symposium to encourage a healthy debate between both Israeli and Palestinian peace thinkers, activists and spiritual leaders, so as to vision together a long future for both Israel and Palestine, and one which will be beyond the threat or fear of violence.

We also intend to launch at this gathering a new body, an Eco-Council for the Middle East which will serve as a forum for representation of all those interested in the ecology of the wider Middle East region: with global warming effecting our weather patterns, we have an increasing ecological responsibility to end our conflicts and feuds, and pursue ways of peace, justice and harmony.

All those who have thought for the long term sustainability of The Middle East environment, who love and care for this magical and mysterious heartland of the world, and who have the protection of its people and its sacred places at heart, and / or who have specific news of peace and environmental issues and campaigns in their part of the world, are invited to attend or send representatives.

Hosting the meeting is Dr. Thomas C. Daffern, Director of the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy, founder of the Global Green University, and Convener of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Britain and Ireland (on whose work the new TRCME is being modeled)

We ask for your support and prayers for the success of this initiative, and to circulate and disseminate this call throughout all men and women of good will, with peace at their hearts, who wish to see a peaceful, just and compassionate solution to the outstanding problems of the Middle East region, in which all parties can feel they have “won”, without humiliation or abasement. We at IIPSGP firmly believe that with spiritual support and help, a lasting solution to the problems of the region can and will be accomplished, and that non-violence is the only way to ensure the lasting peace and prosperity of the region. We ask therefore that all groups currently engaging in jihad or violent struggle against “occupation forces” return to the work of the greater jihad, and that those allied forces currently in the region work towards returning to their own countries as soon as possible. We pray that peace and non-violence, reason and sanity, love and goodwill, replace the fear, terror and grief that have affected this beautiful part of the world for far too long.

If you are able to attend, or send a representative, or if you can help with the administrative work involved in establishing the new TRCME, or if you can help with funding, or prayer work, please contact:

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