



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF IRAQ'S RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

28 May 2003
Amman, Jordan

The World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP) convened an international conference from 27-28 May in the Jordanian capital, Amman, to discuss the crisis in Iraq, in view of the devastating and catastrophic consequences and repercussions resulting from the former regime, the war and the occupation. WCRP hosted religious leaders representing all of the religious communities in Iraq, together with international religious leaders, intellectuals, diplomats and members of international humanitarian agencies.

The discussions focused on the humanitarian, political and economic dimensions of the crisis in Iraq. The goals of the meeting included examining (1) The current humanitarian crisis and the ways in which multireligious cooperation can be strengthened as a mode of response. (2) Iraqi religious traditions of mutual acceptance and co-existence, which can form a basis for the building of Iraq's future. (3) Governance in Iraq under occupation and its impact on the current realities and future expectations. (4) The role of the United Nations in a just international order, and its relationship to current realities in Iraq. And, (5) The need for cooperation among the religious groups in Iraq in building a better future in Iraq.

The Iraqi religious leaders were unanimous in expressing appreciation for the good offices of HRH Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, the Moderator of WCRP.

The Iraqi religious leaders made the following recommendations, which were also endorsed by the full conference.

First, that international institutions and agencies increase their provision of humanitarian assistance through a greater cooperation with Iraqi religious and other social institutions, including representatives of women and youth groups.

Second, a demand that the Coalition Forces abide by their full responsibilities as a de facto Occupying Power in compliance with all relevant international treaties, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention and the relevant Hague Conventions on the protection of civilians and the provision of the necessary humanitarian requirements for occupied populations.

Third, that a temporary Iraqi national government be formed as soon as possible to administer the affairs and achieve the objectives of the Iraqi people during the transition.

Fourth, that an Iraqi mechanism be formed to provide advice to the Special Representative of the United Nations.

Fifth, that the permanent Iraqi government be built on the basis of direct, free, democratic elections, a constitution and the rule of law that protects equally all religious, ethnic and national groupings, while maintaining Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Sixth, that WCRP, an international multireligious organization accredited to the United Nations, be mandated to follow up the decisions and recommendations of this conference in partnership with the Iraqi religious leaders.

Seventh, that WCRP be invited to work in partnership with the Iraqi religious leaders regarding future conferences to be held in Baghdad and their formation of an Iraqi multireligious Council.

Thanks be to God.