

# Oslo Statement by Iraqi Religious Leaders 6 December 2006

## **Translation from the Arabic original**

In the name of Allah most gracious most merciful,  
“Hold tight to the rope of Allah all together and do not go so many ways” Al Imran  
“Glory to God in the heavens and peace on earth” Luke 2,14

The Iraqi participants in the meeting express their gratitude and thanks to the European Council of Religious Leaders and the World Conference of Religions for Peace for their help in supporting Iraqi religious leaders for the past three years.

In continuation with previous meetings convened since a first meeting in Amman, Jordan in 2003 by the World Conference of Religions for Peace, we are meeting in Oslo, Norway, hosted by the European Council of Religious Leaders in partnership with the World Council of Religions for Peace. We have met to attain national reconciliation and consensus in Iraq, to establish the principles of brotherhood and justice, and to attain security and stability for all Iraqis. We have discussed in our sessions the present status of Iraq and looked into the duties of religious leaders and those with other legitimate national responsibilities. Most important of which are:

1. asking the international community and the UN Security Council to help preserve the unity, independence and sovereignty of Iraq.
2. asking the Iraqi government to build a balanced Iraqi army and the international community to support the Iraqi government to achieve the complete sovereignty of the country and the protection of the citizens,

3. calling for the distinction to be made between terrorism, killing, destruction, forced displacement and kidnapping, and the legitimate resistance recognized by international law against the forces of occupation.
4. firmly rejecting labelling people “infidels” and using this label as a pretext for killing or assaulting them by any means or attacking their holy places; committing ourselves to stand together to face these criminal acts.
5. acknowledging the importance to work in accord with the articles of the Mecca Statement.
6. asking the Iraqi government to prevent all illegitimate armed groups and individuals.
7. spreading the spirit of dialogue and sectarian and religious tolerance and peace and co-existence between all the Iraqi people.
8. emphasising the principle of respecting the other party’s opinion and making use of expertise of the others in matters of difference.
9. standing firmly against every person or group who tries to spread discord and extremism, be it religious, sectarian or other, and also opposing anybody who does not have a good will towards the Iraqi people. Spreading the notion that Iraqis are all one nation and communicating that to the media to attain our goals.
10. confronting the media that spreads divergence and conflict between the citizens of Iraq,
11. emphasising the prohibition of the shedding of Iraqi blood, and calling upon religious leaders to continue to issue fatwas to this effect, according to the Almighty’s saying in the Holy Qur’an: “He who kills intentionally a believer, his punishment would be hellfire, where he will stay for ever with the anger of Allah and the curse where a lot of torture is waiting for him.” Al Annisa.
12. calling upon all who believe in Allah and the Day of Judgement to work hard to free all kidnapped persons, and asking the competent authorities to release all the detainees who were not indicted with any crime.
13. emphasizing the fact that the Iraqi government must carry out its responsibilities towards the families of martyrs and the displaced and give them the suitable compensation morally and materially.

And in conclusion, we pledge to Allah to work according to what has been agreed upon in this communiqué for the benefit of the national reconciliation, peace, and love between all the people of Iraq.

*Oslo, 6 December 2006,*

## Signatories, Oslo Statement of Iraqi Religious Leaders

*Seyed Hassan Bahr Al-Uloom.*

*Representative of grand Ayatollah Seyed Mohammed Saeed Al-Hakim/ ElHawza-Najaf city*

*Dr. Sheikh Ahmed Al-Samaraie.*

*Minister Sunni religious affairs*

*Chorebishop Philip Najim*

*Representative of Patriarch Emanuel Dely the Head of Chaldean church.*

*Sheikh Abdul Kareem Al-Lamey,*

*Representative of Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Mohammed Al-Yaaqobi*

*Sheikh Majid Al-Hafeed*

*Representative of Kurdistan Ulmma union*

*Dr. Sheikh Ali Smaism.*

*Representative of Seyed Muqtada Al-Sader.*

*Dr. Fuad Al-Rawi.*

*Representative of Dr. Tariq Al-Hashimi Secretary general of Iraqi Islamic party and Vice President of Iraq*

*Seyed Jaafar Al-Hakim*

*Representative of Seyed Abdul Aziz Al-Hakim President of Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq and President of Unified Iraqi Alliance.*

*Sheikh Jameel Al-Rubei*

*Representative of Al-Dawa Islamic party-Iraq*

*Seyed Salih Al-Haidari*

*Minister Shiite religious affairs.*

*Signed in the presence of*

*Bishop Gunnar Stålsett*

*Moderator, European Council of Religious Leaders*

*Dr. William Vendley*

*Secretary General, World Conference of Religions for Peace*