

Religions for Peace

17 November 2010

Dear Esteemed Colleague:

Recent news from Iraq has brought to the attention of the world both attacks on Christians gathered in church for prayer and attacks on Muslims on pilgrimage.

In this violence Christians and Muslims were killed and wounded.

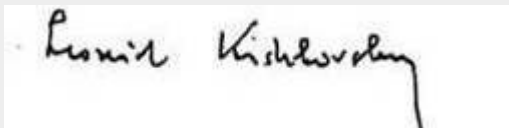
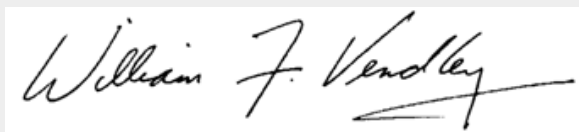
The believers of diverse religious traditions who work through *Religions for Peace* in 100 countries around the world join the sincere religious believers in Iraq in condemning these attacks as morally abhorrent and religiously wrong. We are in solidarity with the victims and their families.

Through *Religions for Peace*, religious communities around the world are working to prevent violent conflicts and end them when they occur. This includes advancing reconciliation among estranged groups and standing in solidarity with those who suffer from violence. Our work is based on shared moral commitments to peace with justice. This basis enables respecting our diverse faiths while engaging in common action for peace. Our common action for peace is advanced by men and women of faith who are moved and inspired by the practice of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness in their religious traditions.

On behalf of *Religions for Peace* and its participating religious communities, we express our deep sorrow about the violence against religious communities in Iraq. We extend our sympathy to Christians and Muslims in Iraq who have suffered violent attacks, grieving with them for those who have died and suffering with them for those who have been wounded.

Religions for Peace is in solidarity with our religious brothers and sisters in Iraq.

Yours in partnership, we remain



Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary General

The Very Reverend Leonid Kishkovsky
Moderator