



Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace Commission

QUICK NEWS NETWORK

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Email from Pax Christi - 18/7/06
The British Section of Pax Christi
- Call to end Violence and
Punishment in Israel, Palestine
and Lebanon

1. Calls on Israel to cease immediately its indiscriminate assault on the people of Lebanon, and in the near future, to open talks with Palestinian representatives on the equitable and just resolution of the long-running conflict with Palestine. The continuing Administrative Detention of hundreds of Palestinian citizens and the collective punishment of the Palestinian people is at the root of the ongoing violence against the people of Israel.
2. Calls on Hizbollah and Hamas, or whoever hold them, to release at once the captured Israeli soldiers, held in violation of international law, and to cease immediately their indiscriminate rocket attacks on the people of Israel.
3. We affirm the message of Pope Benedict XVI, "neither

terrorist acts nor reprisals, especially when they entail tragic consequences for the civilian population, can be justified,... by such paths, as bitter experience shows, positive results are not achieved."

4. Calls on all people of faith to pray that those everywhere, including those in the government of our country, who take the path of violence, will come to see that violence solves no problems. It only generates more violence and creates deeper divisions between communities. 'Peace is the fruit of anxious daily care to see that everyone lives in the justice that God intends'. (Pope Paul VI Populorum Progressio 1967)

Useful Church-Related Websites

www.cmep.org. Churches for Middle East Peace (USA)
www.caritas.org. Caritas Internationalis
www.ekklesia.co.uk. Ekklesia

Letters from Lebanon

We will continue to post messages we receive from our friend Roula on the Pax Christi website. www.paxchristi.org.uk

Prayer for Peace
in the Middle East

We come to you, God Creator
 You are the source of light
 and beauty and power
 Your Son Jesus is the way
 of faith and hope and love
 Your Spirit is the fire of love,
 the fount of wisdom,
 the bond of unity
 You call us at this time,
 when war and rumours of war,
 weigh heavily on the peoples of
 the Middle East
 Their lives are already broken
 by suffering and violence.
 We renew our acceptance
 of your call
 We promise to work
 "To bring the light of the Gospel
 to those living in darkness,
 "To bring the hope of the Gospel
 to those living in despair,
 "To bring the healing of the Gos-
 pel to the lonely,
 the disadvantaged,
 the marginalized,
 "And to bring the peace of the
 Gospel to a divided world.

Amen.

REFUGEES

'Welcome'

is the title of a 20-minute film which tells the story of three homeless refugees who have become 'Living Ghosts'. "My life is frozen", says a Zimbabwean maths teacher who's been living "underground" since being evicted from his flat. "I'm existing, but it's not a life. I don't think people know we are being chucked out on the street, or they wouldn't allow it to happen." The DVD is available for loan from Joan.

*"Be the change you wish to see in
 the world."*

Gandhi

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**

Readers may be aware that the UK section of Amnesty International has recently voted to change its stance on abortion from neutral to supportive of abortion. The J&P Commission - although not a member of the organisation - has written to express its profound regret at this move. Readers who are members of Amnesty might want to do likewise.

Write to

Melvin Coleman, Secretary,
 Amnesty International United Kingdom Section,
 The Human Rights Action Centre,
 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA.
 and
 AI Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW.

