



Statement of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago on the Crisis in Kosovo

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago is composed of approximately 40 of the chief leaders of the Chicago area's Roman Catholic, Jewish, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant communions and institutions.

April 1, 1999

THE COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO joins in this holy season of our several faiths to view with sadness and burning anxiety the escalating violence in the territory of Kosovo and its surrounding regions. We recognize the deep, historic fissures which divide the people of these proud and ancient lands, and the complexity of the current conflict. We take no sides in supporting the interests or condemning the errors of any one particular group over another. All are victims of this tragedy of hatred and disorder.

Even more so, then, is the urgency we feel that peaceful ways be found without delay to end the terror and destruction that intensify with each passing day. The pain we see so vividly displayed on the faces of the refugees, the hurt, and homeless must become our immediate concern.

As Christians, Jews and Muslims bow this weekend before the one God of heaven and earth and celebrate their Holy Days, we call upon each congregation and gathering, each worshiper and leader, to pray for peace and for those who work for peace,

to pray that guns may be silent and soldiers return to their bases,
to pray that refugees may go home and children grow up in safety,
to pray that simple humanity may overcome senseless hatred.

May the God of peace, the God of justice, freedom and deliverance, prevail and deliver those for whom we pray.

Signed by the Most Reverend Timothy Lyne, President of the Council of Religious Leaders