
BACKGROUND



In Jesus' map for discipleship, the Beatitudes (Matt. 5: 3-12), we are clearly invited to be peacemakers. He tells us, "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*" This month's Voices for Justice Action Alert offers an opportunity to be a peacemaker. The invitation comes from our sisters and brothers at NETWORK*, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby. NETWORK has sought, since its beginnings in 1971, to close the gap between rich and poor and to effect change in systems and policies which give rise to and support violence, racism and greed.

There are currently proposals before Congress concerning strategies in Iraq. NETWORK proposes that conflict in Iraq will cease only when the various factions in Iraq are engaged in the creation of a peace agreement.

NETWORK is advocating for an Iraqi Peace Conference - similar to the peace process that brought an end to the Bosnia/Herzegovina Civil War.

This action alert is an invitation to urge our Senators and Representatives, as well as the President and Secretaries of State and Defense, to make peace a reality through an Iraqi Peace Conference.

ACTION

Either [click here](#) and follow instructions on the NETWORK website, or use the sample letter below. (If the link does not work cut and paste the following into your web browser:)

<http://capwiz.com/networklobby/issues/alert/?alertid=9995276&type=ML>





ACTION ALERT – AUGUST 2007
Support an Iraqi Peace Conference

Sample Letter for those without computer access:

Feel free to edit the letter as you wish and/ or write it in your own words. A personal touch makes a difference.

Dear _____;

I am extremely concerned about the continued fighting in Iraq in the context of the U.S. occupation. I urge you to do all that you can to help create an Iraqi Peace Conference that would bring together all factions of Iraqi society in order to create a lasting peace. Only by having the Iraqis make the agreements that are needed could there possibly be an end to the violence and fighting there.

I urge you to include such a peace conference as part of the Defense Authorization Bill and to support any amendments that move the bill in this direction. The U.S. has a responsibility to support the Iraqi people by creating an alternative that allows for the development of their society. An internal peace process can make this happen.

Sincerely,

Send this to your senators and representatives and/ or:

President George W. Bush The White House Washington, D.C. 20500 Phone: (202) 456-1414 Fax: (202) 456-2461	Secretary of Defense Robert Gates 1000 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301 Phone: (703) 692-7100 Fax: (703) 697-9080	Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Address: 2201 C St., N.W. Washington, DC 20520 Phone: (202) 647-4000 Fax: (202) 647-2283
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Information for this Action Alert from NETWORK

<http://www.networklobby.org/>