



Answering the Cry in the Middle East: A Panel on Peace-Building Resources

Email or Letter to President, Senators and Congressional Representatives (Template):

[Title, Name]:

I believe that in order to advance the well-being of all people the United States must set the standard and be a leader in promoting the development of life by means of peaceful and long term resolutions that reduce the use of arms in global conflicts.

Life is not a privilege. Rather all human beings have the right to create self-sustaining communities that enhance their quality of living. Foreign partnerships should be collaborative and not imperialistic nor domineering; aid should be given without strings attached; foreign resources should be valued and shared apart from exploitation and greed; and economic exchange should not be the means of new forms of slavery and impoverishment.

I recognize that in certain instances when life and wellbeing are threatened, people understandably tend to respond by engaging in armed conflict. On the one hand, I agree that terrorism and other forms of aggression that violate human rights must be eradicated. On the other, the very conditions that have created such volatile responses must be also addressed. Without truly providing the means with which people can create a better world for themselves, there will never be one. For this, again, the call is for building peaceful collaborations.

With the increase in civil wars in the region of the Arab nations and Middle East, I hope that the United States can take a proactive stance through its policy-making. Because, I believe in our democratic processes and the value of the ballot box, I ask that you as my [President, Senator or Congressional Representative] consider voting in favor of measures that support the following:

- Reduction in the production of weapons in US soil
- The crack down in the trafficking of weapons across its borders from which the US profits itself
- The reduction in foreign aid for weapons and armaments sent to Israel in its fight against Palestinians
- The lifting of the embargo against Iran as it continues to negotiate peacefully the reduction of uranium enrichment for the purposes of nuclear arms

Sincerely,

How to find contact information of your elected officials? See link: <http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/getLocal.jsp>

Websites:

Al Jazeera: <http://america.aljazeera.com>

Al Jazeera America is an American news channel reporting unbiased, fact-based and in-depth journalism that gets you closer to the people at the heart of the news. First announced in January of 2013 and launched on August 20th, Al Jazeera America has one of the largest newsgathering capabilities of any news organization in the United States with 12 bureaus in major cities around the country, 3 broadcast centers, a headquarters in New York City and a team of close to 800 journalists and staff.

Center for Global Nonkilling: <http://www.nonkilling.org>

The mission of the Center for Global Nonkilling is to promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world by means open to infinite human creativity. The goal can be reached by globally advancing nonkilling knowledge and skills, incorporating them into education and training, and applying them in individual and social decisions for the well-being of all. The task calls for infinite creativity and mutual support among all individuals, organizations, and institutions whose work contributes to progress toward the goal of a nonkilling world.

Iran Review: <http://www.iranreview.org>

Iran Review is the leading independent, non-governmental and non-partisan website – organization representing scientific and professional approaches towards Iran’s political, economic, social, religious, and cultural affairs; its foreign policy; and regional and international issues within the framework of analysis and articles. It offers stimulating, critical, and transparent viewpoints on contemporary world politics; and promotes dialogue and debate stemming from a spectrum of ideas from scholars with expert knowledge.

Logos: A Journal of Modern Society & Culture: <http://logosjournal.com>

Logos is a quarterly journal of modern culture, politics and society that features articles on the arts, politics, culture, the social sciences and humanities as well as original fiction and poetry. Logos seeks to foster a critical dialogue on modern politics, culture and society through both intellectual and aesthetic lenses. Articles take a critical stance toward their subject matter in order to render them more lucid and comprehensible. Fiction and poetry can be of an experimental nature and are not restricted to commonplace or mainstream approaches to form and content.

Moving Traditions: <http://movingtraditions.org>

Moving Traditions inspires people to live fuller lives -- and to work for a better world for all -- by advocating for a more expansive view of gender in Jewish learning and practice.

Muslima: Muslim Women’s Art & Voices: <http://muslima.imow.org>

Muslima: Muslim Women’s Art & Voices is a global online exhibition from the International Museum of Women (IMOW). Muslima presents a groundbreaking collection of thought pieces and artwork from contemporary Muslim women who are defining their own identities and, in the process, shattering pervasive stereotypes. It explores works from artists, activists, and thought-leaders around the world, representing a broad spectrum of Muslim realities and identities, addressing such topics as power, leadership, appearance, myths, generations, faith and connection. Muslima debuted online in March 2013 and ran through December 2013, with new art and stories added regularly. The exhibition will remain up and available for viewing online

indefinitely. The dynamic exhibition design allows you to explore Muslima Content by Type, Topic, and Most Recent. - See more at: <http://muslima.imow.org/content/aboutmuslima#sthash.LwtASRvf.dpuf>

Rabbi Daniel Brenner: Wisdom for a Broken World: <http://www.rabbidanielbrenner.com>

The Interfaith Center of New York: <http://interfaithcenter.org>

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) seeks to make New York City and the world safe for religious differences by increasing respect and mutual understanding among people of different faith, ethnic, and cultural traditions and by fostering cooperation among religious communities and civic organizations to solve common social problems.

Tikkun: To Heal, Repair, and Transform the World: <http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/>

Tikkun is a magazine dedicated to healing and transforming the world. It seeks writing that gives us insight on how to make that utopian vision a reality. It builds bridges between religious and secular progressives by delivering a forceful critique of all forms of exploitation, oppression, and domination while nurturing an interfaith vision of a caring society — one whose institutions are reconstructed on the basis of love, generosity, nonviolence, social justice, caring for nature, and awe and wonder at the grandeur of the universe.

Articles, Books, & Videos Online:

“Crisis Guide: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” in *Council on Foreign Relations* (Video)

<http://www.cfr.org/israel/crisis-guide-israeli-palestinian-conflict/p13850>

“If Americans Knew: A Synopsis of the Israel/Palestine Conflict”

<http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/>

Samina Ali, “How Muslim Women Are Waging a Jihad for Peace,” in *The Daily Beast* (Article)

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/witw/articles/2013/09/11/how-muslim-women-are-waging-a-jihad-for-peace.html>

“Reza Aslan: Maher's ‘Facile’ Generalizations Of Islam The Definition Of Bigotry,” in *Real Clear Politics Video: The Latest Politics, News & Election Videos* (Video)

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2014/09/30/reza_aslan_mahers_facile_generalizations_of_islam_the_definition_of_bigotry.html

Isaac Herzog, “Is Peace Still Possible? The Future of Israeli-Palestinian Relations,” in *The Washington Institute: Improving the Quality of US Middle East Policy*

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/is-peace-still-possible-the-future-of-israeli-palestinian-relations>

Katzman, Kenneth. *Iran: U. S. Concerns and Policy Responses* (Book)

<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=LoU9pz97OCoc&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=iran+us+relations&ots=N-RRKO18S0&sig=eeEk4gUUap3Z55kvc5HTdTUiOAU#v=onepage&q=iran%20us%20relations&f=false>

James Perloff, "Iran and the Shah: What Really Happened," in *The New American* (Article)

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/history/item/4690-iran-and-the-shah-what-really-happened>

Zohreh Soleimani, "To Kill a Sparrow," <http://www.zsoleimani.com/film/>

Ray Takeyh, "What Really Happened in Iran: The CIA, the Ouster of Mosaddeq, and the Restoration of the Shah," in *Foreign Affairs* (Article)

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141527/ray-takeyh/what-really-happened-in-iran>

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