

Jews and Moslems against Terror

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Religious leaders take the initiative

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On the photo (from right):
Former Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron,
Rabbi Alon Goshen Gottstein,
former President Abdurrahman Wahid and
Dr. h.c. Johannes Gerster (KAS)

President Abdurrahman Wahid, former president of Indonesia and chairman of the largest Islamic organization in Indonesia, "Nahdlatul Ulama", together with the former sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, spoke to an audience of 200 representatives of the Jewish, Christian and Moslem religions about the duty of every believer to show respect for life and the integrity of all human beings.

Following the event, Bakshi-Doron and Wahid signed the following declaration, which important religious leaders in the Middle East and in the world will be invited to support.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, religious leaders who believe in a creator God, guide of the universe, firmly express our conviction that our religious traditions categorically oppose the use of terrorism. Terrorism is an abomination in the eyes of God and opposed to a proper understanding of our respective scriptures. It is also opposed to every principle of humanitarian concern. In all our

religions God is affirmed as merciful and compassionate and calls on us to be compassionate and merciful accordingly. Causing suffering in God's name is opposed to the will of God. We affirm the highest religious value to be the sanctity of human life. We condemn those expressions of our religions that speak in the name of our religions and that endorse the use of terrorist means, such as suicide homicides, to achieve political or other goals. While we recognize the value of deep belief in our faiths, to the point of offering our lives for them, this must never be confused with harming innocents in the name of a cause. We also believe that one of the consequences of terrorism is the creation of immense suffering not only for the victims of terror, but also for those who seek to benefit from it, or through it. We encourage religious leaders of all traditions to firmly express their religious conviction against terrorism, thereby helping to purify our religions from a contemporary cancerous growth that threatens to destroy our human face.

Jerusalem, the 25th of June 2003

Signed:

Abdurrahman Wahid
Former president of Indonesia

Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron
Former sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel