

March 21, 2003

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
United States of America

Statement in the Request on Peaceful Resolution of the Iraqi Situation

Dear Mr. President:

Youth Association of the Federation of New Religious Organizations of Japan is a league of young people having different religious traditions. It has been active since its establishment of 50 years ago. We have dedicated ourselves together on the main purposes of Inter-religious cooperation, improvement of human welfare and the achievement of world peace.

Sharing variety of activities, our conviction has been confirmed, that in spite of the differences of doctrines or creeds mutual understanding enables us to co-operate with each other. We have principle that God and Buddha bestow every existence in the world so much valuable life and the peace are to be attained in the relation of mutual respect.

Unfortunately the history of human beings has been filled with repeated killing each other. Though it is said that history is to repeat over again, precious lives have been taken away too much easily. So we could not help but feel deep sorrow and despair for the tragedy of simultaneous terrorism on a large-scale on September 11th that occurred in your nation at the dawn of 21st century. We visited the Ground Zero and offered prayer of consolation for the innocent victims last year. Then we also prayed to God and Buddha in the wish that this tragedy will never occur again.

Reaffirming the value of life, as the people of Japan, the only nation experienced nuclear attack; we also have the serious concern on the doubt of Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction. We should not overlook the crisis that innocent people are victimised by the arbitrariness of one person. On that meaning we handed Iraqi Embassy in Japan our written appeal asking cooperation to the investigation by the United Nations.

And we call on the government of the United States to choose the path of peaceful settlement. Because in the eyes of God and Buddha the lives of both American citizen and Iraqi people are equally so much valuable that they should never kill each other.

The way of resolution through means of military power facing menace of military force will only create a never-ending cycle of hatred, and will sacrifice innocent lives. We from the bottom of our hearts ask the government of the United States of America to pursue the way of dialogue for peaceful resolution.

Respectfully yours,

Reverend Michiomi Rikihisa
Chairperson



Youth Association of the Federation of New Religious Organizations of Japan