



Embargoed till 12.00am, 4 June 2008

HEADS OF CHURCHES CALL FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

During this week of *International Church Action for Peace in Palestine and Israel*, a group of Australian church leaders has called on the Federal Government to prioritise peacemaking in Palestine and Israel.

An historic event, it is the first time that a group of Australia’s religious leaders has come together to highlight the suffering in the region.

In a statement to the Government, leaders of the Uniting, Anglican and Catholic churches – among others – have said that, after 60 years of dispossession, military occupation, armed hostilities and violent deaths, it is now time for the Australian Government to work for peace in the Holy Land.

With some 40 signatories to the statement, the group is calling on the Government to lead the international community in working with Palestine and Israel towards a just and continuing peace.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

HEADS OF CHURCHES STATEMENT ON PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

Parliament House, Canberra
House of Representatives Alcove

4 June 2008
10.30am

Speakers

Rev Gregor Henderson, President of the Uniting Church in Australia
Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, Anglican Primate of Australia
Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Tim Costello, Chief Executive World Vision Australia

Morning Tea will be served after the launch.