

Statement in support of Christian Peacemaker Teams, a group that stands with the Iraqi people, by Canadian Friends Service Committee

December 2, 2005

Canadian Friends Service Committee is the peace and service agency of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada. We state our unqualified support for the integrity and non-violent, peaceful purposes of the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) and the four CPT team members serving in Iraq (Tom Fox, James Loney, Norman Kember, and Harmeet Sadoon) who are currently being held by the Swords of Righteous Brigade in Iraq.

Canadian Friends Service Committee—like the four CPT team members—rejects the use of violence for any purpose. We condemned the War on Iraq (recognizing its start as 1991, including the years of oppressive sanctions, and then the resurgence of outright war in 2003). Quakers in Canada have participated in various CPT teams, including in Iraq. Team members have always sought to educate Canadians and others about the truth of the awful war and occupation in Iraq and how it must end. CPT has always been a friend to the oppressed, be that in Iraq, Palestine, or Aboriginal territories in Canada and Colombia. CPT seeks to reduce violence and to advocate on behalf of the human rights of all Iraqis.

We recognize the pain that is facing the people of Iraq and our friends of the Muslim faith through the occupation of both Iraq and Palestine and the history of colonization in the Middle East. We mourn alongside our brothers and sisters of the Muslim faith and seek a peaceful Iraq, led by Iraqis. We beg of our brothers in the Swords of Righteous Brigade to release the four CPT delegates being held captive.

Tom Fox, James Loney, Norman Kember, and Harmeet Sadoon are harmless and innocent peacemakers who eschew all violence, seeking to help Iraq be free of the occupation and of human rights abuses by the occupiers. They are not spies, they are honest and with integrity; they respect the Muslim faith and do not seek to convert people to Christianity. They have always opposed the war and the occupation and have spoken vocally about the abuses of the Iraqi people back here in North America, educating people so that the occupation will end.

We humbly beg for their release in the name of the most compassionate and merciful God.