

Prayer for Conflicts around the World

Leader: Oh God who taught us to love our neighbors and care for their needs:
as 110 violent political conflicts continue to hurt our world,
as 35.5 million refugees are kept from their homes,
and as 300,000 minors are forced into combat,

All: We pray for resolution to the conflicts in this world.

Leader: Oh God, our neighbors in Colombia have experienced 40 years of brutal internal violence and drug trafficking.
We pray for the safe return of the 4,000 people kidnapped per year in Colombia.
Lord, as peace builders try to transform conflict and restore justice, guide Colombia in its efforts to
demilitarize paramilitary groups and give the U.S. discernment in the aid it provides to this struggle.

All: Lord, guide us in helping to end the violence in Colombia.

Leader: Oh God, our neighbors in Israel/Palestine are facing constant threats of violence and oppression.
Lord, comfort the families of the over 3,400 Palestinians and 1,000 Israelis who have been
killed since violence resumed in 2000.
Reinvigorate talks about the Roadmap to Peace and empower us all to work for peace and reconciliation in
the Middle East.

All: Lord, bring reconciliation and forgiveness to Israel/Palestine.

Leader: Oh God, our neighbors in Kashmir are living in fear as violent extremist groups continue to terrorize the region, and
as India and Pakistan continue to disagree over ownership of the region.
Lord, comfort those who mourn the loss of the 2,000 people killed in this conflict in 2004.
Help us to encourage peace, understanding and agreement between these countries.

All: Lord, open a door to understanding, agreement, and peace in India, Pakistan, and Kashmir.

Leader: Oh God, our neighbors in Sudan suffer as the Sudan Liberation Army and the government backed Arab militias
continue to terrorize the Darfur region - 70,000 people have now been killed.
Lord, please be with the 1.6 million people who have been displaced from their homes and terrorized and
guide those working to bring stability to the region.

All: Lord, show us how to call the international community to action to address the suffering in Sudan.

Leader: Oh God, our neighbors in Iraq become victims as insurgents increasingly target local civilians, and as the United
States has led attacks in Fallujah, Mosul, and other insurgency strongholds.
Lord, we mourn the loss of the over 1,226 American service members and tens of thousands of Iraqis who
have died since the start of the war.

All: Lord, let us realize the enormous price of war in lives, guide us, and let peace come to this region soon!

Leader: Oh God, heal also the conflicts raging in Cote D'Ivoire, Nepal, Kosovo, Uganda, Congo, Sri Lanka, Chechnya, and
in so many other areas around the world.

Just as you heal the wounded and comfort those who mourn, you call on us to respond to the needs of all
those who suffer: to offer humanitarian aid, medical services, peacekeeping resources, and to be strong
advocates for peace.

All: Lord, only reconciliation, justice, and the power of love can help to end violence.
May your grace inspire us to work ever harder for the growth of the Kingdom of God here on earth.
In the name of Jesus the Peacemaker, we pray. Amen.

Background on Prayer for Conflicts around the World

Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) – A ceasefire collapsed after President Gbagbo's government began bombing rebel-held towns on November 4th. Anti-French sentiment is also high after a series of clashes between the government and French forces. As a result of the renewed violence, more than 10,000 refugees have fled the country for eastern Liberia.

Sudan – Sudan Liberation Army, along with other African rebel groups, and the government backed Arab militias have plunged the Darfur region into 22 months of war. U.N. resolutions and international attention have failed to stop the continuing violence in Darfur, where 1.6 million people have been displaced from their homes and over 70,000 have been killed.

Nepal – Since 1996, when violent conflict began between Nepalese government forces and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, more than 10,000 Nepalis have died and thousands are displaced. Fighting intensified after an 8 day truce in October 2004.

Congo – Despite a two-year-old peace agreement ending a war that sucked in seven other countries and spread hunger and disease across eastern Congo, militia and rebel groups have continued sporadic clashes. However, recent tensions with Rwanda are threatening to escalate into full-scale violence between the two countries.

Kosovo – Despite being under UN administration since 1999, violent riots by Albanian extremists in March killed 19 people, injured almost 1,000, and left Serb and Roma houses destroyed. However, the security situation has been improved since March.

Sri Lanka – Since the conflict between Tamil rebels and the Sinhalese-majority government began fighting in 1983, over 65,000 people have been killed. A peace agreement was signed three years ago, but Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tamil Tiger commander, warned in November 2004 of a return to fighting if stalled negotiations are not resumed.

Uganda – Northern Uganda faces a humanitarian crisis as the Lord's Resistance Army continues the insurgency it began in 1986. Human rights abuses are rampant: 20,000 children have been abducted, 80 percent of the rebel fighters are children, and 90 percent of the population of Northern Uganda has been displaced from their homes.

Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan – Pakistan, India, and violent extremist groups have battled over the status of Kashmir since the region was partitioned in 1947. In the first 10 months of 2004, 1,716 people had been killed in attacks and other conflict-related incidents. More than a third of those casualties were civilians.

Colombia – After 40 years of internal armed conflict, the country remains immersed in violence, drug trafficking, and about 4,000 kidnappings per year. The situation is slightly improving, especially with recent efforts to demobilize paramilitary and rebel groups, although huge parts of Colombia still remain under their control.

Chechnya – More than 100,000 people, mostly civilians, have died since the first Chechen war began a decade ago. The second conflict, in the past five years, has seen separatist insurgents turn to ruthless terrorism, such as September 2004's bloody school siege in Beslan, while human rights groups charge that Russian forces and their local Chechen allies employ death squads and political prisons.

Iraq – Uncertainty surrounding January elections continues amid escalated violence. Violence is out of control as the U.S. continues major offensives in Fallujah, Mosul, and other insurgency strongholds. Over 1,226 American service members and tens of thousands of Iraqi's have died since the start of the war.

Israel/Palestine – Over 1,000 Israelis and over 3,400 Palestinians have been killed since violence resumed in 2000. Despite the current roadmap to peace initiative, violence and tensions continue.