



Final Declaration

Interfaith Leaders Voice Peace Commandments Of Fasting

We, the representatives of different faiths,

Appreciating the religious freedom in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and meeting on the holy Mid-Ramadan observance,

Motivated by the deep-rooted values of peace in all faiths' fasting practices and rituals,

Reiterating our strong rejection of all acts of violence made in the name of religion,

Agreeing that all religions' observance of fasting—such as lent and other forms of abstinence aim at, among other values, reinforcing the values of peace, solidarity and mutual respect,

Valuing all efforts aiming at peacefully eradicating all forms of incitement to hatred, segregation, and the violation of the freedom of faith,

Gathered by our common conviction in the pursuit of peace, we appeal to followers of all faiths to further reflect on the peace reasoning on fasting in all religious books and practices,

Dedicated to our IPI-MENA interfaith dialogue,

1. *Commits* to devote all our efforts in the holy month of Ramadan and other faiths' similar observances to promote the commandments of peace in our fasting and the rest of daily life;

2. *Calls upon* all believers to stand together, speak out and act against violent extremism, and all forms of sectarianism, hostility, exclusion and discrimination;

3. *Urges* all religious fora to further commit to serving all causes of peace through education, gender equity and inter-religious dialogue;

4. *Reiterates* our attachment to the universal meanings of fasting, including striving to eradicate poverty, hunger and inequity;

5. *Further cherishes* the importance of value based advocacy and preaching in favor of fasting that entails abstaining from all sorts of violence, aggression and discrimination;

6. *Renews our call upon* all educational, spiritual and cultural institutions to further promote fasting's commandments of peace as enshrined in all beliefs and faiths;

7. *Calls for* further scriptural reasoning to demonstrate common values of peace in fasting and other commandments within all religions and faiths;

8. *Urges* all warring parties and entities to immediately abstain from resorting to violence to solve differences;

9. *Recognizes* that no single cause deserves one single drop of blood.

Adopted unanimously at the International Peace Institute Middle East and North Africa (IPI-MENA)

June 20, 2016

Signed:

Religion	Name
Christian	Rev. Hani Aziz
Christian	Rev. Dennis Barger
Christian	Rev. Alfredo K. Cudiamat
Christian	Rev. Isaac Inayat
Christian	Rev. M. Syam Suneel
Christian	Rev. James Harrison
Christian	Rev M.B. George
Christian	Rev Joshua Abraham

Christian	Rev. Sam Mathew
Christian	Rev. Reji Abraham
Christian	Mr. Job Nelson
Christian	Rev. Thomas Mathew
Christian	Mr. Kurian Mathai
Christian	Rev. P. Sam Blessing
Muslim	Shaikh Salah Al Jowder
Muslim	Mr. Hassan Chalghoumi
Muslim	Dr. Abdulla Al Moghabi
Jewish	Mr. Ebrahim Nonoo
Hindu	Sushil Muljimal
Baha'i	Ms. Tahera Rajab