

Statement from Archbishop Desmond Tutu for Sabeel Conference on Morally Responsible Investment

October 2005

I send you my warmest good wishes for a successful conference and assurances of my prayers for God's richest blessings on you all, dear friends. I am so sorry not to be able to be with you in person. We must give thanks for the wonders of science that let's us meet electronically.

Let us make one thing absolutely clear as unambiguously as possible. We are committed and indeed passionately so, to peace, security and justice for all in the Holy Land. We believe that such a condition is eminently possible. We believe in the viability of the so-called two state solution, i.e. of an Israel with its original borders before the six day war, an Israel sovereign and independent recognised and acknowledged as such by the international community and its Arab neighbours entitled to safe and secure borders as acknowledged in international law and a Palestinian state that is viable, accessible, sovereign and with borders acknowledged and respected by all.

We believe it is possible for such a situation to come into being. We condemn any infringement of the integrity and sovereignty of such states and condemn unequivocally all acts of terror either by suicide bombers or the incursions by the Israeli armed forces resulting in the unnecessary deaths of innocent civilians. We deplore the contempt shown for international law in the construction of the wall encroaching on Palestinian territory and making life utterly miserable for those forcibly separated by this illegal construction.

We believe that violence whether of Palestinian belligerents or Israeli military merely engenders further violence, the inexorable cycle of violence provoking a reprisal that provokes a counter reprisal ad nauseam will leave the Holy Land as a massive burial ground devoid of security and peace for anyone. All this should stop. It can stop. We urge all combatants to stop the violence and bloodletting.

Israel can contribute wonderfully if it did not depend on brute force. The insurgents on the other side could make a huge contribution to peace. Give peace a chance.

Sit at the negotiation table and talk. We believe that those who invest should ask themselves are we helping Israel to foster peace or are we helping to make her intransigent? Are our investments being used to bulldoze the homes of frightened hapless civilians and dividing families with the Wall? Are we morally justified to continue investing?

Help to bring sanity, peace and stability to the Holy Land.

Give peace a chance.

God bless you