

Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends - Aotearoa/New Zealand

Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

Northern Monthly Meeting

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5 – 10 - 2014

Dear John Key

As the tragedies in Iraq and Syria unfold, Quakers of Northern Monthly Meeting here in Aotearoa New Zealand ask for our government to call on others to show restraint and also to give leadership towards creating peaceful solutions.

We acknowledge and deplore the extreme criminal behaviour displayed in the region. We too, want the violence and suffering to end.

We would remind your government that all additional violence does is fuel a bloody and destructive cycle. The bitterness and hatred created lasts for generations. Such violence threatens us all.

We stress that diplomatic channels must be used at all times, especially when considering violence and war, particularly through the offices of the United Nations.

We are fortunate that we live here in Aotearoa New Zealand in a peaceful country which is multi-racial and has amongst its citizens people of many faiths.

We encourage your government to not back the actions of the United States and others, but to take every opportunity to work towards peace.

We trust and pray that actions taken on behalf of our country will be guided by love of humanity and the desire for peace for everyone.

Yours Sincerely

Linley Gregory

Clerk of Northern Monthly Meeting

cc parliamentary leaders of all parties

Those who have been ministers of defence or disarmament