

**Press Release from the Kingdom of Morocco
and the Hommes de Parole Foundation
25 May 2004**

World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace postponed to the autumn !

The deterioration of the situation in Gaza, the Palestinian Territories and Iraq has gathered momentum and has dramatically intensified in the last few days. This has profoundly jeopardised the serene climate essential to the success of the "First World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace", to be attended by fifty Imams and fifty Rabbis from the world over, planned to be held in early June at Ifrane in the Kingdom of Morocco.

As a result, and in order to maximise the potential for this initiative to be successful, the organisers of the event (the Kingdom of Morocco and the Swiss Hommes de Parole Foundation) have jointly decided to defer it to the autumn.

More than ever, the organisers are firmly convinced that this event is of paramount importance and is needed to respond to both fundamentalism and conflict.

The postponement of the Congress will provide an opportunity to include a larger number of experts and religious leaders representing communities from a very broad range of countries determined to take part in this ambitious project. Increasingly their goal will be to determine together concrete actions for the future, affirming to the world that peace and reconciliation lie at the very heart of their respective religions. In the coming months, many men and women of goodwill will continue to cooperate in the service of this historic initiative. Their combined determination and commitment will make it possible to surmount the obstacles that lie ahead and open a path of peace among the peoples concerned.