

# **Behind the News: Visions for peace – Voices of faith**

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*Providing church, ecumenical and interfaith information, resources, and analysis on issues of current global concern*

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### **1. Statements and actions of the global church and ecumenical family**

- a) In a letter to US President George W. Bush, Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE wrote, “In a time when revenge will be the word on too many lips, we must pray for the grace to live our lives with the restraint that justice demands. We truly believe that when we are working for justice we create peace. When we live with justice, and seek reconciliation among all peoples we will build a culture of peace.” Available at: <http://www.cidse.org/pubs/letter18sept.htm>.
- b) The Executive Board of the Communion of Churches of Indonesia has issued a statement in light of the US/UK military actions in Afghanistan, calling for an immediate halt to hostilities and for all parties to cooperate in overcoming terrorism. The statement further “calls upon all social and political forces within the Indonesian nation to adopt a wise and balanced attitude to the conflict between the United States and the Taliban in Afghanistan, not forgetting that Indonesia herself is currently struggling with all her might to free herself from the depths of a multi-dimensional crisis.” <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us99.html>
- c) Pax Christi International restates its position that violence, whatever the provocation, cannot end violence or establish peace with justice. “The violence of war once unleashed is difficult to control.” See <http://www.paxchristi.net>. The same website includes a collection of material released by both Pax Christi member organizations and Pax Christi International regarding the dramatic attacks on the USA and the war in Afghanistan.
- d) Following the recent military strikes by the United States and its allied forces in Afghanistan, the Lutheran World Federation regrets that “diplomatic efforts did not open up avenues” that avoid the use of military

action to respond to the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States. See: <http://lutheranworld.org/News/LWI/EN/000808.EN.html>.

- e) A Pastoral Message from the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, The Right Reverend Dr. Marion Parfy can be found at <http://uccan.org/010918.htm>
- f) The Executive Board of the Cuban Council of Churches issued a statement calling for a day of prayers for peace. The statement notes that “We are sure that many men and women, especially in the countries of the so-called Third World, express solidarity with the North American people because they recognize their pain and suffering.” Available in Spanish from: <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us103.html>
- g) The National Council of Churches in the Philippines has issued 3 statements in the aftermath of the 11 September attacks. In its most recent statement (8 October), NCCP “denounces in the strongest terms possible, the attacks made by the United States on Afghanistan” and says that “the US government, by launching air-strikes, has shown a shameful insensitivity to the call of the world’s people for restraint and sobriety, and the use of peaceful and diplomatic means to handle the situation.”  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us40.html>  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us106.html>  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us104.html>

## **2. Statements and actions of US churches**

- a) Galveston-Houston Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops stated with regard to the military action by the United States. “We renew our call that our military response must be guided by the traditional moral limits on the use of force. Military action is always regrettable, but it may be necessary to protect the innocent or to defend the common good. We support efforts to make clear that this response is directed at those who use terror as well as those who assist them, not at the Afghan people or Islam.” For the full statement, see: <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2001/01-175.htm>.
- b) The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church has written to the House of Bishops in light of the US military response. In that letter, he emphasizes that people have different opinions about the military action and says that “I hope that we as bishops can wage reconciliation in this moment: helping to make plain that the various perspectives individuals hold on what we should or should not do as a nation come out of a deep place of desiring what is best for the country and the world. Available from: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/2001-291.html>
- c) A statement by the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ says “Our nation’s leaders have set a course that meets violence with violence. Our lament over this decision does not deny our grief for those

who have died, our love for this land, or the earnestness of our prayer, 'God bless America.' But this prayer is also joined by our prayers for all who are put at risk by this course, both those who will be killed in these attacks and those who carry them out." Available at: <http://www.ucc.org>.

- d) In a letter to the President of the United States of America, George W Bush, the Jesuit Conference Board of the Society of Jesus in the United States asks that certain conditions such as making sure that care be extended to the protection for the innocent be taken into consideration in responding to the attacks on America on September 11. <http://www.jesuit.org/Pages/usjcltr.html>
- e) The Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America issued a statement in the aftermath of the US military response, emphasizing the need to avoid civilian casualties. "Above all," the statement says, "let us pray that diplomatic means will soon replace military action in our efforts to defeat terrorism." Available from: <http://www.elca.org/ob/afghan.html>.
- f) The Executive Committee of the Mennonite Central Committee, in its Call to Faith and Action said "our theological convictions and our experience around the world convince us that a campaign of military retaliation will harm many more people and perpetuate the cycle of violence. Therefore, we call all people of faith to speak out against calls for revenge and retaliation." Available, together with peace resources and a link to the Peace Theology site, from: <http://www.mcc.org/peace/peace.html>.
- g) The National Council of Churches in the USA has put together a collection of resources, bulletin boards, church statements and news releases in a new section of its website entitled "Faith Responds to Terrorism." <http://www.nccusa.org/news/faithresponds.html>.
- h) A letter, written by the Executive Secretary of the Quaker organization, Friends Committee on National Legislation, on 10 October urges the US President to stop military actions and adopt constructive and peaceful strategies in Central Asia. The letter states "we urge you to stop the bombing, stand down the U.S. military, feed the hungry, and work diligently through peaceful means to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people and other peoples throughout that region to the cause of justice for the victims of September 11." Full text available at: [http://www.fcnl.org/issues/afghanistan/terrorism/ltr\\_volk-bush\\_101001.htm](http://www.fcnl.org/issues/afghanistan/terrorism/ltr_volk-bush_101001.htm).
- i) Four General and Executive Secretaries of Quaker organizations made a joint statement on 10 October, affirming the necessity to fight terrorism by prolonged, nonviolent efforts for reconciliation, justice, and long-term economic development. "We pray at this time for the people of the United States, Afghanistan, and the rest of the world. We hold in prayer those killed and wounded in the terrorist attacks of September 11, those being killed and wounded by the military strikes on Afghanistan that began on October 7, and all who grieve for them. We regret the decision by our

nation's leaders to launch military strikes against Afghanistan, and we call upon them to halt the bombing and other military attacks." Full text available at:

[http://www.fcni.org/issues/afghanistan/terrorism/stmt\\_quaker-orgs.htm](http://www.fcni.org/issues/afghanistan/terrorism/stmt_quaker-orgs.htm).

### 3. Responses from other faith communities

- a) Interfaith Search Fiji has issued a statement regretting the horrific events of 11 September in the United States. The statement goes on to say that "We recognise that this event has global implications, which touch all of us. As we are a multi-cultural and multi-religious society here in Fiji it can threaten our fragile relationships."  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us100.html>
- b) Ahmed Ben Bella (former President of the Algerian Republic) and Mamadou Dia (former President of the Republic of Senegal) have written "One tragedy must not block out another" which seeks to "correct the confusion between Islam's spiritual message and the community of Muslim believers with the actions of an army of lost and misguided warriors who, in distorted fashion, invoke the Muslim faith to justify their deeds." <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us107.html>
- c) David R. Loy has written "A New Holy War against Evil: A Buddhist Response." The author argues that the Abrahamic religions emphasize the struggle between good and evil because for them the basic issue depends on our will: which side are we on? In contrast, Buddhism emphasizes ignorance and enlightenment because the basic issue depends on our self-knowledge: do we really understand what motivates us." <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us108.html>
- d) The Salaam Peace Foundation of Mindanao, Philippines, calls for peace and sobriety in response to the US attacks. The statement is critical of the military actions, noting that "with the newest and most sophisticated war technology readily at its disposal, the international alliance against terrorism is sure to succeed in dividing and polarizing the world."  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us109.html>
- e) The website, <http://www.interfaithcenter.org/muslimsrespond.shtml>, reports on actions and reflections by Muslims living in New York City.
- f) Some Jewish perspectives include:  
An article by Michael Lerner on "Where the Violence comes from"  
[http://www.tikkun.org/index.org/index.cfm/action/current\\_archive/class/American Politics.html](http://www.tikkun.org/index.org/index.cfm/action/current_archive/class/American_Politics.html)  
"The Sukkah and the World Trade Center" by Rabbi Arthur Waskow  
<http://www.shalomctr.org/html/peace42.html>  
"Two Faces of America – Both Real" by Rabbi Arthur Waskow

#### 4. Responses from civil society organizations

- a) Amnesty International has released a new report, “Central Asia – No Excuse for Escalating Human Rights Violations” in which it warns the international community of a possible deterioration in the human rights situation as governments use the ‘war against terrorism’ as an excuse to further undermine respect for human rights. The report covers the situation in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and looks into implications of pressure on these countries by the Chinese government. The report and country briefings are available on request and from: <http://web.amnesty.org/web/content.nsf/pages/gbrsep11crisis2>.
- b) Amnesty International has issued a new report on China: Fight against Terrorism is No Excuse for Repression. The Chinese government’s call today for international support in its crackdown on domestic “terrorism” raises fears that repression of Muslim ethnic groups in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region will increase and that the dismal human rights situation in the region will further deteriorate. See <http://www.aiusa.org/news/2001/china10112001.html>. Another new Amnesty report entitled Afghanistan: A History of Abuse against Civilians documents human rights abuses committed under the Taleban’s rule. Available from: <http://www.aiusa.org/issuebrief/afghanistan10112001.html>.
- c) Yet another recent document by Amnesty International focuses on arms transfers and military aid to Afghanistan. Amnesty has campaigned against the sending of arms and related supplies to armed factions of Afghanistan and appeals now to the government of Pakistan to make every effort to halt such transfers from its territory and to the government of Saudi Arabia to halt financial support from its residents. See: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/2001/afghanistan10162001.html>.
- d) Amnesty’s website, <http://www.amnestyusa.org/usacrisis>, includes a wealth of other human rights resources, including the text of a letter from Amnesty International to President Bush, and reports on human rights concerns in the USA and the world. <http://www.amnestyusa.org/usacrisis>.
- e) The website of the Canadian Center for International Cooperation includes reflections, analyses, positions and actions taken by CCIC and its members in response to the events of 11 September. See: <http://fly.web.net/ccic/whatsnew.htm>
- f) CIVICUS has collected statements issued by civil society organizations around the world on reactions to the events of 11 September as well as information about campaigns and action plans. See <http://www.civicus.org>

## 5. Humanitarian concerns

- a) ACT International Warns against Linking Humanitarian Airdrops and Military Actions. Geneva, October 15, 2001. ACT International, a worldwide network of churches and related agencies, today warned against the link between humanitarian airdrops and the US-led military strikes against Afghanistan. Elaborating on the position of ACT's Executive Committee, the director of the ACT Co-ordinating office, Thor-Arne Prois, said that the air drops were jeopardising the credibility of humanitarian aid in the region and were not an effective means of meeting the desperate needs of the people of Afghanistan. Available from:  
[http://act-intl.org/news/dt\\_nr\\_2001/nrafghan0501.html](http://act-intl.org/news/dt_nr_2001/nrafghan0501.html)
- b) While the influx of refugees from Afghanistan into Pakistan has not risen dramatically since the first US air strikes were launched Oct. 7, Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan reports, hundreds of refugees are still crossing the border daily. For an overview of the Church World Service: Pakistan/Afghanistan Emergency: Revised CWS Emergency Appeal please visit <http://www.cwserp.org/reportview.php3?entry=242>.
- c) For a situation report by CWS issued on September 20 regarding the Pakistan/Afghanistan Emergency, please visit <http://www.cwserp.org/reportview.php3?entry=238>
- d) A report from the UN's Sub-Committee on Nutrition can be found at: <http://acc.unsystem.org/scn/Publications/RNIS/rnis34.pdf> The current issue (available in .pdf format) has information on Afghanistan.
- e) According to a recent report on Tajikistan issued by FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) after a joint FAO/WFP mission to the country, Tajikistan is facing serious food shortages for the second straight year, leaving one million vulnerable people in remote areas in need of food assistance. Tajikistan is a neighbour of Afghanistan.  
<http://www.fao.org/news/global/GW0107-e.htm>
- f) For the latest on work being done by ACT International's members and local partners working in the region, please see: "Dateline: People flee city of Jalalabad: Mansehra, October 16, 2001" by Rainer Lang. "People are angry and afraid of the bombing", says Ahmad Shah, who fled the city of Jalalabad in Afghanistan recently, ending up in a refugee camp in the town of Mansehra, in the north of Pakistan. ACT member Church World Service (CWS) provides health care for 60,000 people in nine refugee camps near the town. The camps were established more than 20 years ago after the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.  
[http://act-intl.org/news/dt\\_nr\\_2001/dtafghan0901.html](http://act-intl.org/news/dt_nr_2001/dtafghan0901.html)
- g) Action by Churches Together (ACT) International has revised its preliminary appeal for Afghanistan, to match a new target of over US\$ 17-million. The revision was done to streamline the network's emergency response in the area. Funding to date, either received or pledged, stands

at US\$ 3-million -- 18% of the target amount.

[http://act-intl.org/news/dt\\_nr\\_2001/nrafghan0401.html](http://act-intl.org/news/dt_nr_2001/nrafghan0401.html)

- h) The World Food Programme reports that it is nowhere close to having enough aid in place in Afghanistan to feed the 7 million people in dire need of help. According to the WFP deputy executive director, “Our present capacities indicate we can move 15,000 to 20,000 metric tonnes in the immediate future. But to meet the necessities it would mean distributing over 50,000 metric tonnes mostly inside Afghanistan.” See <http://www.reliefweb.int>
- i) UNHCR reports that as of 15 October, it had received only \$12 million in cash contributions of the estimated \$50 million needed to care for a possible influx of 400,000 new Afghan refugees. The World Food Programme reported that it has received less than 6 percent of its appeal for \$257 million, despite generous pledges. UNICEF has received only half of the \$36 million it is seeking to assist vulnerable children in and around Afghanistan. See: <http://www.un.org/News/dh/latest/page2.html>.

## 6. Summaries of intergovernmental responses

- a) In a closed session, the United Nations Security Council discussed the future government of Afghanistan and a possible UN role. Members of the Security Council exchanged views with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his top envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi. Mr. Brahimi was reappointed earlier this month to oversee the UN’s overall humanitarian and political work in Afghanistan. Among other tasks, Mr. Brahimi will manage peacemaking activities involving the warring parties and others concerned, with a view to facilitating a fully representative, multiethnic and broad-based government. See: <http://www.un.org/News/dh/latest/page2.html>.

## 7. Resources for worship

- a) A sermon preached by the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, at St. Paul’s Cathedral, in Burlington, Vermont is available at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/presiding-bishop/postings/092301ser.html>.
- b) On 11 October, His Holiness Pope John Paul II offered the following prayer:

O God, Almighty and Merciful,  
He who sows discord cannot understand you,  
He who loves violence cannot welcome you:  
Watch over us in our painful human condition  
Tried by the brutal acts of terrorism and death;  
Comfort your children and open our hearts to hope,

That our time may again know days of serenity and peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen. <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/us105.html>

- c) Philip Yancey, editor of *Christianity Today* shares his personal reflections on the events of the last month “where is the church when it hurts? If the church is doing its job – binding wounds, comforting the grieving, offering food to the hungry – I don’t think people will wonder so much where God is when it hurts. They’ll know where God is: in the presence of his people on earth.” <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/analysis8.html>
- d) Latin-rite patriarch Michel Sabbah gave a homily on 17 September in Jerusalem entitled “Hatred and Death...Cannot build the Kingdom of God.” Available at <http://www.paxchristi.net>.
- e) Brother Roger, who leads the community at Taizé, wrote this prayer: “*Holy Spirit, however powerless we may be, enable us to bring peace where there are oppositions and violence, and to make a reflection of God’s compassion visible through our lives. Yes, enable us to love and to express it by the lives we lead.*” Available, together with other reflections from: <http://www.taize.fr>.
- f) Gabriel Fackre has written a reflection entitled “On binding up wounds and resisting the powers” which explores the question ‘what do we do with the wrath of God?’ Available at: <http://www.ucc.org/911/100501a.htm>
- g) The Church of the Brethren has set up a new website on issues related to the 11 September attacks at <http://www.brethren.org/usresponse>. Brethren Press has a compilation of resources geared toward worship and nurture under the heading “The Way of Peace” at <http://www.brethren.org/genbd/BP>.
- h) A number of US churches and ecumenical organizations have expanded their websites to include resources for responding to the aftermath of the 11 September attacks. The American Association of Pastoral Counselors (<http://www.aapc.org>). An on-going on-line dialogue has been opened at the United Church of Christ website (<http://www.ucc.org>). The Presbyterian Church USA is engaging in theological reflection on radical evil, repentance and just war (<http://www.pcusa.org>). Other websites with resources for reflection and worship include: American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. (<http://www.abc-usa.org>), the United Methodist Church (<http://www.umc.org>) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (<http://www.disciples.org>)

## **8. Resources for reflection and study**

- a) The World Alliance for Christian Communication (WACC) produces a regular Action bulletin with recent articles on reactions from 11 September. WACC Media Development will soon dedicate more in depth attention to

issues around media coverage of the post-11 September events.

<http://www.wacc.org.uk>

- b) Peter Sederberg, Professor at the South Carolina Honors College and the author of “Terrorist Myths: Illusion, Rhetoric, and Reality” has written a reflection entitled “They Want War” which analyzes the use of the rhetoric of war. <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/analysis6.html>
- c) The Coalition for Global Solidarity and Social Development has a website with a number of resources available. Recent postings include articles by Kai Frithjof Brand-Jacobsen, Johan Galtung and Dietrich Fischer, and Michel Chossudovsky as well as an interview with Noam Chomsky by Radio B92 in Belgrade. <http://www.globalsolidarity.org>
- d) Viva Rio in Brazil provides information on campaigning for peace in light of the 11 September events. The website has information in both Portuguese and English. See: <http://www.bastaderror.com.br>.
- e) In Terrorism and the Clash of Civilizations, Jyoti Sahi of the Art Ashram India, writes “The events of the last week have raised many questions which relate to the way in which we understand history, and the impact on its course of that psychic energy which we call Terror. Recently many leaders in the West, both in the United States of America, and also in Europe, have been talking in terms of a clash between cultures. What exactly do they mean by this idea of war that characterizes the differences between civilizations? The concept of Civilization has developed out of the Greek and Roman understanding of the City State, and the values which should uphold civil society. These values are essentially human, and so one would suppose that Civilizations cannot be opposed to each other : they can only enrich each other, because the human values which they represent are based on harmony and peace. If civilizations are the natural expression of civil society, which is the condition under which human beings can inter act and grow without fear of injustice, then how do we understand the fact that there are different forms of civilization? Here we have to again refer back to the way in which civil society was understood by the great thinkers of the past. Here the binding factor is supposed to be "Religion" which itself is a term that indicates that which binds, or orders, by establishing mutual relationships of trust and cooperation.” For the full text of the article, see: <http://www.asianchristianart.org/news/article6.htm>.
- f) To read news accounts from South Asia, , see <http://www.dawn.com> with news from Pakistan and <http://www.hindu.com> from India.
- g) The Barnabas Fund e-mail news service provides short urgent news briefs and prayer requests for suffering Christians around the world. Recently they reported on increased persecution of Christians in light of the events of 11 September. Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director of the Barnabas Fund commented, “the situation is extremely serious and demands urgent attention. Never in living memory has the situation for

Christian minorities in the Islamic world been so precarious.” To receive updates, contact: [info@barnabasfund.org](mailto:info@barnabasfund.org).

- h) To see articles about the impact of the attacks on Latin America or to subscribe to Informe Latinoamericano, see: <http://www.latinnews.com/newsroom.htm>.
- i) Peaceworkers provides a free e-mail service which provides nonviolent perspectives on issues of the day. Their most recent mailing includes the open letter by 8 Nobel Peace Prize laureates as well as an article entitled “Some Clarifications on the Use of Violence and ‘Jihad’ in Islamic Teaching.” See their website at: <http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org>
- j) Nick Cohen’s article “Bread not bombs” is very critical on how the current war in Afghanistan is being conducted. “The bombing of Afghanistan must stop (...) this war is a moral and political disaster. Its worthwhile ends are unattainable. Its means are self-defeating. The choice before America and her supporters in Britain is to back off or inflict a famine on Afghanistan which will kill tens, maybe hundreds of thousands and take the case for a just war with them.” Full text available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Print/0,3858,4276875,00.html>.
- k) The International Crisis Group has published a briefing paper entitled Indonesia: Violence and Radical Muslims which provides a detailed assessment of recent violence by radical Muslim groups in Indonesia and analyses the potential for radicalism to spread. “The U.S.-led air strikes against military targets in Afghanistan – accompanied by inevitable civilian casualties – have outraged public opinion in largely Muslim Indonesia and presented President Megawati Soekarnoputri’s government with a huge dilemma. Megawati recently completed a successful visit to the U.S. and obtained President George W. Bush’s support for increased economic assistance as well as a relaxation of restrictions on military co-operation. Although the Indonesian government condemned the 11 September attacks and ‘pledged to cooperate with the international community in combating terrorism’, it has refrained from endorsing the current U.S.-led military campaign. On the one hand, the government does not want to prejudice its economic relationship with the U.S. but, on the other, it cannot afford, in the new democratic era, to ignore the sentiments of a large part of its population. To download the PDF report, see: <http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/asia/indonesia/reports/A400455-10102110.pdf>
- l) Dick Bell and Michael Renner have written “A New Marshall Plan? Advancing Human Security and Controlling Terrorism” which argues that rich countries must approach the inequities of the world with the same determination that the United States brought to bear in Europe under the Marshall Plan. “For the sake of comparison, let’s assume that the United States will spend an additional \$100 billion on military actions in the next 12 months. What could we buy if we matched this \$100 billion military expenditure dollar-for-dollar on programs to alleviate human suffering. A

1998 report by the United Nations Development Programme estimated the annual cost to achieve universal access to a number of basic social services in all developing countries: \$9 billion would provide water and sanitation for all; \$12 billion would cover reproductive health for all women; \$13 billion would give every person on Earth basic health and nutrition; and \$6 billion would provide basic education for all. Available at: <http://www.worldwatch.org/alerts/011009.html>.

## 9. Calls for Action

- a) Pax Christi USA calls upon its members and all who yearn for healing and peace, to join them each Friday in fasting from violence and for peace in the USA and in the world. See <http://www.paxchristi.net>.
- b) There are many ways to support the Church World Service Emergency Response Program in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Go to <http://www.cwserp.org/help/> to see what you can do.
- c) The Christian Vocational Training Centre in Peshawar, Pakistan asks for prayers in the aftermath of the attacks on Afghanistan. Website: <http://www.brain.net.pk/~cvtc>.
- d) Various groups are supporting a “National Scarves for Solidarity Day” in which women, regardless of their faith, wear scarves or hats covering their hair. Like friends who shave their heads in solidarity with cancer patients, women everywhere will wear the hijab (scarf) in solidarity with Muslim women facing discrimination and xenophobia. The hijab is worn outwardly to show the inner hijab of compassion, honesty and love, which is carried in the hearts and souls of Islamic men and women alike. For more information, see <http://www.womensenews.com/article.cfm/dyn/aid/660> and a link explaining the significance of the hijab is: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/humanrelations/womeninislam/whatishajib.html>

This Bulletin is a joint initiative of ACT International, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, and the World Council of Churches.

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