



Dear Movement Family,

Today we joined faith leaders, including denominational and national leadership, with moral advocates across the country in requesting that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights hold our government accountable for violating the UN Charter and escalating us toward war with Iran. This afternoon we formally requested a meeting with High Commissioner Bachelet. As the request began:

*"We write gravely disturbed, indeed outraged, by the death that is occurring because of our President's rogue actions in the Middle East. His willingness to bypass congressional approval, violate international law, pardon convicted war criminals, implement harsher sanctions and abandon existing peace deals, sets a dangerous precedent that can have continued lethal and destabilizing results.*

*The US President's order to carry out a lethal drone strike violated the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force. The assassination of General Qassim Suleimani represented an act of war against a country with whom the United States was not at war. Trump's claim of imminent danger from Suleimani is unfounded and must be investigated.*

*The threat to add new sanctions to Iran, and to involve the NATO military alliance, all indicate that the threat of war remains very real. Furthermore, we know that the majority of impact from these sanctions will be on the poor."*

We know that in the words of Rev. Dr. King "war is the enemy of the poor." We must say no to war and militarism.

[Join us in our request. Sign here.](#) Share it widely as we humbly and whole-heartedly work to keep our country from war and our world from the dangerous precedence of immoral and unaccountable leadership. Our people across the world are hurting, and it's gone on far too long.

We know that together we can and must revive the heart and soul of this nation.

[Join our signatures here.](#)

Forward together,

Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II, President of Repairers of the Breach

Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis, Director of the Kairos Center

*Co-Chairs of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival*

To: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
From: [Your Name]

High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
c/o Craig Mokhiber, Director, OHCHR New York

Dear Commissioner Bachelet,

We write gravely disturbed, indeed outraged, by the death that is occurring because of our President's rogue actions in the Middle East. His willingness to bypass congressional approval, violate international law, pardon convicted war criminals, implement harsher sanctions and abandon existing peace deals, sets a dangerous precedent that can have continued lethal and destabilizing results.

The U.S. President's order to carry out a lethal drone strike violated the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force. The assassination of General Qassim Suleimani represented an act of war against a country with whom the United States was not at war. Trump's claim of imminent danger from Suleimani is unfounded and must be investigated.

The threat to add new sanctions to Iran, and to involve the NATO military alliance, all indicate that the threat of war remains very real. Furthermore, we know that the majority of impact from these sanctions will be on the poor.

We will not be silent as our president publicly announces willingness to commit a minimum of 52 violations of international law and war crimes — attacking civilian and cultural centers, including churches, museums, mosques and libraries in Iran. Further, Trump has said he would do it once again without authorization from Congress. Indeed, these are disturbing, world-altering actions which, if allowed, will bring war that could escalate to world-wide proportions.

As U.S. moral advocates and faith leaders who understand our collective accountability to human rights for all around the world, we are requesting your immediate intervention in the present moral crisis. The United States, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, threatens international peace and security. The United Nations, beginning with its human rights system, must respond to its violations of human rights, its violations of international law and the UN Charter, and its violations of the laws of war.

The lives of people in the Middle East and around the globe hang in the balance. The lives of those we represent — among the 140 million poor and low wealth in the United States, 43% of the U.S. population — also hang in the balance as the world teeters on the precipice of a devastating war.

Dr. Martin Luther King taught us that “war is the enemy of the poor.” War is a crime against the poor civilians of Iran, Iraq, and the whole Middle East region, who pay for U.S. wars with the destruction of their lives, their health, their homes and their country’s environment. It’s a crime against the poor of the U.S. as well who pay with their tax dollars going to the Pentagon instead of to jobs, health care and a green new deal. And who pay with their lives and health through disproportionate service in the military.

As a nation, we cannot seek goodness and peace while at the same time pursuing the evils of war. We cannot uproot systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, and the false moral narrative while embracing militarism and the war economy.

We believe that the international community, through the United Nations, alongside mobilized social movements of poor and marginalized and committed people, must respond to these violations of human rights, the violations of international law, the threats of more war crimes to come.

It is with profound humility and careful moral discernment that we are urging you to help hold our government accountable for making war on the Middle East and on its own people.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II  
President, Repairers of the Breach  
Co-Chair Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis  
Executive Director, Kairos Center  
Co-Chair Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

[Following in alphabetical order]

Joyce Ajlouny  
General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee

Sr. Dottie Almoney  
ELCA Deaconess Community

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon  
Associate General Minister  
Justice & Local Church Ministries  
The United Church of Christ

Phyllis Bennis  
Institute for Policy Studies

Bishop Yvette Flunder  
The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries

Imam Khalid Griggs  
Vice President  
Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)

Roshi Joan Jiko Halifax  
Abbot, Upaya Zen Center

Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins  
Director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness

Rev. Teresa Hord Owens  
General Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Reverend Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson  
Executive Director  
Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington

Valarie Kaur  
Sikh activist  
Founder of the Revolutionary Love Project

The Rev. Cindy Kohlmann  
Co-Moderator, 223rd General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Rev. Dr. John Mendez  
Pastor Emeritus of Emmanuel Baptist Church  
Progressive National Baptist Convention

Rev. Mary Katherine Morn  
President/CEO Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson  
Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Sister Noreen Stevens  
ELCA Deaconess Community

Rev. Dr. Robin Tanner  
National Director for Religious Affairs, Repairers of the Breach  
Minister, Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, New Jersey

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, PhD  
The Shalom Center

Rabbi Elyse Wechterman  
Executive Director  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

Min. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove  
School for Conversion