



## Overlegorgaan Joden, Christenen en Moslims (OJCM)

May 12, 2021

Appeal to all religious leaders,

In and around **Jerusalem**, one of the oldest and dearest cities in the world, a battle is once again raging with weapons that do not belong there and that are causing death and destruction.

Earlier this year, representatives from Christianity, Judaism and Islam shared within the Consultative Body of Jews, Christians and Muslims (OJCM) their perspectives on Jerusalem. During these intensive discussions, it became clear that, from a religious perspective, we all see Jerusalem as the city of peace for all.

We hear with horror how certain groups praise the use of violence in Jerusalem. As OJCM, we reject these expressions and the use of such violence in the strongest terms and ask you to do the same.

We are under no illusion that we in the Netherlands can imagine the fear and violence that the residents of Jerusalem, Israel and Gaza are exposed to. We emphatically ask all leaders of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities to call for peace and a sense of security for all. Religious leaders have opportunities to seek each other out and build relationships. Through relationships where people respect each other with their hearts, the difference from those who call for the use of violence becomes clear. Acting together is important, especially now.

**Jerusalem**, the city considered holy by our three religions, should be a symbol of peace. Therefore, the ancient city should be open to all, without separating the shrines. We ask the leaders of all three religions to call now for the permanent end of violence. Give parties the space to negotiate in good faith in a search for a balanced, just and peace-based solution for the city that all of us consider a sacred place.

On behalf of OJCM,  
*Simon Cohen, President*  
*Driss El Boujoufi, vice president*  
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