

A CALL TO WITNESS AND ACTION

Once again, the people of faith across the nation are preparing to celebrate Holy Week and Passover. We, as Jews and Christians, will once more celebrate the triumph of life over death. We are called not only to celebrate that victory, but to witness its power over our own lives. Our times are such that we are called to witness to the power of life over death in a nation where death has the priority over life. Can we, in good conscience, celebrate the two feasts of the Jewish and Christian faiths without speaking to the moral question of the war which has continued Holy Week after Holy Week, Passover after Passover? Can we continue to celebrate life without witnessing against the war waged in our names?

As death rains down on the people of Indochina from U.S. bombers, we are asked to trust the peaceful intentions of the present administration. As American corpses are replaced by Vietnamese corpses, we are asked to stand behind the creator of "vietnamization", and silence our dissent in the name of peace. Our leaders cry, "Peace, peace", but there is no peace. A public relations network, skillfully employed, has attempted to shield the consciences of the American people from the real horror of our continuing war which appears truly to be against the peoples of all of Indochina. We are told that by increasing our bombing and by creating a mercenary army out of the people of Vietnam, we can wind down the war. And yet, it appears that only the dissent against the war has been wound down. Self-righteous platitudes of peace cover the real, massive, human, injustice of our present policy in Indochina.

It is within this atmosphere that we are called upon to witness. We, the members of the National Union of Theological Students and Seminarians, call upon our brothers and sisters of all religious communities to join us in an active witness against the air war which characterizes our government's policy in Indochina and in support of those among us who have "chosen to be branded peace criminals in a time of criminal war". We ask you to join us on March 29th, in the midst of Holy Week and Passover, as we attempt to confront the war makers with a solid wall of conscience. This event of witness will consist of demonstrative acts in ten cities across the nation. (Boston, Atlanta, Harrisburg, Dallas, Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Los Angeles, and San Francisco) Each local area will decide for itself the type of witness to be implemented. We will identify ourselves as people of faith by sharing in a common ecumenical liturgy while we are participating in these activities. A list of contact people appears below.

We ask that you join us in our effort to make it clear to our fellow citizens that the war is not over, that the killing has not ceased, that the maiming of the innocent does continue, that the prophetic voice of the religious communities of this nation will not be silenced. It is only by such a testimony that we truly are able to celebrate the victory of life over death. Join us across the nation as we enter the struggle once more to make our simple witness to the truth of our lives and of our God.

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Brothers and sisters please write or call the action coordinator
in your area for further information.

for peace,

Thomas Korkames

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