Petition Pertaining to the Sanctions Against Iraq

As Catholics, we live anew and are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:16 - 21). The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was on behalf of all peoples. Although we Catholics live in sovereign nations throughout the world, we belong to another Kingdom. Hence, when there is a conflict of principle and value between that of the Gospel and that of a nation, we must seriously consider if the nation's position is moral and just.

The case in point of which we observe an inconsistency is the current embargo of all supplies and exchanges to Iraq. This embargo was designed by the United States in the wake of the Gulf War of 1991 and has been endorsed by the United Nations. Its intention, as we understand it, is to stem any build up by the Iraqi military, especially biological weapons. But the range of products under the embargo includes medical supplies, school supplies and humanitarian aid. After eight years of the embargo food and potable water are scarce. There are credible reports of the extent to which disease, malnutrition and death are devastating the people. If the embargo was ever meant to inflict such damage on the civilian population, then clearly this is evil.

As Catholics we appeal to the principles and values of the Gospel to correct this extreme application of an embargo. We believe the United Nations and the United States should permit humanitarian aid and medical assistance to move in and out of Iraq for the sake of the people. We hold that this aid should be administered by credible agencies, such as Catholic Relief Service, Catholic Middle East Welfare Association, any of the Catholic religious communities (e.g., Dominicans) in Iraq, or the Red Cross for the sake of accountability. We do not trust any of the governments involved because of the play of politics. This resolution should be applied immediately.

We the undersigned agree with this request and gospel demand:

Name	**Address**