

*At 6:30 pm on October 28, the Holy See Press Office released the following statement regarding the recent terrorist attack in Israel, anticipated reprisals from the Israelis against Palestinian targets, and comments from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad regarding the destruction of the State of Israel. This text is NCR's translation from the Italian original.*

Declaration of J. Navarro-Valls, Director of the Press Office:

The grave facts of recent days in the Holy Land greatly worry the Holy See, which, uniting itself with the entire international community, expresses its own firm condemnation for the acts of violence – the terrorist attack of Hadera and successive reprisals from wherever they come – as well as for certain declarations, particularly grave and unacceptable, in which the State of Israel's right to exist is denied.

The Holy See reaffirms in this occasion the right of both the Israelis and the Palestinians to live in peace and security, each in its own sovereign state.

At the same time, the Holy See feels the duty to renew its appeal to those responsible for all the peoples in the Middle East to listen to the yearning for peace and justice that arises from those populations, to avoid carrying out choices of division and of death, and to commit themselves with courage and determination to create the minimum conditions necessary for returning to dialogue, the only way to assure a future of peace and prosperity to the sons and daughters of that land.

Day: October 28, 2005

Time: 6:30 pm