

The Holy Father is appealing for peace in Gaza. In remarks following his general audience on November 21, 2012, as reported in [Vatican Information Service](#) , Pope Benedict XVI said: "Along with my prayers for the victims and for those who suffer, it is my duty to emphasize once again that hatred and violence are not the solutions to these problems. Furthermore, I endorse the initiatives and efforts of those who are working to promote a ceasefire and negotiations. I also encourage the authorities of both parties to make courageous decisions in favour of peace, and to bring an end to a dispute which has negative repercussions throughout the whole of the Middle East, a region riven by excessive conflict and in need of peace and reconciliation."