

**A Great Witness to Interfaith Dialogue – April 4, 2005**  
**Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi, Islamic House of Wisdom**

Please accept my deepest condolences on behalf of Islamic House of Wisdom on this sad occasion. The departure of the Holy Pope John Paul II was a great loss for our faith communities. We lost a leader who dedicated his life for establishment of peace and justice, a man who opposed war and violence, a man who cared for the weak and vulnerable. The late Pope did a great service to interfaith dialogue by being an example of sincerity, fairness, openness with courage and commitment. The Pope's interest in Muslim-Christian cooperation, his visits to mosques and meeting with Muslim leaders opened a new era in understanding of our similarities. With God's help we will continue the Pope's legacy in promotion of peace and justice through talking and walking together. May God bless his soul and keep him in the company of the righteous. Salaam- Peace!