

Muslims Mourn Loss of the Holy Father – April 4, 2005
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With profound sadness, I offer my condolences on the passing of your good friend and spiritual mentor, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. Today I returned from a visit to the Middle East, where I witnessed throngs of mourners of all faiths; a testament to the Holy Father's greatness. No papacy has done more to unite people of all faiths against genocide, oppression, terror, and human rights abuse. As a divine catalyst of landmark social reforms that continue to impact people around the world, he will be sorely missed. In his inimitable way, His Holiness embraced the downtrodden everywhere, including Palestinians in the Holy Land, and those who survived Communist rule and the Jewish holocaust. He shall remain a father figure to millions. We pray Pope John Paul's legacy bears more fruit and that the dynamic changes he introduced to the Church and the world will continue, particularly his outreach to Muslims. He leaves us with so much hope.