

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM IN IRAN AND THE FUTURE OF MOSLEM-JEWISH DIALOGUE

1980

Religious extremism imparts to social conflicts an overlay of heightened emotionalism which precludes the rational resolution of differences. We condemn the illegal and immoral seizure of American hostages in Iran and urge all peoples and nations to find adequate channels to resolve grievances. We are pained by the extended captivity endured by our fellow Americans in our Embassy in Iran and look forward to a peaceful resolution to this matter.

We recognize the followers of the Moslem faith as fellow heirs to the spiritual heritage of Abraham. We should not err in perceiving the acts of extremism in Iran as representative of the rich and moral religious tradition embodied in Islam.

The recent efforts of some Jewish groups to engage Moslems in religious dialogue in the United States and abroad are commendable and should be expanded.