

# **Church of the Brethren**

**The Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Passed the following words in the larger statement "Nonviolence and Humanitarian Intervention" (1996).**

**The full text can be found at:**

**[http://www.brethren.org/ac/ac\\_statements/nonviol.htm](http://www.brethren.org/ac/ac_statements/nonviol.htm)**

...The Church of the Brethren continues its longstanding support for United Nations efforts to build world peace. We support a more active United Nations seeking nonviolently to dampen civil wars and to come to the aid of victims of genocide, military aggression, and gross violations of human rights. Because the UN is the most representative global political institution, it can help move conflicts from the battlefield to the negotiating table and the international courtroom. In claiming authority over decision making for military intervention, it can reduce the likelihood that one country can claim a unilateral right to make war. We believe the UN should have the authority to prevent war.

...The Church of the Brethren should commit resources for witness, education, and persuasion of officials in the US government and at the United Nations, and through the Brethren presence in Washington DC, educate our own members and speak truth to the principalities and powers. The church should attempt to exert influence in the larger world community to:

...

5. support the creation of a permanent international criminal court to provide opportunity, whenever possible, for impartial judicial proceedings for those who are victims of, or are accused of, war crimes, terrorism, and other violations of human rights laws