

International Interreligious Affairs, highlights, April 2010

David Rosen

April 6/7, Madrid.

Under the auspices of the Spanish and Norwegian governments and the Toledo Center, a gathering of Palestinians and Israelis of which I was a part, came together in Madrid for a two day brainstorming on the subject of the future of Jerusalem with particular emphasis on the subject of interreligious cooperation.

The assumption on which the discussion was based was that regardless of whatever future political arrangements take place concerning Jerusalem, the different communities are all in need of mechanisms to guarantee their needs regarding their respective holy sites; and the more this can be facilitated through communication and cooperation between the institutional leadership of the different religious communities, the better.

Especially pertinent to this discussion therefore is the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land (on which I serve as part of the delegation of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel) – see www.crihl.org

April 14, Jerusalem

Among various meetings in Jerusalem during this month were two notable Episcopal delegations:-

1. Bishop John Chapman, the Anglican bishop of Ottawa and his delegation visited with me at bet Moses.
2. The whole episcopate of the Swedish Lutheran Church visited Israel and the PA and I met with them both at the Chief Rabbinate and at the Notre Dame cultural center.

April 23-30, London and Washington DC

I traveled to Washington DC for the Annual Meeting via London for my CBE investiture at Buckingham Palace. While in London I also met with both Jewish and Christian interfaith leaders.

I arrived in Washington in advance of the AM to service the Regional Office that held a full morning program held on the document/recommendations of the Presbyterian Church of USA's Commission on the Middle East. I gave an opening address to the gathering made up of PCUSA ministers and rabbis from different denominations in the city and region.