

Monthly Highlights

February 2012

International Interreligious Affairs

February 2

During the Archbishop of Canterbury's latest pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he devoted February 2nd to

Rabbi David Rosen, the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the Rishon Letziyon Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Chief Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen of Haifa, and Bishop Suheil Dawani of Jerusalem



meeting with religious leaders

including the Chief Rabbis of

Israel, as well as with the Council of the Religious Institutions of the Holy Land (made up of the



Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan, the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Sir Vincent Fean the British Consul General, Rabbi David Rosen and Anglican Bishop Suheil Dawani, at the meeting of the Council of the Religious Institutions of the Holy Land

official

Muslim leadership of the PA, the Chief

Rabbinate of Israel and the Patriarchs and Bishops of the Holy Land)



The Archbishop of Canterbury at lunch with the Council of Religious Leaders in Israel

and the Israel Council of Religious Leaders (embracing all the officially recognized religions and denominations in the State.)

Communiqué of the fifth meeting of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the Archbishop of Canterbury:

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/2384/archbishops-meetings-with-religious-leaders-in-jerusalem#Communique>

February 3

The next day I hosted the Secretary General of the World Council of Churches Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit and his colleagues. I had recently been together with both Rev. Fykse Tveit and the Archbishop of Canterbury when we shared the podium with Pope Benedict XVI at the interfaith gathering convened by the latter in Assisi and Rome.



Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit (center) and the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams (far right) listen to Rabbi David Rosen at the Papal interfaith gathering in Assisi.

February 7, United Nations, New York

An invitation was extended to me by the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Ambassador of Qatar, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, to be the Jewish speaker at the event held in the General Assembly auditorium celebrating World Interfaith Harmony. Due to commitments in Rome immediately thereafter, I arrived in New York for less than twenty four hours to address this historic gathering and related side-meetings.



Rabbi Rosen speaks at the UN General Assembly for World Interfaith Harmony Week



Rabbi David Rosen sits between Imam Faisal Abdel Rauf of the USA and Dr. Din Syamsuddin (the head of the Muhammadiyah leading Muslim organization)of Indonesia, in the speakers gallery before their presentations

The event may be viewed at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Stx5Oe9wAU&feature=youtube_gdata

See AJC release:

<http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=ijITI2PHKoG&b=6396135&ct=11622629¬oc=1>

February 8-9, Rome

At the invitation of Cardinal Camillo Ruini and the Conference of Italian Bishops, I addressed their conference in Rome on the subject of Interfaith Relations in Jerusalem.

<http://www2.progettoculturale.it/progettoculturale/s2magazine/index1.jsp?idPagina=30784>

During this brief visit, I had meetings with Vatican leadership including with the Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi President of the Pontifical Council for Culture who had invited me to meet with him and his staff to discuss possible avenues of cooperation. As usual in my Vatican meetings, I was accompanied by Lisa Palmieri Billig and Carmine Monaco of our Rome office.



Rabbi David Rosen accompanied by Lisa Billig and Carmine Monaco are joined by Father Norbert Hofmann of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jewry, at the meeting with Cardinal Ravasi and his staff of the Pontifical Council for Culture