



Monthly Highlights

June/July 2015

International Interreligious Affairs

USA, June 1-10

In advance of the AJC Access Summit and Global Forum, I was in Chicago and Detroit and thereafter in Boston. In addition to public addresses on the significance of the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, I addressed interfaith meetings and in Boston specifically with Christian clergy. Private meetings were held with Archbishop Blaise Cupich of Chicago and Archbishop Allan Vigneron of Detroit.

I shared the opening plenary of the ACCESS summit together with Irshad Manji; moderated the interfaith panel at the Global Forum (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60O1gYiGW28>) and addressed a session on Nostra Aetate.

Paris, June 16

A conference on “coexistence between Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Expression” in which I participated was held by KAICIID in the wake of the Charlie Hebdo killing and other acts of terrorism in France.

(<http://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/news/european-religious-leaders-journalists-meet-paris-media-forum-freedom-religion-and>)

Rome, June 28-30

The annual meeting of the International Council of Christians and Jews (of which I am honorary President) was held this year in Rome in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate. I was honored to give a keynote address together with professor Andrea Riccardi of the Community of Sant Egidio on the subject of “what should the role of religions be in contexts of conflict”.

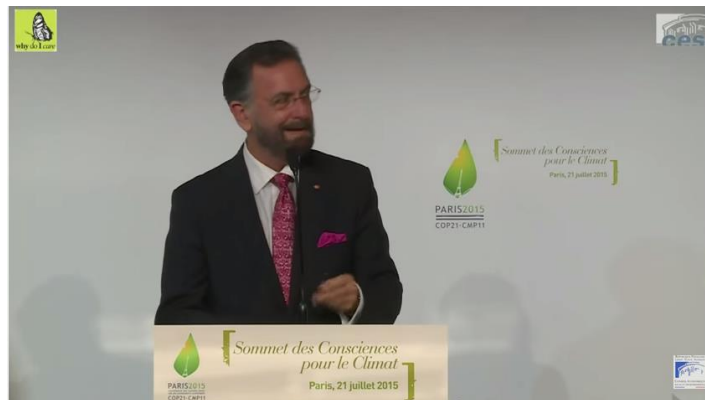
An audience with Pope Francis was held on the 30th (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZtFZW513Zk>)



While in Rome in addition to the staff at the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jewry, I had meetings with Archbishop Gallagher, the Vatican’s minister of foreign affairs; Cardinal Stella of the Congregation for the Clergy; and Cardinal Kasper, past president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jewry.

Paris, July 21

A summit on Religions and the Environment was held in Paris (in preparation for the COP21 in that city in November) at the Center of the Social and Economic Council on July 21st under the auspices of the office of the President of France. The summit was preceded by an opening dinner at the Elysee hosted by President Hollande. I was the Jewish speaker at the opening plenary with Patriarch Bartholomew and Cardinal Turkson. The first part of the program was also addressed by President Hollande, Kofi Annan and President O’Higgins of Ireland. (see <https://www.whydoicare.org/en/summit-of-the-consciences-for-the-climate> ; <http://www.uspa24.com/bericht-4589/the-french-president-opens-up-summit-of-consciousness-at-economicandsocial-council.html> ; a video of highlights may be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKqJAjC1dCI> – my presentation is at 2:44 hrs.)



Barcelona , July 23

I went on from Paris to Barcelona to speak at the "High Level Meeting on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue" convened by the Spanish Government, the Union for the Mediterranean, the UN Alliance of Civilizations, KAICIID, and the Anna Lindh Foundation, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, to advance dialogue in the Mediterranean promoting peace and combatting extremism. (<http://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/news/summary-outcomes-high-level-meeting-intercultural-and-interreligious-dialogue>)

