

International Interreligious Affairs, March 2011, highlights

ILC in Paris

The month began with the conclusion of the meeting in Paris of the ILC, the International Jewish-Catholic Liaison Committee (which is the biennial gathering of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with Jewry and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations) which celebrated the fortieth anniversary of this bilateral relationship and for which I had been invited to present a retrospective on the history and work of the ILC. See:-

<http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=ijITI2PHKoG&b=6396135&ct=9149259¬oc=1> ;

<http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishNews/Article.aspx?id=210756> ;

http://www.rabbidavidrosen.net/Articles/Christian-Jewish%20Relations/The_ILC_-_a_Forty_Year_Retrospective_February_2011.pdf .

Speaking in Oslo

Pursuant to the ILC, I was in Oslo as the guest of the Oslo cultural center, the House of Literature, appearing with Imam Yahya Hendi, the Palestinian born Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, We addressed full houses on the subjects "Religious attachments and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" and the main event on "Can Religion provide a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict", moderated by the emeritus bishop of Oslo, Bishop Gunnar Stalsett.

In addition I addressed the Jewish community of Oslo at the JCC and met with the city's leading clergy at a lunch hosted by the Jewish community's leadership.



Left to Right:
Rabbi David Rosen; Imam Yahya
Hendi of Georgetown University;
Bishop Gunnar Stalsett, Bishop
emeritus of Oslo; and US
Ambassador to Norway, Barry White

Together with Imam Yahya Hendi, Bishop Gunnar Stalsett and US Ambassador Barry White, at the House of Literature event

WCRP EC

The World Conference of Religions for Peace (www.wcrp.org) of which I am a co-President, held its Executive Committee meeting in the latter part of the month. Inter alia, the meeting reviewed the work and budget of WCRP and its future plans; considered different proposals regarding the location of the next World Assembly of Religions for Peace; held in depth discussion on the role of religion in the recent transforming events in the Middle East, in which leaders from Tunisia, Iraq and Egypt as well as Pakistan and Indonesia participated.

In addition, special attention was given to the role of religious organizations in relief efforts in Japan.

Vatican-Chief Rabbinate dialogue

From March 29-31, the tenth meeting of the bilateral commission of the Holy See and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel was held in Jerusalem (in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung) on the theme of the Role of Faith and Religious Leadership in Secular Society. See:-

<http://www.jpost.com/LandedPages/PrintArticle.aspx?id=214709>

<http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=474641>

http://www.catholic.co.il/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=987%3Achief-rabbinate--holy-see-commission-meets-in-jerusalem&catid=2%3Alatest&Itemid=9&lang=fr



Back Row left to right: Dr Lars Haensel (KAS), Father Norbert Hofmann, Mr Oded Wiener, Patriarch Fouad Twal, Rabbi David Rosen, Mons. Pier Francesco Fumagalli, Archbishop Bruno Forte, Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo
Front Row left to right: Cardinal Peter Kodwo Turkson, Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Cardinal Jorge Maria Mejia, Rabbi David Brodman
(not in the picture: Rabbi Rasson Aroussi and Father Pier Battista Pizzaballa)