



Monthly Highlights

October - December 2014

International Interreligious Affairs

London, October 27-29

The International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) that officially represents the Jewish world in its relations with other world faiths and of which I am a past chairman, held a second colloquium in London with the World Council of Churches Department for Interfaith Relations. The consultation focused on Jewish and Christian attachments to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Much time was also devoted to the current challenges, discrimination and violence confronting both Jewish and Christian communities. Participants came from four continents.



Rabbi David Rosen with Canon Hosam Naoum the Dean of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, and Dr. Anette Adelman the Secretary General of the International Council of Christians and Jews at the IJCIC/WCC consultation.

While in London, in addition to meetings with directors of major national interfaith organizations, I also met with Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth Ephraim Mirvis (my successor as chief rabbi in Ireland) and Sir Sigmund Sternberg of the Three Faiths Forum.

Vienna, November 18-21

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Director of KAICIID (the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue) took place at the center in Vienna , pursuant to a momentous conference on Combating the Violent Abuse of Religion, specifically in Iraq and Syria in relation to ISIS. The conference focused on the protection and promotion of the wellbeing of religious minorities. It was attended by major Sunni and Shia leaders from the region, leaders from all streams of Christianity, and from Kurdish and Yazidi communities. This unprecedented solidarity leadership gathering of such diversity from the region issued a declaration condemning the violent abuse of religious and affirming the principal of citizenship regardless of particular religious affiliation.

Rabbi David Rosen, the only Jewish representative at the conference at lunch with Muslim and Christian leaders



The event enjoyed substantial media coverage, e.g.

<http://www.onislam.net/english/news/global/479935-abrahamic-faiths-unite-against-isil.html>

which also appeared in The Forward (<http://forward.com/articles/209501/jews-join-rare-interfaith-unity-gathering-to-conde/>)

Salerno, November 24-26

I participated in the first ever conference on Catholic-Jewish relations hosted by the Italian Bishops Conference together with the Rabbinic authority of North and Central Italy, which took place in Salerno, Nov.24-26 and was addressed by an array of leading Italian Catholic hierarchy and scholars as well as rabbis from Italy, Israel and the US.



On the dais at the opening session: Bishop Nunzio Galantino Secretary General of the Italian Bishops Conference ; Bishop Mansueto Bianchi, President of its Commission for Ecumenism and Dialogue; Rev. Cristiano Bettega, Secretary of the Commission; Vittorio Bendaud of the North and Central Italian Jewish Ecclesiastical Court; Rabbi David Rosen

See

<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/news/detail/articolo/rabbi-cocopalmerio-cei-unedi-37881/>

<http://www.mosaico-cem.it/articoli/ebrei-e-cristiani-uniti-in-una-nuova-alleanza-per-combattere-persecuzioni-e-violenze>

Vatican City, December 2

On the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, Pope Francis hosted The Global Freedom Network to eradicate human slavery and trafficking that brought together leaders and representative of the five major world religions to declare modern slavery as a crime against humanity and to work for its eradication.

In a ceremonial act at the Vatican in Cassina Pio IV, a Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders against Modern Slavery was signed by:

- Catholic:** Pope Francis
- Anglican:** Most Revd and Right Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
- Buddhist:** Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh (Thay) (represented by Venerable Bhikkhuni Thich Nu Chan Khong)
- Buddhist:** The Most Ven. Datuk K Sri Dhammaratana, Chief High Priest of Malaysia
- Hindu:** Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma)
- Jewish:** Rabbi David Rosen, KSG, CBE, International Director of Interreligious Affairs, AJC

- Jewish:** Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka
- Muslim:** Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar (represented by Dr. Abbas Abdalla Abbas Soliman, Undersecretary of State of Al Azhar Alsharif)
- Muslim:** Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi al-Modarresi
- Muslim:** Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Basheer Hussain al Najafi (represented by Sheikh Naziyah Razzaq Jaafar, Special advisor of Grand Ayatollah)
- Muslim:** Dr. Omar Abboud
- Orthodox:** His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (represented by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France)



Signatories to the Declaration at the Vatican

Video: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/pope-francis-pledges-to-fight-slavery/vp-BBgenaX> ;

Press:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/world/2014/12/02/vatican-slavery/19772883/>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/02/pope-francis-and-other-re_n_6256640.html

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/02/religious-leaders-pope-vatican-slavery-declaration>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/pope-francis-joins-other-faith-leaders-to-demand-an-end-to-human-trafficking/2014/12/02/397fe3aa-7a3f-11e4-8241-8cc0a3670239_story.html

Jerusalem



AJC hosted the Executive Committee of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land (CRIHL) at Beit Moses in Jerusalem. Seated left to right: Bishop Munib Younan, Lutheran Bishop of Jerusalem and President of the World Lutheran Federation; Rabbi David Rosen; Haj Salah Zuheikah of the Palestinian Ministry of Wakf; Rev. Canon Trond Bakkevig, convener of the Council; Mr. Oded Wiener, Chief Rabbinate of Israel Coordinator on Interreligious Relations

Media:

The Arabic media outlet Al Hurra broadcast a live interview with me on the significance and importance of interfaith relations. Youtube link, <http://youtu.be/5pVu6fmmziQ>