



Monthly Highlights

September 2016

International Interreligious Affairs

September 11-15

The first ever dialogue between Jewish Israeli and Asian Religions leaders entitled "Ancient Traditions Contemporary Realities - A Meeting of Israel - Asian Faith Leaders" was co-hosted by AJC and the Israeli MFA , together with the World Council of Religious Leaders (on whose executive I serve.) It brought some 25 influential Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Shinto, Jain, Taoist and Zoroastrian leaders to Israel from China, India, Japan, Myanmar, South Korea and Taiwan to engage with leading Israeli rabbis and scholars. The conference opened with a festive gathering and discussion at the Residence of President Reuven "Ruby" Rivlin, who congratulated AJC and the MFA on their vision in bringing such a stellar array of leaders from the Asian religions to Israel. The delegation also met with Prime Minister Netanyahu who praised the endeavor, declaring that one could not overestimate the importance of this dialog as essential to promoting tolerance understanding and cooperation in the face of those who use religion to spread hatred and violence, and declared that such a dialog is so necessary that it must take place every year and be expanded.



<https://www.yahoo.com/news/ajc-foreign-ministry-host-asia-religious-leaders-israel-174900508.html>

<http://www.jewishpress.com/news/breaking-news/far-east-meets-middle-east-in-summit-for-religious-leaders/2016/09/12/>

September 18-20

The annual international multifaith meeting for peace held by the Community of Sant Egidio was of the most special significance this year as it was held in Assisi celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of Pope Johan Paul II's historic interreligious initiative of prayer for peace in 1986. Accordingly this year's meeting was attended by Pope Francis. The event also celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of the patriarchate of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who also participated, as did the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Secretary General of the World Council of Churches, as well as high level representatives of other faiths .

I gave three addresses at this gathering, and AJC was the only Jewish organization represented in the program as such.

A luncheon was held in honor of this special event and I was honored to be seated at the Pope's table with the other aforementioned religious leaders. I was also honored to be one of five heads of delegations that were invited to meet with Pope Francis privately.



<http://www.jta.org/2016/09/20/news-opinion/world/pope-attends-interreligious-confab-in-italy>

<http://agensir.it/quotidiano/2016/9/19/incontro-di-assisi-rabbino-david-rosen-anche-i-rapporti-piu-avvelenati-possono-essere-trasformati/>

<https://translate.google.co.il/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://agensir.it/quotidiano/2016/9/19/incontro-di-assisi-rabbino-david-rosen-anche-i-rapporti-piu-avvelenati-possono-essere-trasformati/&prev=search>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/09/20/religious-leaders-in-assisi-praise-patriarch-bartholomew-as-a-great-ecumenist>

<http://www.chronicle.co.zw/no-god-of-war-pope-francis/>

<http://angelqueen.org/2016/09/21/gods-name-is-peace-world-religious-leaders-affirm-at-assisi-day-of-prayer/>

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2016/09/20/160920a.html>

<http://www.lastampa.it/2016/09/26/vaticaninsider/eng/comment/the-spirit-of-assisi-as-perceived-by-jewish-leaders-KsK6xhoVYInDJ094OY6fkl/pagina.html>

<http://www.iccj.org/30th-International-Meeting-for-Peace-Assisi-2016.5455.0.html?&L=3>

September 21-22

A small consultation of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (of which I am past chairman and Rabbi Noam Marans is the current treasurer) with the World Council of Churches, was held in Brussels. This was the third such consultation whose purpose is to renew the dialogue with the WCC on the basis of a better understanding on the part of the latter of the significance of the State of Israel for the Jewish people, in the hope that the WCC might assume a more balanced approach in its statements concerning the Israeli-Palestinian context. Both Noam Marans and I attended this consultation.