



Monthly Highlights

January - February 2017

International Interreligious Affairs

January

While I did not travel abroad in January, the month was full of speaking engagements in Israel to foreign and local groups. These included:-

- The historic mission of Indonesian Muslim leaders to Israel brought here by AIJAC
- The mission of the Japanese Institute for Strategic Leadership (ISL) of some fifty Japanese CEOs
- The German Parliamentary Commission on Legal Affairs fact finding mission to Israel and the PA.
- St. Joseph's Seminary (Catholic NY) seminarians and staff
- Hamline University (Methodist, Minnesota) Law Department Program on Conflict Resolution in Religious traditions
- St. Olaf College (Lutheran, Minnesota- program on the History of the M.E.)
- Tel Aviv University's international program on International Relations
- Israel's latest cohort of new ambassadors and other diplomatic appointments



With the Indonesian Muslim Leaders delegation in Jerusalem

- An interfaith panel for AJC's Project Interchange Leadership mission took place on which I joined Bishop William Shomali of Jerusalem and the Muslim Khadi (head of the court) of Jerusalem, Iyad Zahalka.
- The bilateral commission of the State of Israel and the Holy See held its latest talks on resolving the outstanding legal and fiscal issues (still on the agenda since the signing of the Fundamental Agreement in 1993 of which I was part of the negotiating team)

February

The Vatican, Feb. 1-3. The second meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Social Sciences' Ethics in Action Council (established together with the World Conference of Religions for peace and Columbia University's Earth Institute) held inside the Vatican, focused on "The Pursuit of Peace". I gave two presentations, one on "Positive Peace in the Jewish Tradition" and the other on "the Role of Religions in Conflict and Conflict resolution".



At the 2nd Ethics in Action Council Meeting

Vienna, Feb. 6-8. The KAICIID Advisory Board and Board of Directors meetings in which I participated and spoke were scheduled to take place during the U.N. week of Interfaith Harmony for which KAICIID held a special program at the Albert Schweitzer Institute focusing on the challenges of absorbing and integrating refugees in Europe today, attended by members of the diplomatic corps, religious leaders and the members of the Advisory Forum and Board.

This event was addressed by the Secretary General of the World Muslim League Dr. Mohammed El Issa who had separate meeting with the Board of Directors .



With Dr. Mohammed El Issa and KAICIID Board of Directors

India, Feb.27-March 1.

The Presidency University of Calcutta held a conference on the Prevention of Mass Violence and the Promotion of Tolerance in which I participated. Thereafter I went on to New Delhi for meetings with religious leaders, in particular with the noted Muslim sage Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, and also to speak before staff and students at the Jindal Global University.



with Maulana Wahiduddin Khan and members of his family.