



Monthly Highlights

July-August 2018

International Interreligious Affairs

July 9/10, Armenia.

At the initiative of Anthony Barsamian of the Armenian Assembly of America, the outgoing primate of the Armenian Church in the US Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, and with the support of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I visited Armenia to propose an institutional interreligious dialogue with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

I was most graciously received by the Catholicos Karekin II and the leadership of the Church in Etchmiadzin, who discussed and welcomed the proposal. The suggestion was made that a first such meeting might take place next year in Jerusalem together with the Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate and the Catholicos promised to follow up on all aspects of the proposal.

I was also privileged to meet with President Sarkissian at the presidential palace in Yerevan. Sarkissian has a long-time relationship with AJC, World Jewry and Israel and was very supportive of the dialogue initiative.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the new Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Zohrab Mnatsakanian who also strongly encouraged the advancement of such an institutional dialogue.

During my visit I paid my respects to the victims of the Armenian genocide at the impressive museum where I laid a wreath at the memorial monument.



With Armenian Catholicos Karekin II



Greeting President Armen Sarkissian

August

14-16 Jakarta

The Indonesian Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilizations (CDCC) established by Pak Din Syamsuddin, special advisor to the President of Indonesia and former head of the Muhammadiyah movement in Indonesia, held its World Peace Forum in Jakarta, August 14-16, which I was invited to and privileged to address. The conference was attended by the highest level of Indonesian political and civic leadership as well as by representatives of the world's religions from South-east Asia and around the world.

While in Jakarta I met with an array of religious leaders and activists promoting human rights, religious freedom and enlightenment.

I was also extensively interviewed by the Indonesian electronic and print media including the Jakarta Post

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/08/16/rabbi-rosen-on-wasatiyyah-and-indonesia-israel-relations-for-peace.html>



Receiving award from chairman of the Indonesian World Peace Forum Prof. Din Syamsuddin, Jakarta, August 2018

20-21, Alpbach

The Ethics in Action Council (of which I am a part) convened by the Vatican, Religions for Peace, and the Earth Institute, to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals, was hosted by the European Forum in Alpbach, Austria where it held its meeting on combatting corruption.



With Metropolitan Zizoulas, Dr Mohammed Samak and Prof Anantanand Rambachan