



Monthly Highlights

August-September 2019

International Interreligious Affairs

Lindau, Germany, August 20-23

Religions for Peace is the all-encompassing world interfaith body that embraces more than a dozen religions and some one hundred countries. It holds its world assembly every five years and this year it was held in Lindau on Lake Constance with the generous support of the German government and the Ring for Peace of the Lindau Foundation.

Almost one thousand delegates attended, and I had the honor to address the gathering twice and was reelected as one of the international presidents of this premier interreligious body.

In addition I gave a “Lightening Talk” (i.e. a ten minute Ted talk) on the importance of interfaith engagement, see:-

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1363444740490357&id=321543124680529

Reflecting the German government’s commitment to engaging the world’s religions to advance a vision of universal peace and human flourishing, the opening keynote was given by the German President Steinmeier after the greetings of the heads of the German churches Cardinal Reinhard Marx and Rev Heinrich Bedford-Strohm

RfP has become a major player in religious engagement over environmental issues and in particular work in Latin America and Indonesia (as well as through the UN) to protect the world’s Rainforests, and my main plenary appearance was at the closing session (which was opened by Professor Jeffrey Sacks of Columbia University) on the responsibility of religions to engage and advance environmental sustainability.



Media coverage included the following

<https://rfp.org/religions-for-peace-concludes-its-10th-world-assembly-unifying-to-protect-rainforests-and-welcoming-new-secretary-general-dr-azza-karam/>

<https://twitter.com/ajcglobal/status/1164645841652670479?s=21>

as well as the following personal interview with me

<https://www.pro-medienmagazin.de/gesellschaft/weltweit/2019/08/29/politik-muss-religioese-gefuehle-ernstnehmen/>

Paris, France, Sept. 9-12

From September 9-12 I was in Paris at the invitation of Metropolitan Emmanuel of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate, to participate in a workshop on The Role of Religions in Combatting Hate Crimes that was co-hosted by the UAE based Interfaith Alliance and was attended by the major Christian Protestant and Orthodox leaders in France as well as by the Chief Rabbi of France and the Rabbi of Paris.



Following this workshop, I participated in the Conference of European Churches' peace conference on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Paris Peace conference after WWI. The conference which sought to reflect on the past as well as to address contemporary challenges for society - particularly regarding relations and understanding between nations and religions - was opened inter alia by Sylvain Waserman, Vice-President of the French National Assembly and Claudia Roth, Vice-President of the German Bundestag. I spoke on a panel titled 'The Abrahamic Religions and the Dialogue of Peace' together with Themistocles Hadjioannou of the Church of Cyprus, and Dr. Mohammad Al-Sammak of Lebanon.



The event received press coverage in several languages. E.g.

<http://www.ceceurope.org/conference-in-paris-explores-theme-of-peace-from-diverse-perspectives/>

<https://www.romasette.it/nel-palazzo-di-versailles-la-conferenza-internazionale-di-pace-delle-chiese-europee/>

During my visit to Paris I paid a courtesy call on the city's Catholic Archbishop Michel Aupetit together with Metropolitan Emmanuel of France



<https://www.romfea.news/metropolitan-of-france-met-roman-catholic-archbishop-of-paris/>

Madrid , Spain, Sept.15-17

The following week, I participated in the annual international interfaith meeting of the Community of Sant Egidio held this year in Madrid where I spoke on a panel on the subject of Combatting Genocides, and specifically addressed the subject of combatting Holocaust denial

On this occasion, the Spanish Catholic journal, Alfa y Omega, published the following interview with me

<https://www.alfayomega.es/185688/rabino-david-rosen-si-no-se-tiene-en-cuenta-a-las-religiones-no-habra-paz>



Additional Media

The Jewish News Service published a special interview with my about my work, focusing on the revolution in relations with the Christian world and achievements in deepening and broadening links in the Muslim world. <https://www.jns.org/an-inside-look-at-interreligious-reconciliation/> ; and also in August , the Parliament of World Religions issued this podcast <https://parliamentofreligions.org/podcast/life-commitment-bringing-people-together-across-divisions>