



## Monthly Highlights

### July – November, 2020

#### *International Interreligious Affairs*

#### July

6<sup>th</sup>

AJC Advocacy Anywhere. Inside Vatican Diplomacy: Antisemitism, Israel, and the Middle East -  
<https://youtu.be/oBGXeQ7JgTg>

6-8<sup>th</sup>

Three workshops presented to Indonesian Universities graduates and staff, on “Judaism as a way of Life”, “Contemporary Jewish diversity”, and “the significance of Jerusalem for the Jewish People”. Arranged by AJC’s API and the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies.

<https://www.icrs.or.id/news/workshop-on-judaism-with-david-rosen-first-day-judaism-as-a-religious-way-of-life>

<https://www.icrs.or.id/news/workshop-on-judaism-day-two-jerusalem-from-the-religious-perspective-of-judaism>

7<sup>th</sup>

Address AIDS 2020 International Interfaith service, Grace Cathedral San Francisco (through AJC SF)

13<sup>th</sup>

The UK Council of Christians and Jews to address its conference on the subject of Interfaith Dialogue on Israel-Palestine, on the occasion of Book launch of their publication on the subject to which I had contributed

16<sup>th</sup>

Temple of Understanding address on “Spirituality, Science, the Climate Crisis and the Future

21<sup>st</sup>

ICESCO (Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) in cooperation with the Muslim World League, the World Muslim Communities Council, held a Virtual Forum on the Role of Religious Leadership in the Face of Crises”, with the participation of a host of international figures & moderate Muslim Leaders including Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad; Dr. Muhammad Abdul Karim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League; Dr. Muhammad Mokhtar Gomaa Egyptian Minister of Religious Affairs and President of Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs; His Virtue Allahshükür Pashazade, Grand mufti of Azerbaijan and Caucasus; the Grand Imam of Al Azhar Dr. Ahmed El-Tayib; Dr. Ali Rachid AL Nuaimi, Chairman of the World Muslim Communities; Dr. Sultan Al-Remeithi, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Elders; and Judge Mohamed Abdessalam, Secretary General of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity. The two non-Muslim speakers invited to address this conference were Mons. Khaled Akasheh, Director of the Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims in the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, and myself.

22<sup>nd</sup>

At the initiative of AJC's API in cooperation with the Leimena Institute and the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs, an historic ABRAHAMIC FAITHS ROUNDTABLE was held with the Minister of Religious Affairs Fachrul Razi, together with other leading Indonesian religious and academic figures; to plan future trilateral consultations and collaboration. Jewish participants were Rabbi David Saperstein, Shira Loewenberg of the AJC's API, Dr. Ari Gordon, and myself.

Indonesian participants included Dr. Abdul Mu'ti, Secretary General of Muhammadiyah; Dr. Alwi Shihab Senior Fellow at the Leimena Institute and former Presidential Special Envoy to the Middle East and OIC and former Foreign Affairs Minister of Indonesia; Prof. Dr. Nasaruddin Umar, Grand Imam of the Istiqlal Mosque and former Vice Minister of Religious Affairs; and Dr. Siti Ruhaini Dzuhayatin, Senior Advisor to the Executive Office of the President and former Special Staff for international religious affairs to the President of the Republic of Indonesia and Chairwoman of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

23<sup>rd</sup>

Meeting with Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III, to discuss Pilgrimage and Tourism

26<sup>th</sup>

Address "Constituencies for Peace, Muslim-Jewish Leadership Engagement in Israel"

28<sup>th</sup>

Media Interview for Turkish TV on women and religion in Judaism in Israel.

## **August**

8<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

Jerusalem (Christian, Jewish and Muslim youth) Peacebuilders Interfaith seminar. Participated in panel together with Professor Mustafa Abu Sway and Bishop Hussam Naoum.

13<sup>th</sup>

Interview for Harvard University Podcast – "A World of Faith", with Imam Syed Ali Razawi  
see <https://youtu.be/NSbsmxYKmEs>

14<sup>th</sup>

Dubai Jewish community. Kabbalat Shabbat Zoom address

## **September**

2<sup>nd</sup>

Meeting with Isaac Herzog, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Briefing on Christians and Israel.

8<sup>th</sup>

Webinar for AIJAC on "Jewish-Muslim Relations and Arab-Israeli Peace

See <https://youtu.be/TgcIVOMvXPM> and <https://www.jwire.com.au/rabbi-david-rosen-explores-the-interfaith-context-of-the-israel-uae-deal/#more-116075>

Participate in the Singapore Middle East Institute webinar panel on the Abraham Accords

15<sup>th</sup>

South African Zionist Federation, webinar address on “The Gulf, Israel and Interreligious Diplomacy. See <https://youtu.be/HZxNJ4HkYJc>

21<sup>st</sup>

Spoke at the Moroccan Center for Tolerance and Interfaith Dialogue International Conference on World Peace Day

24<sup>th</sup>

Singapore Interfaith Organization ‘s Conference and book launch, attended by national dignitaries and religious leaders including Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tang. Gave Keynote address on “A Global Vision on Interfaith Relations”

## **October**

5/6<sup>th</sup>

Faith for the Earth Conference convened by the Government of Iceland and UNEP. Speakers included H.E. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, President of Iceland; Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; Guðmundur Guðbrandsson, Icelandic Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources; Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Prof. Nazir Ayad, Secretary General of Islamic Research Council of Al-Azhar; Grand Ayatollah Al-Modaressi ; Cardinal Peter Turkson; Radhanath Swami; Sister Jayanti Kirpalani; Rev Dr. Martin Junge; Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia; Bani Dugal, Principal Bahai Representative; and myself.

10<sup>th</sup>

The virtual G20 Inter-Faith Forum was organized in Riyadh. I was one of the panelists on the subject of The Role of Religions in Combatting Hate Crimes.

18<sup>th</sup>

Addressed the Israeli/Palestinian Roots organization on “Inter-Faith Diplomacy from and in the Arabian Gulf”

21<sup>st</sup>

Ari Gordon presented on the subject “Understanding the Abrahamic Family through Qibla Studies” to a forum organized by the Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs and the Leimena Institute, following on from the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting

26<sup>th</sup>

Belinkla Institute for Interfaith relations (Efrat) launch. Gave keynote address on the Jewish presence in global interfaith relations

27<sup>th</sup>

Addressed the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs and Leimena Institute’s high level consultation on the Role of the Abrahamic Religions in Promoting Peace, together with Sheikh Abdullah Bon Bayyah of the UAE, the Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs, heads of the two largest Muslim organizations in Indonesia (which are the two largest in the world) and other Indonesian religious and academic leading figures.

See <https://jakartaglobe.id/news/shared-ancestry-religious-leaders-call-for-solidarity-in-abrahamic-faiths>

## **November**

2<sup>nd</sup>

Armenian Patriarch Nourhan Manougian consultation

3<sup>rd</sup>

Vatican TV interview re terrorist attacks in Europe and interreligious relations

5<sup>th</sup>

Ari Gordon addressed Indonesian student on Muslims and Jews combatting Antisemitism and Islamophobia together, arranged by API and the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies

11/13<sup>th</sup>

Address Religions for Peace World Assembly on Women, Faith and Diplomacy

## **Other media items:-**

July: <https://www.dafkadotcom.org/home/outspoken-rabbis-speaking-truth-to-power-in-apartheid-south-africa>

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/judaism-and-racism-2/>

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/saudi-television-show-depicts-jewish-life-in-1940s-kuwait-636142>

October message to the Arab world: <https://youtu.be/HTfhkjjq1tw>