

Declaration of the Spain Summit for Religious Peace in the Middle East

In the name of God

We, people of the Holy Land and leaders of its religious communities are gathered to take upon ourselves to relentlessly seek peace in the Land. We emphasize that our two peoples are responsible for their common fate, that the three religions are responsible for creating peaceful existence, and that we, as religious leaders are responsible for promoting a life of mutual respect based upon justice and safety, in the spirit of the word of God as conveyed by His prophets.

We live in the Holy Land by the grace of God, and wish to subject ourselves to His will. We recognize the holiness of the Land for all three religions.

All three religions value the principle of the sanctity of life, and we call for its practice in daily life in our Land. The violence that is conducted, supposedly in the name of God, is a desecration of His name, a crime against those who are created in His image, and a debasement of faith. The proper means of solving conflict and disagreement is by negotiation and deliberation only.

We vehemently call for the cessation of incitement, misrepresentation and distortion of the image of the other and of the neighbor. We commit ourselves to educate future generations to uphold mutual respect. Drawing upon the religious traditions, and our understanding of what is best for our communities and peoples, we call for a solution that recognizes the right of the two peoples to exist with dignity.

We hope that peace between us will resonate and send ripples throughout the world for the good of all the nations.

Religious leaders bear a special responsibility to contribute to the desired peace. We urge the Israeli and Palestinian political leadership to work toward a solution. However, this does not recuse us from our accountability before God and the communities of believers to advance peace, pray for it and tirelessly strive for its achievement.

We declare the establishment of a standing committee that will work to implement the principles of this document. We take upon ourselves to work together with persistence, gather additional religious leaders, and guide younger generations in that spirit. We shall work together to voice a religious message for peace in the Holy Land for the good of all its people, and all shall gather in unity and with a sincere heart to perform the will of God.

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE SUMMIT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR PEACE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST**

SPAIN, 14-16 NOVEMBER 2016

MUSLIM

- Dr. Mahmoud al-Habash, senior adviser on matters of religion to Abu Mazen and in charge of the religious judicial system of Palestine.
- Sheikh Imad al-Falouji, Chairman of the Adam Center for Dialogue of Civilizations in Gaza. He served as the Minister of Post and Telecommunications in the Palestinian unity Government in 1996-2002. In 2009, President Abbas appointed him as a member of the Islamic-Christian commission for patronizing Jerusalem and the holy sites.
- Sheikh Raed Badir, leading Islamic law (Shari'a) arbitrator and member of the southern branch of the Palestinian Ulama Council.
- Dr. Izzat Jaradat, former Jordanian Minister of Education and today is the Secretary General for the World Muslim Conference for Jerusalem.
- Dr. Maher Khuder, Islamic court judge and a professor of Islamic studies at Al Azhar University.
- Sheikh Hamad Abo Dabes, Head of the Islamic Movement, Rabat, Israel
- Sheikh Safwat Frej, Deputy Head of the Islamic Movement, Keffar Qassem, Israel
- Prof. Fakhr Abu Awwad, religious leader expert in political Islam, Gaza
- Moad Isa, son of Sheikh Abdullah Nimer Darwish, the founder of the Islamic movement in Israel.
- Dr. Islam al-Falouji, representative of young women
- Mohamed Amer Odeh, Committee for Interaction with Israeli Society, Fatah

JEWISH

- Rabbi David Baruch Lau, Chief Rabbi of Israel.
- Rabbi Yaakov Ariel, Chief rabbi of Ramat Gan, leader of the National-Religious stream.
- Rabbi Avraham Giesser, Rabbi of Ofra and Council Head for the state religious educational system.
- Rabbi Michael Melchior, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1999 - 2002), Minister for Social Affairs and Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport (2005), community Rabbi in Jerusalem, President of the Mosaica religious peace initiative.
- Rabbi Benjamin Lehman, staff member at the Har Etzion Yeshiva, and a clinical psychologist.

- Rabbi Ratzon Arusi, rabbi of Kiryat Ono and a member of the Chief Rabbinate Council in Israel.
- Rabbi David Menahem, A community Rabbi in Jerusalem.
- Rabbi Zalman Dov Singer is head of the Makor Chaim Yeshiva and one of the leading figures in the Neo-Hassidic renewal Movement inside Religious Zionism.
- Rabbi Avraham Steinberg, professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an awardee of the Israel Prize in 1999
- Mr. Oded Wiener, Director of Interreligious Dialogue, Chief Rabbinate of Israel
- Mr. Roie Ravitzky, Director of Mosaica and representative of the young sector

CHRISTIAN

- Bishop Shomaly, Latin Patriarchate, Catholic Church, Jerusalem
- Metropolitan Timoteo, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Palestine
- Archbishop George Wadih Bakouni, Melkite Church from Galilee
- Bishop Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jerusalem