

The Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land

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“Peace, peace, when there is no peace”, (Jeremiah 6:14)

Christmas Contemplation and Questions

Dr. Geries Sa’ed Khoury

Tens of thousands of Christian pilgrims these days arrive in the Holy Land and in particular to Bethlehem the city where the Infant Jesus was born to celebrate with the local church the glorious Christmas and to chant with the Palestinian believers: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.” (Luke 2: 14).

I have repeated this hymn and heard it since I was born and until today. In recent years I, as a Christian Palestinian Arab, I began to ask: About what peace are we talking? And is there peace on earth in general and in Palestine in particular? And about what pleasure are we talking? And is there pleasure in our hearts when we have been living under an unjust and hateful Israeli occupation since 1967?

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What makes us angry is that since the beginning of the occupation and until our present day, the international family has sufficed itself by issuing tens of resolutions from the Security Council which are related to the Palestinian Question and to the Arab – Israeli conflict including Resolutions 242 and 338. However, very unfortunately, these resolutions are still forgotten numbers in the international memory. What is strange is that none of the leaders of the great countries dares to actually demand the implementation of any of these resolutions; while they insist on the literal implementation of other resolutions in our Middle East and around us.

Since 1967, we have been suffering. From the heart of this suffering of our, we have been and still are extending our hands and demanding the realization of justice and making peace. However, very unfortunately, in every time when we say yes for just peace, Israel continues to confiscate lands, building settlements and humiliating our dignity while the international and Arab family are looking without making any move. Today when we are in the season of the birth of the Prince of peace, I call all Christian Western political leaders, who will go to churches, to listen accurately to the Christmas hymn, and to ask themselves: Is there a political or a social peace on the earth? Do we contribute or seriously work for the sake of peace? What about the injustice in which the Palestinian people in its occupied land and in the Diaspora has been living since more than six decades? What have we done regarding their legitimate rights? Are we true Christians or are we hypocrites like the Scribes and the Pharisees? Do we truly believe in the Prince of peace, love Him and work according to His commandments? Didn't He say to us: "I am the road.... I am the light.... I am the life...." So, why you leaders do not ask yourselves, upon whose shoulders lie the responsibility for this world: Do we walk in His way and according to the guidance of His light? Or, are we walking in the way of evil, sin and darkness?

Thus in this holy time, and from Bethlehem, and from the vicinity of Christ's crib, nothing has remained for us except appealing to you to lift the injustice from our people and to work earnestly in order to achieve just peace in our Holy Land. This cannot be done except by

putting all pressures on Israel, people and government, to apply the international resolutions which are related to the Arab – Israeli conflict.

This second part of the hymn is: "peace among men with whom he is pleased." Here again I began to find it difficult to understand this sentence and to accept it easily because I feel no pleasure, no joy and no reassurance. How can I feel joyful and be pleased when our lives are threatened every moment? We live our day with anxiety and our future is unknown. From where does pleasure come in such conditions and such circumstances? More than two billion Christians chant this hymn at Christmas season. This matter began to hurt me because we have become hypocrites and untrue with neither what we chant and nor with what we say. It is as if we have been transformed into a parrotical choir repeating the words without understanding them or meaning them. For those people I say: "If I don't see peace or feel pleased, then what is meant in this hymn will perhaps be not peace and pleasure in our world, but rather in the other world where peace in the land of paradise awaits us, and there is pleasure in the hearts of those who deserved entering it. The question is who shall arrive there if we do not live the word of God and do not follow His teachings?"

The other matter about which I ask is the saying of the angels to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid..." What does this mean for us? How I don't become afraid as a Palestinian? If I say I am not afraid, I will not be true and I will be forging the reality and truth: All of our life is fear. We sleep being afraid that the occupation army break into our houses and institutions. We eat while we are afraid that we will not find bread for our children on the next day. We are afraid that we will be forcibly thrown from our houses in the streets by the settlers and the occupation army. This is what happens every day to tens of Palestinian families in occupied Jerusalem, in Hebron and in many other cities. We are afraid of being accused by the occupation with the accusation of incitement because we are saying the truth and demanding it, and after that we are thrust forcibly in the prisons of the occupation to be brought to court without justice and to be thrown in cells and remain in them until we die. This matter is

Continued on Page 12



**The Arab Christian and Muslim Heritage Conference in the Holy Land
Christian – Muslim Dialogue Conference
21st Session**

13-15 August 2009

Titled

Building Confidence between the Arab and Muslims World and the West Past Experiences and Future Horizons

This conference is annually organized by Al-Liqa Center. The twenty-first session of the Conference was entitled "Building Confidence between the Arab and Muslim World and the West: Past Experiences and Future Horizons."

A large number of intellectuals, religious, members and friends of the Center from Bethlehem, Jerusalem and villages and cities of Galilee attended the Conference. A large number of lecturers and specialists from local and international universities contribute by preparing academic studies on the topics put forth for discussion to indicate the nature of the relationship between the Arabs and the Muslims and the West before the call to Islam, during Islam and until our present day.

Mr. Mousa Darwish, deputy director of Al-Liqa' Center, opened the Conference with welcoming remarks stressing the importance of the message of Al-Liqa' Center, and the necessity of its programs at a time when all need dialogue, national unity and shared living. His Beatitude Patriarch Michael Sabbah president of Al-Liqa' Board, welcomed local and international audience and said that our people needs "thought" because it is the strength of man and the strength of

the people, and besides thought, we need faith: faith in God who is the source of hope, no matter how bad the situation is. His Beatitude also said that building confidence begins with self-confidence, so that it is an empty impotent haughtiness and pride. It should begin with self-knowledge.

Patriarch Sabbah was followed by His Eminence Sheikh Dr. Tayseer Rajab Tamimi, Chief Judge of Palestine. He said: "When I am at Al-Liqa' Center, I feel the warmth of the distinguished Islamic – Christian unity". He said also: "I feel greatly concerned about the decreasing number of Christians in Jerusalem. I cannot imagine Jerusalem devoid of Christian Arabs".

Prof. Thiab Ayyoush, deputy president of Al-Liqa' Board of Trustees, said that the theme of the Conference is new and we hope through it to establish a serious relationship with the West. He stressed that building confidence cannot be done except by a balanced relationship between the two parties.

The fourth speaker was Mr. Fathi Furani from the city of Haifa. He talked about the experience of the Palestinians in Israel in preserving Islamic and Christian holy places.



The concluding speech was given by Dr. Geris S. Khoury, Director of Al-Liqa' Center, who thanked the participants for their interest, attendance and participation. He offered special thanks for the committee which met several times to prepare the program of the integrated conference which deals with one of our most important issues. Dr. Khoury said: "In order to rebuild the confidence between the two worlds, it is inevitable first to rebuild the confidence in ourselves as individuals and to adhere to our Arab identity and to our strong belonging to our people, history, culture and religion".

After opening the Conference, there was a short break in which the audience had refreshments and cookies. Then they returned to the lecture hall to listen to and participate in the lectures of the first day.

Dr. Geris Sa'ed Khoury delivered the first lecture which was entitled: "The Relationship of the Arabs with the West before Islam." He talked about the commercial, cultural, religious and political relations between East and West and how one influenced the other and what kind of relations was between the two worlds.

Dr. Muhsin Yousef delivered the second lecture entitled "The Relationship between the Arab World and the West during the Call to Islam." In the lecture the lecturer focused on the position of the Prophet Muhammad and the Muslims vis-à-vis the Jews and the Christians considering that the relationship with these two categories comes under the item of external relations of the early Muslims.

On the second day, the first lecture was on "The Relationship between the Arab and Muslim World

and the West during the Umayyad Caliphate" by Professor Jamal Juda. In his lecture, he focused on two important stages: the first stage was the call to Islam in Al-Hijaz at the time of the Prophet Muhammad (610 – 633. A. D.), in which there is clear solidarity by Islam with Christian Byzantines (the Rوم) against pagan Persia and its allies the Jews. The features of the second period became defined by inimical relations between the two parties and there was no longer any way to build confidence or understanding in most cases.

Dr. Sa'ied Al-Bishawi, lectured on "The Relationship between the Arab and Muslim world and the West during the Abbasid Caliphate". He dealt with three axes which are:

1. The relationship between the Abbasid Caliphate and the Byzantine Empire.
2. The relationship of the Abbasid Caliphate with the Roman Empire.
3. The nature of relations between Al-Murabetoun and Al-Muwwahidoun and the Spanish kingdoms and some European countries.

The third lecture was about "The Arab and Islamic Relation with the West during the Andalusia Era" presented by Dr. Omar Shalabi. He stressed the cultural diversity in Andalusia, and dealt also with diplomatic relations and the exchange of embassies, science and architecture.

Dr. Atallah Qubti dealt first in his lecture entitled "The Crusades and Their Effect on Islamic – Christian Relations" in which he said that the Crusades left negative effects on the Christian – Islamic relations. These wars aroused a wave of religious fanaticism, and



the Christian West was not liberated from the Crusader thought until the past century.

Prof. Tayseer Jbara said in his lecture about “The relationship between the Arab and Muslim world and the West during the Ottoman era” that the relationship between the East and West is old. It was sometimes tainted by war and sometimes by peace. However, in the Ottoman era, it was historically better than previous periods.

Dr. Hammad Hussein, mentioned in his lecture about “The Consequences of the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration on the Relations between the Arabs and the West”, that the declaration of signing the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration was crowning a historical process which continued for more than a century in which plans and mechanisms were put for establishing a state for the Jews in Palestine.

On the third day, the conference participants began by a Muslim and Christian invocation presented by Father Dr. Jamal Khader and lawyer ‘Ali Rafe’. After the invocation, Dr. Bernard Sabella and Dr. Alexander Scott participated in the first session entitled “The Relation between the West and the Arab world: A Relation of Conflict or Dialogue.” Dr. Bernard mentioned that the events of 11/9/2001 accelerated the efforts of dialogue but they are also a memory for wars and confrontations, and they also led to military reactions whether in Iraq or in Afghanistan.

Dr. Alexander Scott, the director of the Catholic – Islamic Studies at the Catholic Theological Union University in Chicago, gave an interposition entitled

“Islamophobia in the United States at the Present Time.” He specially focused on the following points: Islamophobia: blind fanaticism among persons or a systematic racism? Islamophobia and the government of the United States; the contributions of Christianity, Judaism and the neo-conservatives in Islamophobia in the United States; Islamophobia in the American mass media, and Islamophobia and the internal attack on the present president Barack Hussein Obama.

Father Dr. Rafiq Khoury and Dr. Hamzeh Theeb participated in the second session of the third day and it was entitled “The Role of Religious Thought in Building Confidence between the Arab and Muslim World and the West.” In his interposition Father Dr. Rafiq limited himself to posing a model for this religious thought which is the third letter of the Catholic Patriarchs of the East entitled “Together Before God for the sake of Man and Society: Shared Living Between Muslims and Christians in the Arab World.” He ended his interposition by saying: “Our shared living is in the heart of our standing before God. So let us together stand before him and search for what He wants for our society and through it for the whole of humankind.” In his interposition, Dr. Hamzeh Theeb emphasized that Islam has no problem in being open on the other in the cultural aspect, and he also mentioned the openness and cooperation of the Muslims with others in the creed aspect such as dialogue, non-coercion in religion and shared living etc...

The last session was entitled “How Confidence is built between the Arabs and the West.” Professor



Thiab Ayyoush and Dr. Willy Rellecke from Germany participated in this session. In his interposition, Dr. Ayyoush emphasized that building confidence needs a dialogue based on objective bases and he pointed out the base of the successful dialogue which lays the foundations for building confidence such as good intention, accepting the other party, considering the call for dialogue a combined Islamic Arab and Western call at the same time, that the dialogue is not a means for religious propaganda and a kind of courtesy, and that it is just and is based on mutual understanding. Dr. Willy Rellecke focused in his interposition on the role of mass media in the relationship between the West and the Arabs especially with the Muslims. He said also: overgeneralization in accusations is ignorance and it does not contribute in building confidence. Knowing the truth is the only way for building confidence and working together for sake of justice and peace.

At the end of the lectures and sessions, Dr. Geries Sa'ed Khoury summarized the days of the conference. He thanked the members of Al-Liqa' Board of Trustees for the effort they made in preparing the conference program and contacting the lecturers. He also thanked the employees in the Center and the volunteer workers during the days of the conference for their help. He also gave special thanks to the audience, the lecturers, the session moderators, and the foreign guests for their contributions in making the conference successful whether through the valuable lectures or discussion and interpretations which were objective, frank and sometimes critical. All accepted these lectures, discussion and interpositions in a good spirit which indicates the

wonderful academic level which characterized the conference. Before reading the concluding statement, the young school student Jwana Matter read verses from the poem of the poet Mahmoud Darweesh "Record that I am an Arab," and this was on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

The concluding statement which was prepared by a committee was the superb conclusion for the conference days.

The conferees reached several conclusions which can be summarized few of them in the following:

1. There should be concentration on the positive aspects of these relationships and avoiding the negative aspects.
2. Working to mobilize a rational Arab public opinion which addresses in a good way the world concerning our just Palestinian Question.
3. Setting out from the concept of shared interests which govern international relations in order to mobilize international support for our Question.
4. Activating the role of Arab and Islamic communities in the world and also the embassies, consulates and mass media in the foreign countries by continuous communication by the many available means.
5. The participants stressed the necessity and importance of the unity of the Palestinian homeland and the unity of the children of our Palestinian people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Diaspora in order to attain the sough goal which is the establishing of our independent Palestinian state and its capital noble Jerusalem.

Evening Forums

Jerusalem Capital of Arab Culture 2009

22 October 2009



Celebrating Jerusalem as the capital of Arab Cultural 2009 on the Arab and international levels, Al-Liqa Center in cooperation with the Palestinian (PNA) Ministry of Culture, organized a seminar in Bethlehem on: **“What to Do to Save Jerusalem”** with the participation of the Engineer ‘Adnan Al-Husseini, Governor of Jerusalem, and Researcher Khalil Al-Tufakji, Director of the Map Division in the Orient House. The panel was moderated by Mr. Mousa Darwish, and leading religious, political, academic and social personalities attended the event.

Mr. Al-Husseini focused on the dangers facing Jerusalem due to Israeli aggression against Muslim

and Christian holy places and destruction of homes as well as the Judaization policies that Israel practices in Jerusalem. He asked for Arabic and Islamic support in order to build housing projects for young people, to protect Palestinian institutions in the city as well as to establish a fund to support construction of homes in the city and to support investment in it.

Mr. Al-Tufakji called for the establishment of a fund to purchase homes and to invest in the areas next to Jewish settlements. He stressed the dire need for political directions and a strategic plan to face the expansion of colonial settlement blocs in Jerusalem. An in-depth question and answer session followed.

The consequences of the Palestinian president’s declaration that he does not wish to run for the elections

18 Nov. 2009

Al-Liqa’ Center held an intellectual dialogue seminar in which the consequences of President Mahmoud Abbas’ declaration. Prof. Thiab Ayyoush introduced and conducted the seminar discussion. He began his talk by a historical introduction about the course of the Palestine Question throughout a century, and put forth a number of questions as openers for the dialogue. The participants presented important interpositions which reflected a refined intellectual level as much as it reflected a concern for the Question and a fear about the future of the Palestinian people on its land.



International activities



Prof. Thiab 'Ayyoush in Astana, Kazakhstan

29 June – 2 July 2009

Prof. Thiab Ayyoush was officially delegated by Al-Liqa' Center to represent it in the conference on "Tolerance and Non Discrimination" and the follow up Conference of "World and Traditional Religions" which were to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan. The two Conferences were sponsored by the government of Kazakhstan. Al-Liqa Center was asked by the Foreign Ministry to name a delegate to the Conference to represent Palestine in addition to Sheikh Khamis Abdeh, Deputy of the Palestinian Minister of Religious affaires.

The focus of the proceedings of the first Conference revolved around the following:

1. Culture of mutual understanding and respect.
 2. The role of Media in promoting tolerance.
 3. Protecting rights and freedoms of migrant communities.
- Discussions, which Prof. Ayyoush took an active part in, focused on the role of religious leaders in building peace which is built on tolerance and mutual respect and cooperation, on ethical and spiritual values and general ethics and on dialogue and cooperation.

Al-Liqa' Center – Scientific Research Applications

Al-Liqa' Center announced the establishment of a publishing activity involving refereed scholarly researches revolving around Arab Christian heritage and on Islam and Arab Muslim-Christian dialogue and relations. The Center requested all applicants to follow Al-Liqa' Center's conditions and guidelines which include the following:

- The scholarly article / research should not be published before.
- Specialized referees will judge on the merits of each research.
- When research is accepted, researcher will be rewarded \$500 (U.S)
- Interested persons can see the details of the Al-Liqa' Center fellowship: www.al-liqacenter.org.ps

Al-Liqa' Visitors

29 July 2009

Dr. Geris S. Khoury met an Italian delegation from northern Italian cities led by Fr. Gian Antonio Urbani. Dr. Khoury discussed with them the state of local Christians and the role of local theology and the impact of the Pope's visit on the local church.

4 August 2009

Dr. Geris S. Khoury met with an Italian group led by Fr. Nandino and visited the uprooted villages of Kufur Bir'am and Iqrit in Galilee. Dr. Khoury presented the history of these two villages and the rest of the uprooted villages in the north.

10 August 2009

An Italian delegation from Southern Italy led by Dr. Paolo Farina visited Al-Liqa' Center. They were briefed on the Center, its goals, its programs and the Center's role in interfaith dialogue and Palestinian theology.

12 August 2009

Dr. Geris S. Khoury met a group of young Italians and discussed with them Christian Arab presence in the Holy Land and the importance of dialogue with Muslims.

Dr. Khoury and the group discussed the impact of the visit of His Holiness the Pope on the local church.

22 August 2009

A delegation from Catholic University of Milano led by Dr. Caterina Foppa Pedretti, visited the Center. The delegation was briefed on the goals and activities of the Center. Discussions followed which focused on the importance of interfaith dialogue and the role of



6 November 2009

A Danish delegation, comprising 20 members from the Lutheran Church of Denmark, visited Al-Liqa' Center on the 6th of November 2009 as an integral part of the group's agenda in the Holy Land. Dr. Geris S. Khoury welcomed the group and introduced to them Al-Liqa's programs and activities and described the daily life suffering in Bethlehem after the building of the separation wall. Dr. Khoury focused in his presentation on the importance of interfaith dialogue and on the need for Palestinian contextualized theology (PCT). A question and an answer session concluded the gathering.

Palestinian theology in crystallizing the identity and message of the local church.

21 October 2009

A group of Italian pilgrims from Verona guided by Mr. Luigi Sandri visited Al-Liqa' Center. They were welcomed by the Deputy Director of the Center, Mr. Mousa Darwish, who presented the goals and activities of Al-Liqa' as well as an overview of the Palestinian situation. A detailed questions and answers session concluded the meeting.

Al-Liqa Christmas Celebrations - December 2009

Bethlehem

Sunday 20 December 2009

Program

1. Welcoming greetings
2. Lecture on: The birth of Jesus...Identity and theological reflections on the right of return: by Dr. Geris S. Khoury
3. Readings from the Holy Qur'an
4. Christmas Carols
5. Reception

Galilee/ Shafa 'Amr

Monday 28 December 2009

Program in collaboration with the Churches in the City of Shafa 'Amr

1. Welcoming greetings
2. Christmas Carols
3. Ecumenical Prayers
4. Refreshments

Al-Liqa' Center's Most Recent Publications 2008-2009

Al-Liqa' quarterly review in Arabic

Vol. 4, year 23 (2008)

This issue revolves around educational issues and focuses on educational reform in the Arab world, interview with education specialist Jacqueline Sfeir and the comprehensive view of education, learning the hereditary subject by tenth grade students, psychological problems of Palestinians teenage students, the impact of Al-Aqsa Intifada on 7th and 10th graders. Contents comprised Christmas and theological features as well as documents and a book review.



Al-Liqa' quarterly review in Arabic

Vol. 1, year 24 (2009)

The issue revolves around the future of theological thought, the contents being the proceedings of Al-Liqa's local theology conference in January 2009, in addition to several opening addresses by leading personalities, the content includes many articles focusing on the march of local theological movements, the letters of the Catholic Eastern Patriarchs, challenges to local Palestinian theology and culture, the future of Christians in the Holy Land. The content included as well as the Latin Patriarch's Christmas messages as well as several commentaries on the war in Gaza, December 2008-January 2009. Also included is the final communiqué of Al-Liqa's local theology January conference.



Al-Liqa' quarterly review

Vol. 24, no. 2 and 3 (2009)

This is a special issue that focuses on His Holiness the Pope's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land including the Pope's speeches that were delivered in Jordan, Israel and the Palestine Authority area of the West Bank. This issue includes as well speeches by



heads of states and the various religious communities in the Holy Land. Contents include opinions concerning His Holiness' Pilgrimage.

Al-Liqa' quarterly review

Vol. 24, no. 4 (2009)

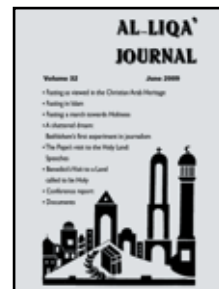
The issue revolves around "Jerusalem Capital of Arab Culture 2009". Several historical, religious and literature articles written by local and Arab scholars are analyzing the importance of the Jerusalem for both Christians and Muslims. In addition you find in it a number of social, historical, and ecumenical articles. In this issue are two book reviews: one on Jerusalem and the second on the Pastoral letters of the Oriental Catholic Patriarchs.



Al-Liqa Journal

Vol. 32 (June 2009)

The focus of this issue is "Fasting in Christianity and Islam" and selected speeches of His Holiness' Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Contents include as well a study of Bethlehem's press, statement by the Council for Interfaith Dialogue in Rome on "Fasting", and Al-Liqa' Center's proceedings of the 16th Session of "Church and Local Theology in the Holy Land" Conference, January 2009.



Al-Liqa Journal

Vol. 33 (December 2009)

In this volume are published selected articles which were presented at the Arab Christian and Muslim Heritage Conference (Christian – Muslim Dialogue Conference) which took place on 13-15 August 2009 in Bethlehem. In addition there is a detailed report about the Conference and Documents on Christian – Muslim relations.



List and Prices Of Al- Liqa's Publications 1983-2009

(All publications are in Arabic unless specified)

Christian - Muslim Dialogue Conference (1983 –2008)	
1. Proceedings of the First Conference, Jerusalem 1983 to 12 th Conference, Bethlehem 1994	\$6
2. 13 th Conference, Bethlehem. 1995. (see no. 9 Miscellaneous)	\$10
3. 14 th Conference, Bethlehem, 1996	\$6
4. 15 th Conference, Bethlehem, 1998	\$6
5. 16 th Conference, Bethlehem, 2001	\$6
6. 17 th Conference, Bethlehem, 2003	\$6
7. 18 th Conference, Bethlehem, 2005	\$6
8. 19 th Conference, Bethlehem, 2007 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, vol. 22, no. 4, 2007)	\$6
9. 20 th Conference, Bethlehem, 2008 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, vol. 23, no. 3, 2008)	\$6

Al- Liqa' Journal (in English) 1992 – 2008

Vol. 1 – 1992 – Vol. 31 – 2008

Annual subscription:

Individuals	\$20
Institutions	\$30
Price per one issue	\$7

Al-Liqa' Center's Documents

(Available in Arabic and English)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Theology and the Local Church in the Holy Land, (16 pages) | \$4 |
| 2. In Jerusalem, Justice and Peace Embrace Each Other, (5pages) | \$2 |

Al-Liqa' Arabic Language - Quarterly Review (1985 - 2009)

Year 1-Year 3 (3 issues each year) \$ 20 per Year
Year 4-Year 23 (4 issues each year) \$ 30 per Year
Price per one issue \$ 7

Miscellaneous

1. Fr. Peter Madrous, Paul the Apostle and the Man (67 pages)	\$5
2. Najib Nassar, Under the Protection of the Arabs (91 pages)	\$5
3. Younis Amr, Jerusalem the City of God (152pages)	\$5
4. Louis I. Hazboun, Principles of Sociology of Religion (162 pages)	\$5
5. Western Christian Zionism, (43 pages)	\$3
6. Jerusalem Between Religious Freedom and Political Sovereignty,(in English) (78pages)	\$5
7. Christian Feasts between Unity and Pluralism, (96 pages).	\$5
8. Qustandi Shomali, El-Carmel (534 pages)	\$8
9. Jerusalem: Palestinian Muslim- Christian Studies (600 pages)	\$10
10. Anton Shomali, Collected Poems (255 Pages)	\$7
11. Fr. Dr. Rafiq Khoury, Contextualized Eastern Churches (393 pages).	\$7
12. Jamal Salsa', Palestinian Poetical Message Between Religion and Nationalism (174 pages)	\$6
13. Thiab A. Ayyoush, Social Problems: An Islamic Perspective (212 pages) (in English)	\$7
14. Sami Adwan, Reality of Religious Education, both Muslim and Christian, in Palestinian Schools.(404 pages)	\$8
15. Fr. Dr. Rafiq Khoury, Say your Word and Go! Quick Inputs into Vital Files (273 pages)	\$7
16. Fr. Dr. Rafiq Khoury, The Book of Days: In Search of the Lost Word (159 pages)	\$7
17. Geris S. Khoury, Arab Christians: Rootedness... Presence... Openness (278 pages)	\$11
18. Geris S. Khoury, Arab Christians and Muslims: Past... Present... Future (272 pages)	\$11

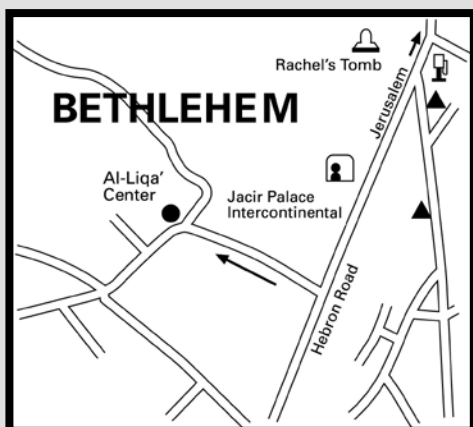
Palestinian Contextualized Theology Conference (1987-2008)

Proceedings of the First Conference, Jerusalem 1983 to the Eighth Conference, Jerusalem 1995	\$6
Ninth Conference, Bethlehem, 1996 (Contained in Al-Liqa' Journal, Vol. 9/10, (1997)	\$7
10 th Conference, Bethlehem, December 1998 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, vol.19, nos 1,2 (2004))	\$7
11 th Conference, Bethlehem, June 2003 (There are no published proceedings)	\$7
12 th Conference, the Galilee, 2004 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, Vol. 20, nos 1,2,2005)	\$7
13 th Conference, Bethlehem, 2006 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, Vol. 21, nos 3,4,2006)	\$7
14 th Conference, Ibillin	\$7
15 th Conference, Ibillin (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, vo. 23, no. 1, 2008)	\$7



Al-Liqa' Center

In Jerusalem, the city sacred to billions of diverse believers, a Palestinian interfaith initiative led to the establishment of "Al-Liqa' Center", a unique place of research, study and dialogue on the religious traditions, institutions and daily life of the people of the Holy Land and the region. The program includes, interfaith dialogue, Palestinian Contextualized Theology in the Holy Land, international activities, and the publication of journal, newsletters, books and occasional papers. H.B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah, President, Board of Trustees; and Dr. Geris S. Khoury, Director.



Al-Liqa' Center's Headquarter 54-56 Al-Quds Jerusalem Str.

The Center is now located less than 200 meters to the southwest of Rachel's Tomb at 54-56 Al-Quds Jerusalem Street. After passing the Jacir Palace Intercontinental to the right on the Hebron-Jerusalem Rd, take a right turn at the first intersection at the end of which Al-Liqa' Center is situated on the right side of the street.

Website of Al-Liqa' Center
www.al-liqacenter.org.ps

We hope you will have the opportunity to visit Al-Liqa's web site, and to send us your reflections

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not strange and it is not objectionable. If this is what happened to the one whose birth we are celebrating today because he demanded what is right, just and true, and so they conspired against him, arrested him, brought him to court falsely, tortured him, crucified him and left him until he died, then what prevents this from being repeated with us every day.

Yes, we are afraid, and this is neither shameful nor disgraceful. Before us, the Holy Family was afraid of the cruelty and injustice of the Roman occupation. Today we are not blamed if we are afraid of the Israeli occupation and its injustice. The question is: Till when shall remain in this condition? Till when O, you leaders of the world, and O, you Christians of the world shall our life remain with fear and injustice?

Yes we are afraid. However, we still believe that the one whose birth we are celebrating today will strengthen us, make us patient, give us solace and strengthen hope in us, so that we see light after darkness, and live with assurance and peace so that we sing together and chant without doubt, fear and hesitation with a strong faith: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased." (Luke 2: 14).

Merry Christmas to All

Upcoming Event

Theology and the Local Church in the Holy Land Conference

(Palestinian Contextualized
Theology Conference)

17th Session

The future of the Arab Christian youth in Galilee

4-6 February 2010

St. Elias Monastery - Haifa