



NEWSLETTER

The Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land

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The Meaning of Christ's Nativity

Prof. 'Abde Al-Rahman 'Abbad

EDITORIAL

The nativity of Jesus Christ is an eternal miracle verified by the Holy Koran and the Prophetic Tradition. Christ is a breath from God's spirit. He is the baby that spoke in the cradle to rescue the honor of his virgin mother.

Bethlehem is the place where Christ was born. Bethlehem is an old Palestinian city deeply rooted in history, and it was honored with the birth of Christ. The people of Bethlehem are neighbors of Christ and they honor and dignify Him. We Moslems feel very proud to live near Christ's birthplace and we feel that we belong to His town. Before the occupation and throughout our long history, we used to celebrate the nativity in two ways. First, we had a national celebration because we were born in the same town where Christ was born. We never felt we were outside the frame that brought us together with our Arab Christian brothers in the land of Palestine. In addition, we celebrated the birth of Christ through festivals, weddings and folklore dance that we exercised with our Christian brothers, men and women together. We share the same heritage and history.

The cradle where Christ was born was a visiting site for our Prophet Mohammad when he travelled to the land of Palestine. He prayed in this holy place. But the land of Palestine had been blessed before the Prophet's travel to it.

Palestine is called the Holy Land because it was the birthplace of many messengers and prophets who are still buried in it. Christ was the last of those prophets. He lived and did miracles in it and ascended to heaven from it.

The birth of Christ, or Christmas, is a source of joy to Moslems in general and to Palestinians in particular. It is also a source of pride since we live close to the birthplace of Christ.

Christmas for me is an occasion for goodness and human joy. It comes in the season of goodness and giving, winter which is the harbinger of spring.

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Al-Liqa' Center's 22nd Session of the Christian-Muslim Dialogue Conference
Titled

"A step forward on the road to Muslim and Christian relations between the East and the West"

16-18 December 2010

Bethlehem Hotel, Bethlehem

The 22nd session of the conference was attended by leading clerics and lay people from the Palestinian communities and scholars from European countries. Participants in the three day conference dealt with several topics revolving around Christian and Muslim relations in East and West. Lecturers focused on several topics: historical back-ground of mutual mistrust between Arabs and the West; Islamophobia in the West: real or imagined; religious discourse between moderation and radicalism; satellites and websites and e-mails are a blessing or a curse?; The role of the Western non governmental institutions between East and West; the impact of tribalism and sectarianism on Arab Society and on relations between East and West; and a panel on: Jerusalem: a call for confrontation or peace?

The open ceremonies took place on Thursday 16 December 2010. Latin Patriarch Fu'ad Twal inaugurated the conference and welcomed everyone and reiterated the idea that proceedings of this conference are indeed important. He added

that the local Catholic church is trying to put the ideas of the October 2010 Synod of Catholic Bishops into practice. He also spoke about his visit to Latin America and the Arabic Diaspora and his call for those in the Diaspora to return to their roots. Sheikh 'Abd Al-Majeed 'Ata, Mufti of Bethlehem Governorate, stressed the importance of Muslim – Christian unity. Father Pietro Filet, Secretary of the Catholic Bishops, greeted conferees and spoke about his experiences with Al-Liqa' and his true belief in interfaith dialogue. Dr. Gerjes S. Khoury was the moderator of the opening ceremonies. He stressed the need for national unity with a thorough examination of all negative factors impeding this unity in a very frank manner and he condemned Al-Qa'ida's criminal acts against Christians and Muslims in Iraq and all over the world.

In the first session of the Conference Dr. Adnan Musallam and Dr. Yaser Shaheen discussed the "historical, cultural, political and economic factors





leading to mutual mistrust between Arabs and the West." Dr. Walid Mustafa moderated the panel. The first session of the second day, Friday 17 December, Dr. Hamzeh Theeb and Mr. Joergen Klussman from Germany participated in a panel which focused on "the phenomenon of Islamophobia in the West and whether it is fact or fiction". Mrs. Hanadi Soudah Younan moderated this event which was followed by deep discussions. Following Friday prayer and Lunch, another panel took place titled "Religious discourse between Islamic moderation and the extreme" in which H. B. Michael Sabbah and Prof. 'Abd Al-Rahman 'Abbad both presented a Christian and Muslim points of view on this crucial subject. Mr. Mousa Darwish moderated this panel. This was followed with another panel titled "Are Satellites and Electronic sites: blessing or a curse?" in which Father Rif'at Bader of Jordan and Dr. Nidal Abu 'Ayyash presented their own perceptions of these crucial developments in the mass media in recent years. Mr. Zeyad Shlewit moderated this panel which was followed with lively discussion and comments. Dr. Charlie Abu Sa'da followed with a talk about "The role of Western non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in relations between East and West". Conferees played a leading role in the thorough discussions that followed. The proceedings of the third day, Saturday 18 December, started with an Islamic invocation by Attorney 'Ali Rafe' from Haifa. It was followed by a



lecture by Fr. Dr. Rafiq Khoury titled "Sectarianism and Tribalism in Palestinian Society" which was moderated by Sheikh Yousef Khalifa. It was followed by deep discussions and comments. Following a short break, conferees listened to a panel titled "Jerusalem: a call for confrontation or living in peace" in which Dr. Walid Salem and Dr. Peter Qumri presented their views on the subject. Prof. Dr. Thiab Ayyoush moderated this panel and added many comments to the panel which was followed by discussions and comments. At the conclusion of the 22nd Session of the conference, conferees issued the following communiqué:

1. The dire need for national unity among all segments of Palestinian society, Christians and Muslims, as well as the various factions in West Bank and Gaza Strip.
2. The need for the Ministry of Waqf (Religious Endowments) to reiterate to priests and pastors and to mosque Imams to focus their preachings at least twice a year on religious tolerance, national unity and on a life together.
3. The formation of a committee to support Al-Liqa's aims and objectives throughout the country.
4. The need to translate lectures to viable foreign languages in order to increase awareness in the West of our pressing issues.
5. The need to bring the attention of Arabic, Islamic and international communities to what



is happening to Arab Jerusalem including the Judaization of the city and the undermining of its Arabic character. It also includes the uprooting of its inhabitants and their dispersion to outside their historic city. The dire need as well to support their steadfastness in their city.

6. The need to bring the attention of government officials to the present state of Palestinian curriculum and the need to underline national dialogue in our schools which would enrich Palestinian personality.

7. The need to get the benefits from the role of NGO's in their support of religious, nationalist, and historical thoughts in Palestinian society. This also includes the enrichment of the culture of dialogue which starts at home, school, university and all religious institutions.

8. Bring the attention of the people in charge of all institutions and NGO's of the danger of the Phenomenon of Emigration. This emigration only leads to national disadvantages to all sectors, especially young people in Palestinian society who are in dire need of work opportunities.

Al-Liqa Center's Christmas Celebrations in Bethlehem and in Galilee



Bethlehem, 16 December 2010

In the evening of the first day of the Christian Muslim Dialogue Conference a Christmas celebration was held which was recorded by the Tele-Lumiere and the Noursat satellite stations for a broadcast on Christmas day the 25th. Fr. Rif'at Bader, editor in chief of the Website "Abuna" and manager of Noursat's office in Jordan moderated the taped broadcast. Fr. Bader, likewise, interviewed few Christian and Muslim participants. Christmas celebrations included as well coral singing from the Palestinian Alwaan group led by Mrs. Reem Handal. A solo performance by Luna Amin also added to the warm feelings of this evening. Eastern Christmas chants were performed by Dr. Charlie Abu Sa'da and his sister Noura and by Mr. Lawrence Sammour.



Shafa 'Amr – Galilee, 28 December 2010

In Shafa 'amr and at the initiative of the Parish Council of the Latin Church, Christmas celebration was held on 28 December 2010, and was attended by hundreds from the city of Shafa 'amr and nearby villages led by clerics from different denominations. This distinguished event comprised coral chanting, hymns, comedy acts and questions and answers relating to the birth of Christ. Prizes included books and journals published by Al-Liqa Center. Opening ceremonies and the program of the Christmas celebrations were moderated by teacher and journalist Ziad Zhlewit.

Wednesday Evening Forum

27 October 2010 Israeli Policies and Horizons of Solving the Palestinian Problem

Al-Liqa' Center hosted in the Wednesday Evening Forum on 27 October 2010 Professor 'Aziz Haidar from Jerusalem University, in which he focused in his analysis of Israeli policies and horizons of solving the Palestinian Problem.

Prof. Haidar pointed out also the several directions in the government of Israel. There is a group who refuse peaceful settlement of the conflict out of ideological reasons and loss of confidence in



Palestinians. Another group rejection is based on national security reasons while others stress the fact that a solution of the conflict might cause civil war. Other groups oppose peaceful solution on economic grounds as seen in the position of "Shas", the religious party. There are other groups in the Israeli government who prefer a peaceful settlement in order to stop deteriorating relations with the U.S., Europe and certain Arab governments and isolation in the world that could threaten the Jewishness and the existence of the state.

10 November 2010

The Special Synod of Bishops of the Catholic Churches in the Middle East

Fr. Dr. Rafiq Khoury gave a presentation about the Special Synod of Bishops of the Catholic Churches in the Middle East, held from 10-24 October 2010 in Rome. Fr. Rafiq was an active participant in this Synod.

The Synod of Bishops which was convened by Pope Benedict XVI was attended by the Oriental Catholic Patriarchs, Bishops, and clergy and lay people, church representatives from throughout the world, as well as Jewish and Muslim representatives. Two documents were developed as a result: 1. A Message to the people of God, which was basically the final communiqué of the Synod. 2. Forty four recommendations comprising input of presentations and discussions of the two week Synod.



The focus of the Synod was on three areas:
1) Present situation of Christians in the various countries of the Middle East.
2) Communion and unity between Christians as an answer to the present challenges.



Al-Liqa' Center Activities in Bethlehem and Galilee

4 June 2010

A group of Italian Pilgrims led by Dr. Paulo Farina asked Dr. Geries S. Khoury to reflect on "what does the Gethsemane means for the Palestinians today". They insisted that this is to be done on location. The encounter was beautiful and very rich spiritually. Following reflections, prayers and reading of relating texts, Dr. Khoury answered questions of pilgrims which focused as well on Christian – Muslim relations.

20 June 2010

At the invitation of the Caritas Hospital Sisters in Bethlehem, Dr. Geries S. Khoury presented the Palestinian Christian Document: "A Moment of Truth" which was launched by local Christian in Christmas of 2009. Dr. Khoury presentation was followed with questions and answers relating to the Document.

4 November 2010

Dr. Geries S. Khoury lectured to a group of Italian pilgrims led by Fr. Picerello on Christian Palestinians and Israeli occupation's policies. Dr. Khoury asked pilgrims to know the history and reality of occupation and to tell their fellow country men the truth of what they had heard and what they had seen.

Dr. Geries S. Khoury participation in a workshop organized by the MISEREOR

2-4 November 2010 St. Vincent Hotel - Bethlehem

Dr. Geries S. Khoury participated in a workshop that was organized by the German MISERIOR at the St. Vincent Hotel in Bethlehem. The aim of the workshop was to help institutions to fill applications for financial aid, evaluation of programs and the writing of financial reports. Twelve local institutions participated. Workshop was chaired by Ms. Petra Feil and with the participation of Mr. Michael Hippler, Head of the Africa and Near East Department was also present Mr. Bernhard Schaefer, Advocacy Officer who works with MISERIOR and with E.E.D.



3) Witnessing or Christian presence in the East. Fr. Rafiq's presentation was attended by tens of clerics and lay people and was followed by questions and answers session relating to the proceeding of the Synod and Fr. Rafiq's point of view of the Synod.

Study day

"Shared Living": Study day for Christian and Muslim clerics in Nazareth

16 December 2010

St. Margaret Hotel, Nazareth

At the initiative of Al-Liqa' Center and Sabeel Center, a study day was organized for both Christian and Muslim clerics in Nazareth on 16 December 2010. The opening of the study day was led by Attorney 'Ali Rafi' of Al-Liqa' and Rev. Na'im Atik of Sabeel. Discussions focused on the challenges faced by Muslims and Christians, the rejection of fanaticism and the role of religion in facing this fanaticism. Discussions also revolved around the stand of the West from the Palestinian Problem and its impact on the shared living, and the role of clerics in both Christianity and Islam in deepening this shared living. Rev. 'Atik hoped that this study day will only be the beginning for future meetings of Christian and Muslim clerics.





Al-Liqa' Center's reception to honor Bishop William Shomali

The Bethlehem Hotel - Bethlehem

5 August 2010

Reception for Bishop William Shomali which was attended by tens of Christians and Muslims was preceded by chants from the New Testament by Mr. Lawrence Sammour and invocations by the Mufti of the Bethlehem Governorate, Sheikh 'Abd Al-Majeed 'Ata. Professor Thiab Ayyoush then spoke on behalf of Al-Liqa' Center welcoming Bishop Shomali and wishing him well in his new capacity. Mrs Shehrazade 'Awwad followed by delivering a poem for this solemn occasion.

Several gifts were presented to Bishop Shomali from Bishop Atallah Hanna, Mrs Maha Saca and from the Director of Education in the Bethlehem Governorate. The gathering preceding the reception was concluded with a speech by Bishop Shomali who thanked Al-Liqa' for honoring him. In addition, he spoke briefly of the October 2010 Synod of Catholic Bishops in Rome and in the process stressing the importance of national unity and shared living.



International Activities



University of Vienna, Austria 6-16 July 2010

At the invitation of the University of Vienna, Dr. Geries S. Khoury participated in a summer program that was organized for Christian and Muslim students from different countries with the aim of furthering the culture of dialogue. The meeting was held in a Benedictine Monastery of Altenburg in lower Austria. The summer program focused on ethics, human rights, women in Islam, Christian - Muslim dialogue and social problems. Dr. Khoury lectured on the Christian dogma and on Christian - Muslim dialogue.

Dr. Khoury was impressed with this three week summer program reflecting cultural pluralism.

University officials keep track of this program and participants through a web site in which students and teachers can keep in touch with each other.

Dr. Khoury hoped that this kind of summer program will be sponsored by other universities especially in the Arab World. It is an excellent way to deepen and strengthen relations between followers of the two religions. This kind of program also helps to create and deepen the shared living.

Many lecturers from different countries contributed to this course which was headed by Prof. Irmgard Marboe from Vienna University and Prof. Ingeborg Gabriel was one of the lecturers.

28 September – 9 October 2010

Dr. Geries S. Khoury visited some German Institutions in Hanover and presented to several Lutheran institutions the Palestinian "Kairos" document: "A Moment Of Truth" on the 30th of September. Also Dr. Geries participated in a Conference which was organized by the Evangelical Academy in the Rhine region. There he presented a paper on Arab nationalism and Palestinian identity. In the same conference he gave on the 8th and the 9th of november 2010 a talk about the document, "A Moment Of Truth".



Al-Liqa' Visitors

6 August 2010

A group of Italian young People visited the Center and listened to Dr. Geris S. Khoury's presentation



of its various activities and publications. Dr. Khoury addressed the group about the Center's interfaith and Palestinian Contextualized Theology Conferences and shed the light on the current volatile situation of the Holy Land.

25 August 2010

Several German friends visited Al-Liqa Center and were welcomed by Mr. Mousa Darwish who briefed them on the center and its activities including Christian – Muslim dialogue. German delegation included Mr. Heinz Thiel, Mr. Bernd Mussinghoff, Dr. Rudolf Solzbacher, the General Director of the Colon Diocese and Bishop Klaus Kraemer, President of MISSIO.

15 October 2010

Mr. Mousa Darwish of Al-Liqa' met Dr. Sven Halvardson of Stockholm University and lecturer in Religious Sociology. Mr. Halvardson visited the Center in order to gain an insight into the Center and its activities including Christian – Muslim dialogue. Mr. Darwish briefed the visitor on various aspects of the Center since its inception in 1982.

29 October 2010

A group of visitors from the British Bible Lands led by Mr. Richard Jones visited Al-Liqa' Center. Dr. Geris



S. Khoury briefed them on the Center's activities including the Palestinian Contextualized Theology. Questions and answers followed which focused on the present situation in the Holy Land and on the peace process.

5 November 2010

Prof. Thiab Ayyoush met at the Center with a journalist from Sweden, Mr. Magnus Steinberg. Prof. Ayyoush briefed the Journalist on Al-Liqa' Center and its activities in the area of Christian – Muslim dialogue and national unity and the desire of Palestinians to realize a just peace. This meeting was coordinated with the Swedish Christian Center in Jerusalem.



9 November 2010

At the request of Mr. Joris van Voorst tot Voorst National director Aid to the Church in Need – The Netherlands; Dr. Geris S. Khoury met a delegation visiting the Holy Land. Dr. Khoury briefed them on Al-Liqa Center and its activities including the Christian – Muslim dialogue and Palestinian Contextualized Theology.

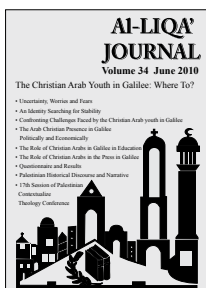


10 November 2010

Mr. Felix Dan, a representative of the German Konrad Adenauer, met Gr. Geris Khoury and was briefed on the Center and its activities since 1982. Mr. Dan expressed his interest in cooperating with Al-Liqa' Center in the future.

Al-Liqa' Center's Most Recent Publications 2010

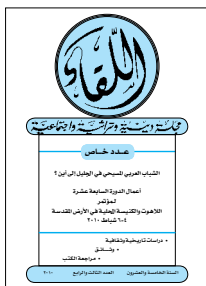
June – December 2010



1. Al-Liqa' Journal, volume 34 (June 2010)

This issue focuses on the Christian Arab Youth in Galilee which was the title of the 17th Session of Palestinian Contextualized Theology Conference, 4-6 February 2010. Lectures focused on Arab youth in Galilee:

uncertainty, worries and fears; an identity searching for stability; challenges faced by these young people; Arab Christian presence in Galilee politically and economically and their role in education and in the press. Also the issue included an in-depth questionnaire, results and analyses. The proceedings of this conference is also included as well as an article on Palestinian historical discourse and narrative.



2. Al-Liqa' Quarterly review in Arabic, year 25, vols. 3 and 4, 2010

This issue focuses on the 17th Session of the Palestinian Contextualized Theology Conference, 4-6 February

2010 including an in-depth examination and analyses of the questionnaire on the Christian Arab Youth of Galilee and several lectures that were included in the proceedings of the conference as seen above. This issue includes Al-Liqa's editorial on Christian presence in the Arab East as well as an article on the role of Christian Arabs in the nationalist movement. Volume 34 also includes a book report and documents.

3. Dialogue in Islam (in Arabic); by Prof. 'Abd Al-Rahman 'Abbad, publication of Al-Liqa' Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land, September 2010.

The content includes the culture of dialogue, dialogue in the Qur'an, dialogue in the Prophetic Sunna, dialogue among the Prophet's Companions, the concept of the "other" in Islam, and the people of the Book: An Islamic View.



The Board of trustees of Al-Liqa' Center and its President H. B. Patriarch Michael Sabbah as well as Al-Liqa' Working committees and staff, Christians and Muslims, would like to take the occasion of the Muslim and Christian feasts, 2010-2011 Al-Adha, Christmas and the New Year, to extend their warmest and heartfelt greetings and sincere wishes to Al-Liqa's benefactors throughout the world and to fellow Muslims, Christians and friends at home and abroad hoping that these holy events and happy occasions will bring with them peace and tranquility to the Holy Land, the region and to the rest of the world.

List and Prices Of Al- Liqa's Publications 1982-2010

(All publications are in Arabic unless specified)

Christian - Muslim Dialogue Conference (1982 –2010)	
1. Proceedings of the First Conference, <i>Jerusalem</i> 1983 to 12 th Conference, Bethlehem 1994	\$10
2. 13 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> . 1995. (see no. 9 Miscellaneous)	\$10
3. 14 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 1996	\$10
4. 15 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 1998	\$10
5. 16 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 2001	\$10
6. 17 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 2003	\$10
7. 18 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 2005	\$10
8. 19 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 2007 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 22, no. 4, 2007)	\$10
9. 20 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 2008 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 23, no. 3, 2008)	\$10
10. 21 st Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> 2009 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 25, nos. 1,2, 2010)	\$10

Al- Liqa' Journal (in English) 1992 – 2010

Vol. 1; August 1992 – Vol. 35; December 2010

Annual subscription:

Individuals	\$20
Institutions	\$30
Price per one issue	\$8 + postage

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 - 2010)

Year 1-Year 3 (3 issues each year)
\$20 per Year

Year 4-Year 25 (4 issues each year)
\$40 per Year

Price per one issue
\$10

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)	\$10
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)	\$10
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)	\$10
18. Geris S. Khoury, Arab Christians and Muslims: Past... Present... Future (272 pages)	\$10
19. 'Abd Al-Rahman 'Abbad, Dialogue in Islam (188 pages)	\$10

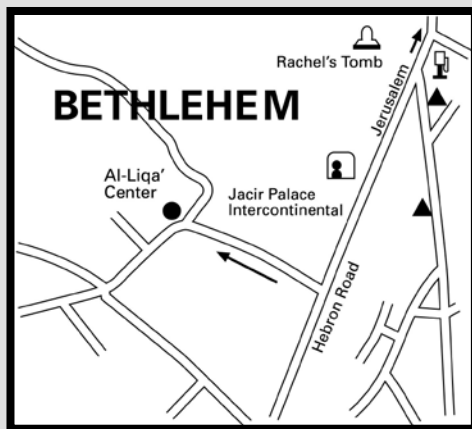
Palestinian Contextualized Theology Conference (1987-2010)

Proceedings of the First Conference, <i>Jerusalem</i> 1983 to the Eighth Conference, Jerusalem 1995	\$7
Ninth Conference, Bethlehem, 1996 (Contained in Al-Liqa' Journal, Vol. 9/10, (1997)	\$7
10 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , December 1998 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 19, vol 1+2, 2004)	\$10
11 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , June 2003 (There are no published proceedings)	\$10
12 th Conference, <i>the Galilee</i> , 2004 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 20, vol 1+2, 2005)	\$10
13 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> , 2006 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 21, vol 3+4,2006)	\$10
14 th Conference, <i>Ibillin</i>	\$10
15 th Conference, <i>Ibillin</i> (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 23, vol. 1, 2008)	\$10
16 th Conference, <i>Bethlehem</i> 2009 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 24, vol. 1, 2009)	\$10
17 th Conference, <i>Haifa</i> 2010 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 25, vol 3+4 2010)	\$10



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 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

Condemnation Statements from Al-Liqa

9 September 2010

Al-Liqa' Center condemns strongly the burning of the mosque of Beit Fajjar. This is not the first time that mosques are faced with burning and looting. Several mosques were attacked by colonial settlers but without the arrest of the culprits. The burning of mosques is an attack on the freedom of worship and on human and religious values. In addition, these attacks only add to tensions at the time when the peace process is at stake. We, Muslims and Christians, condemn this attack on the mosque of Beit Fajjar. We ask for the arrest of the culprits and to bring them to justice.

9 October 2010

Al-Liqa' Center issued a statement in response to pastor Terry Jones' decision to burn texts of Islam's Holy Qur'an; in which they condemn this uncalled for unethical behavior of Terry Jones which plants the seeds of hate in the hearts of heavenly religions' followers. In addition they said that "the uncivilized act of Terry Jones will never influence the brotherly ties which unite us. On the contrary, it will strength our heartfelt love which we have been living under for many centuries and which we expect to live and experience for ever".

Condemnation of Bloody Attacks on Churches in Iraq and Egypt

5th January 2011

Al-Liqa' Center held a meeting on the 5th of January 2011 for leading clerics and lay people representing several sectors of Palestinians in the Bethlehem Governorate. Attendees discussed bloody attacks on Christian churches in Baghdad and Alexandria. A communiqué was issued by attendees urging Egyptian and Iraqi governments to continue to investigate these bloody acts until culprits who commit wrongs in the name of Islam, and against national unity which the peoples of Egypt and Iraq, Muslims and Christian, have struggled for centuries, are brought to justice.

Upcoming Events

24-26 February 2011

"Theology and the Local Church"
(Palestinian Contextual Theology Conference)
18th Session

on

"From an Identity of Faith to an Active Presence"
Stella Maris, Haifa