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AL-LIQA NEWSLETTER

The Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land
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EDITORIAL

Al-Liqa Center and the October 2010 Assembly of the Oriental Catholic Churches

The Holy See will convene a special Assembly for the Middle East next October 2010 titled "The Catholic Church in the Middle East Communion and Witness." The preparatory document for the October Assembly, the Lineamenta, discusses the agenda of the assembly that comprises, among other things, "The Situation of Christians in the Middle East," "Christian Emigration," "The challenges Facing Christians," "The Christian Response in Daily Life," "Particular Relations with Judaism," and the "Relations with Muslims."

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Theology and the Local Church in the Holy Land Conference
(Palestinian Contextualized Theology Conference)
17th Session

The Christian Arabs Youth in Galilee, Where To?

4-6 February 2010
St. Elias Monastery (Stella Maris) – Haifa

The Theology and the Local Church in the Holy Land Conference of Al-Liqa' Center focused on the issue of the Christian Arab Youth and how to confront its challenges. There was a wide participation by laity and clergy. The worrying results of the survey prepared by Al-Liqa' Center under the supervision of Dr. Geries S. Khoury, aroused the interest of the audience. More than 420 Christian young men and young women from Galilee participated in answering the questionnaire.

The Conference began its proceedings on Thursday 4 February 2010 with an important speech by His beatitude Patriarch Michael Sabbah, President of Al-Liqa' Center Board of Trustees. He welcomed the audience and said:" Many bet on our vanishing, and this emanates from the increase in emigration. This saying is justifiable and is due to the absence of sound educational curricula. Generations grew up surrounded with sectarian fanaticism. This is due to events of violence here, in Lebanon in Iraq or in Egypt. Also this is due to the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict. His Beatitude concluded by saying that the questions being puts forth in the Conference shall study our future which we should build by ourselves.

On the second part of his speech, the Patriarch concentrated on the "Kairos Palestinian Document: A moment of truth…A word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering". He spoke about the document and read some paragraphs and explained the reasons behind it and its importance in our present time, for both Christian and Muslim Palestinians.

He was followed by his Eminence Archbishop Elias Chacour who said:" We are in a crisis which has not yet been resolved since 60 years." He added:" Until now we have not found a way to mitigate the intensity of emigration or to stop it. This requires a miracle from heavens and a miracle from us that heaven responds to". His Eminence added:" Searching for the identity and belongings is still in the space of searching and questioning whether on the political, or social or educational level". He was followed by Fr. Atallah Makhouli, the Greek

Orthodox parish priest of Kufr-Yasif, who stressed the importance of the work and message of clergy which is a big responsibility. All have to cooperate in face of the serious challenges which we are confronting and which our youth are facing in a multi-religious and multi-cultural society and in a special political situation.

In the opening session of the first day of the Conference, Dr. Geries S. Khoury stressed that the Conference was not held from a racist and categorical starting point. Rather, one of the aims of the Conference is to strengthen national unity which stresses a life together. This has been the message of Al-Liqa' Center since it was established in 1982. He added that the results of the questionnaire conducted mainly by myself on the eve of the Conference were astonishing and worrying, and they require necessary solutions.
The opening session was followed by a reception and after it the first lecture was given by His Eminence Bishop Boulus Marcuzzo, the Latin Patriarchal Vicar in Israel. The lecture was on: "The Christian Arab literature and the contribution of Arab Christians in the Arab Muslim civilization". He said is that there are prominent figures in Arab culture and civilization whose origins are not Arabic, but they are Arab by belonging, language, and culture. The first day of the Conference was concluded with a dinner.

In the morning of the second day H.B. Patriarch Sabbah presided over the morning liturgy. The day began with a biblical meditation and a prayer conducted by Mr. Amer el-Baba.
The first session of the second day was on the results of the survey which was prepared by Dr. Khoury and Dr. Bernard Sabella. The survey form comprised 96 questions. It was filled out by more than 420 Arab Christian young men and women from 21 cities and villages in Galilee. The questions of the Questionnaire dealt with political, social, educational and religious topics. Among the most important results of the survey which aroused the interest of the audience were the following: More than 70% of the respondents said that they feel lost and there is no one who guides them in life; 69.9% suffer from the feeling of losing the identity; and 75.2% said that they do not feel any belonging to any religious or church body; 59% said that non-governmental or private Christian schools teach nothing about the Christian Arabs and about the Christian Arab civilization before and after Islam; 68% said that they had not learned about the Christian Arabs in their schools; and 92% said they had not received any aid from the Church institutions during their university education. On the level of the relations with the state and the other denominations, 65.5% of the respondents answered that their future is not guaranteed due to the racist nature of the Israeli state; 78.4% viewed that the daily relationship with the Jews is very weak; 86% viewed that the relations with Muslims and Druze became bad in the last five years; 61% believe that fanaticism results from the ignorance of each party of the other party.

On the level of the peace process, 90.7% of the Christian youth expressed their support for it. As for emigration, 71.6% said they do not think about emigrating from the country compared to 28.4% who think so. As for the definition of the components of the identity for the Christian young men and women, 45.5% said that they put the Christian component first 29.9% said that they put the Arab component second, and 9.7% put the Palestinian component third.
Dr. Bernard Sabella did important comments on the results of the survey and analyzed some of them. He stressed the continuous work and especially with the other religious leaders and educators.

The second session was on "The role and contribution of the Arab Christians in the public life in the last century in the Galilee area". The first presentation was given by Dr. Johny Mansour and he spoke about "The role of the Christian Arabs in politics and in economy in the last century". In his lecture, he emphasized that the largest portion of the Christians in the Galilee adhere to their Arabism and their nationality, and he gave details about in his lecture. He was followed by Mr. Elias Makhoul who gave a short presentation about the role of the Arab Christians in economy before the establishment of Israel, and the difficulties and challenges that are being faced today. Miss Ibtisam Mu'llem in her presentation talked about "The role of the Christian Arabs and the local Church in educational domain since the beginning of the Zionist settlement until today". While Dr. Hanna Abu Hanna, talked about the role of the Christian Arabs in literature and culture. He dealt with the literary activity especially by the pioneers of them and talked about Najeeb Nassar, Khalil Baydas, Najwa Q'awar and others. Mr. Zeiad Shlewit talked about the contribution of the Christian Arabs in journalism. He emphasized that the Christian Arab journalists played a pioneering role in fighting Zionist settlement, spreading national and patriotic awareness, and renouncing sectarianism in the different ages. However, their role has receded in the last three decades for different reasons which he discussed in his interposition. Miss Ilham Marshi in her presentation talked about "The role of the local Church and monastic orders in offering social and health services". She enumerated these orders and the services they gave and still giving.

On the level of the shared relations, Fr. Fawzy Khoury talked about the communication of the Christian Arabs with the West. He presented the experiences of mutual communication, and he mentioned that the appointment of the first Latin Arab Patriarch has opened new horizons before these relations and so did the visits of the Popes for the Holy Land since the early 1960's.

Dr. Shukri 'Arraf gave a lecture about the relationship with the followers of the heavenly religions on the eve of the establishment of Israel and after its establishment. Mr. Naser Chacour revealed an attempt to forcely evacuate the Christians of the Galilee at the beginning of the Israeli era, through recounting the story of "Yuhanan" operation which aimed to forcely evacuate the inhabitants of the Jish Christian village to Argentina and buying their land.

The last session of the Conference was a panel session which dealt with the challenges for the youth and the possibilities of working at these challenges. His Eminence Bishop Chacour participated in this session and he talked about his experience with the youth camps, then building the Mar Elias secondary school which was transformed later into a college then into a university. He was followed by Dr. Hatem Khoury who dealt with the life cycle represented in educating the children and the challenges they face. He concluded that it is necessary to found institutions in order to guarantee the future of our youth. After this, Rev. Fu'ad Dagher talked and gave an example from the Gospel about lack of faith. He criticized the lagging of the church in many instances behind the technological development in addressing the youth groups in particular. He was followed by the retired judge Ra'eq Jarjourah. He discussed the conflict with the Israeli authority over our identity and our rights. This put many challenges before all of us as Arabs and not before the Christian youth only. He demanded that attention be paid to the emigration of Arab intellectuals. The last presentation was by advocate 'Isam Abu-Nassar who said that

discussing the problems of young men is beneficial to them. He directed criticism at the school, and the institutions. He is demanding putting an integrated strategic plan for the youth issues.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Dr. Geries S. Khoury read the recommendations which were formulated by a committee from the participants, and thanked all those who participated and contributed in making the Conference succeed whether by attendance, or by giving lectures and interpositions.

Study day on

"Brotherly relations and shared living among Christian and Muslim Palestinians" Tuesday, 22 June 2010

Al-Liqa' Center and Al-Sabeel Center organized a study day on Tuesday, 22 June 2010, at the Bethlehem Hotel in Bethlehem to discuss "**Brotherly relations and shared living among Palestinians**".

Fifty Christian and Muslim religious leaders were welcomed by Rev. Dr. Na'im 'Ateek of Al-Sabeel and Mr. Mousa Darwish of Al-Liqa'. The main speakers were Dr. Geries S. Khoury and Sheik "Abd Al-Majid 'Ata. Their speeches on: "Relations and shared living among Christian and Muslim Palestinians " was followed by five group discussions and a concluding presentation of each group discussion. It was agreed by those attending that Al-Liqa' Center will be responsible for the follow up on the subject.

Continued from page 1

We, at AL-Liqa' Center, support the convening of such an assembly at this particular time since the pressing issues that will be discussed are crucial to the maintenance of a viable universal and local churches. In addition, we are proud at Al-Liqa' Center that the issues that will be discussed in the October 2010 Assembly have been dealt with in our annual conferences, workshops and publications since 1983 including the issue of Christian emigration from the Holy Land and Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Concerning emigration, AL-Liqa' held a unique all-Palestine conference in 1990 at a time when no one talked about this dangerous phenomenon which is gradually transforming this Christian community to a numerically marginalized one and the surrender of this community to distress and eventually to emigration. The research which we did in 1990 showed that one of the main reason for Palestinian Christian emigration is Israeli occupation. So, we cannot keep talking about emigration without dealing with its main reasons. That's why we call on the international community and the universal Church to do their utmost power to put an end to this ugly and inhuman Israeli occupation by achieving just and lasting peace and by creating a Palestinian independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital.

Concerning Christian – Muslim dialogue which is the essential element in the work of Al-Liqa' Center since 1982, we believe that the Center's experiences in this area can be a model for interfaith dialogue throughout the world. Christians and Muslims in the many conferences, workshops and publications learned to respect each other and to listen to each other with an open mind thus avoiding the pitfalls of the West and its negative views (Phobia) of Islam and Muslims.

Our hearts and minds are for the success of the October 2010 Assembly. We hope that the proceedings of the assembly will go beyond rhetoric creating in the process the mechanics to solve the many problems that face both universal and local churches.

Wednesday Evening Forum

3 February 2010

Al-Liqa' Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land hosted Prof. 'Aziz Haidar who is an expert on Israeli affairs and who addressed the question "Will Palestinian-Israeli negotiations return?". Mr. Musa Darwish, Deputy Director of the Center, moderated the lecture.

Prof. Haidar focused on factors hampering the return to negotiations.

Israel is presently ruled by rightists who are determined to built colonial settlements, the residents if which in East Jerusalem and West Bank numbered more than half a million people. And steps are being accelerated in Judaizing Jerusalem and changing its milestones. Israel had successfully put American attempts to solve the problem on the sideline. And Israel had no regional or international pressures exerted on it.

He said also: it is a strange that some Arab regimes are in the process of strengthening its relations with America and Israel at a time when Palestinian are in dire need of building Palestinian society to confront challenges.

He concludes: despite all these difficulties, there is no escape from negotiations which are based on international legitimacy and decisions.

Participating in the lecture of Dr. Haidar were academicians and leading lay people. Question and answers session followed.

Al-Liqa' Center's Activities in Bethlehem and Galilee

9 February 2010

At the invitation of Sabeel Center's conference at the Intercontinental Hotel, Jericho, Dr. Geries S. Khoury and Prof. Thiab Ayyoush took part in its proceedings as representatives of Al-Liqa' Center. Both participated in a panel which focused on Christian-Muslim dialogue and the experiences of Al-Liqa' Center in this regard. Dr. Khoury spoke about challenges facing the dialogue and the shared living and the need for the faithful and Palestinian authority to strengthen national unity and the bases of shared living. Prof. Ayyoush, on his part, stressed dialogue between the children of the one people and reiterated the idea that dialogue is an integral part of our Dogma and Faith. He presented as well the long experiences of Al-Liqa' Center in this regard since 1983.

16th February 2010

Dr. Geries S. Khoury delivered a lecture at the Casa Nova in Bethlehem on "**The Christian Muslim relations in Bethlehem area**". The group members were pilgrimages from north Italy. Dr. Khoury spoke also about the political and economical situation and daily life challenges of the Palestinian people in Bethlehem area.

The lecture was followed by many questions and discussions for about three hours.

2 March 2010

Dr. Geries S. Khoury, Director of Al-Liqa' Center, was hosted by "Al-Sufaniyyah Family" in Shafa 'Amr to discuss the survey that was carried out by Al-Liqa' concerning the youth of Galilee. Many leading lay and clerics of the area attended the evening lecture. The lecture of Dr. Geries revolved around the questionnaire which was delivered and discussed in Al-Liqa's local Theology Conference at Mar Elias in February 2010. The focus of the research was the thinking of young Christian people of Galilee, their identity, their future, emigration from the land, political solution of the conflict, their work and university education as well as their relations with members of other religion etc… Dr. Khoury also examined in his lecture Christian presence in the East and its contribution to Eastern and Western cultures and sciences stressing that Christian presence in the East are an authentic presence. He asked young people to hold on and be proud of this presence.

Dr. Khoury added that young people who answered the questions were true in their feelings. Dr. Khoury accused private and official schools for ignoring Christian presence in the school curriculum. Arab leaders ignore this presence as well.

At the conclusion of the lecture, a question and an answer session took place.

Presentation and Discussion
Four Researches submitted to Al-Liqa' Center

Bethlehem Hotel – Bethlehem, 16 April 2010

Al-Liqa' Center organized a gathering comprising researchers, academicians, clerics and community leaders, to discuss the studies of four Palestinians researchers titled "Islam's stand for violence and terrorism", "Women's rights in Islam", and "Al-Ijtihad in Islam: Historical Crises and Contemporary Situation."

At the beginning of the panel, Dr. Geries S. Khoury, Director of Al-Liqa' Center, welcomed the audience and researchers and explained the importance of Al-Liqa's decisive step to invite researchers to submit their studies. When accepted, researchers would be awarded a modest financial reward. Each of the four researchers: Mr. Labib Taha from Ramallah, Mrs. Amneh Al-Kilani from Jenin, Mr. Zuheir Al-Dab'I from Nablus, and Sheikh Muhannad Yousef Al-Haj Ahmed from Nablus presented their studies. Following each researcher's presentation, a detailed question and answer followed.

Dr. Khoury at the conclusion of the research presentations asked Palestinian researchers throughout the country to submit their studies on dialogue and other studies relating to Islam and Christian Arabs taking into consideration conditions of publications that are clearly pointed out in Al-Liqa's web site.

Each researcher was then presented with a modest financial reward by Al-Liqa' Center's Board of Trustees. This was followed by a reception held in honor of researchers.

A Study Day

Result of the Survey titled "The Arab Christian Youth in Galilee: Where to?"

Theological Department, Mar Elias Educational Institutions

'Ibilin - May 1, 2010

Al-Liqa' Center, the Galilee Branch, held a workshop on May 1, 2010 at the Mar Elias Educational Institutions in 'Ibilin which focused on the analysis of the survey carried out among The Arab Christian Youth in Galilee, and presented at Al-Liqa's annual Palestinian Contextual Theology Conference which took place in February 2010 in Haifa.

The study day focused on how we should deal with the results related to the daily life relations with Muslims, Druze and Jews, the educational role of the Christian private schools and the parishes in crystallizing the youth identity.

Dr. Geries S. Khoury, Director of Al-Liqa' presented a paper on the results of the survey and was followed by a long discussion and comments by the participants and among them was Fr. Ibrahim Da'ud, Rev. Fu'ad Dagher, Ms Ibtisam Mu'allem, Attorney Badira Khourieh, Mr. Yousef Matar, Mr. Ziyad Shleweit, and Mr. Samer 'Azzam.

At the end of the day, the participants at the workshop / study day recommended the following:

1. A letter to be sent to the Bishops of the various Churches in Galilee urging them to introduce to the curriculum in their private schools material on the role of the Arab Christians in Arab civilization and history, and to teach catechism to the Christians and religious culture to all students.
2. Pressure must be exerted on the Ministry of education to introduce the above-mentioned history in the curriculum.
3. A meeting with religious and Academic Arab Druze and Muslim personalities to be arranged soon to let them know the results of the survey and to examine with them the possibilities of organizing surveys among their youth and to ascertain their thoughts concerning "Shared Living".
4. The need to organize panels, workshops and open gatherings to discuss the results of the survey in all cities and villages.

A Study Day

"The Church of the Holy Land: Past, Present and Future."

"Family of Good Tidings" monastery from 'Ein 'Areek and Jordan

Al-Liqa' Center - Bethlehem
May 26, 2010

Fifteen monks and nuns from the monastery of "Family of Good Tidings" from 'Ein 'Areek and Jordan attended the study day titled: "The Church of the Holy Land: Past, Present and Future." Dr. Geries S. Khoury surveyed the history

of the church and its many rituals as well as the challenges that face the church and shared living with the Muslims and the daily problems of the church in Israel. Dr. Khoury discussed, in addition, the Catholic Synod that the Holy Father, the Pope, called for and the expectations and results from this historical catholic synod. In depth discussions followed Dr. Khoury's presentation.

International activities

Dr. Geries Sa'ed Khoury's Visits to Italy and Austria

6-18 March 2010

Dr. Khoury spent two weeks in Italy and Austria where he visited several cities and academic and social institutions. These visits began at the city of Catania in Sicily followed by visits to Genova, Varallo and Venice in Italy. In these visits Dr. Geries spoke about his book "A Palestinian Carrying his Cross", about the meaning of "fasting" in eastern churches and interfaith dialogue between and Christian Muslim Arabs throughout the ages.

Dr. Geries' next stop was Austria where he was hosted by Prof. Gabriel Engeborg of the University of Vienna and sponsored by Pro Oriente. At the University of Vienna, Dr. Geries spoke about "Christian and Muslim Arab dialogue: past, present and future." His lecture was attended by academicians and others interested in interfaith dialogue. A question and an answer session followed the lecture.

Dr. Khoury then visited the city of Salzburg at the invitation of Professor Winkler Dietmar, a lecturer in theology and the eastern churches, where he lectured at the College of Theology of the university of Salzburg in Christian and Muslim Dialogue and challenges it faces at the present and spoke as well on Christian Muslim dialogue from Prophet Muhammad's time to the present. At the University of Salzburg he met several experts on eastern Christianity including Dr. Jasmine and Dr. Aho Shemunkasho.

At the conclusion of his visit to Austria Professors who hosted Dr. Khoury expressed their desire and determination to strengthen their relations with Al-Liqa' Center through common projects, conferences, and encounters aiming to know one another cultural background.

Al-Liqa' Visitors

27 February 2010

Dr. Geries S. Khoury met with more than fifty Italian personalities. He informed them of Al-Liqa' Center, its objectives and activities within the context of difficult living conditions that the people of the area are going through. He touched as well on the political, economic and social situation of the area. An in-depth question and answer session followed. The Italian delegates were impressed with the Center's role in interfaith dialogue.

27 March 2010

Deputy Director of Al-Liqa' Center, Mr. Mousa Darwish, met an American student's delegation comprising sixteen graduate and undergraduate

students who are studying at JUC in East Jerusalem, on Saturday 27 March 2010. Mr. Darwish spoke about the Center and its various activities and focused in the process on Christian-Muslim relations and his very positive views as a Muslim of fellow Christians. For Jerusalem and Bethlehem without native Christian Arabs will be no longer the same named cities in the Holy Land. A question and an answer session followed.

25 May 2010

Dr. Harald Suermann from Missio, Germany visited Al-Liqa' Center.

Dr. Suermann's visit aimed at visiting projects that are supported and financed by Missio, Germany.

Dr. Suermann met members of Al-Liqa' Center and its staff as well as the Mufti of Bethlehem, Sheikh 'Abd Al-Majid 'Ata and all were invited to a lunch by Al-Liqa' Center. In the evening Dr. Geries S. Khoury met again with Dr. Suermann to explore continued cooperation between the Center and Missio, Germany.

Al-Liqa' Center's Most Recent Publications 2010

Al-Liqa' quarterly review in Arabic

Year 25, vol. 1+ 2, 2010

This, two issues in one, publication focuses on the proceedings of the 21st Session of the Christian – Muslim dialogue conference of 13-15 August 2009 titled: "Building Confidence between Arab and Muslim Worlds and the West: Past Experiences and Future Horizons." Topics discussed and published include relations with the West in pre-Islamic times, relations of the Prophet and Rightly Guided Caliphs with Europe as well as other articles dealing with relations in the Umayyad period, and Andalusian period, the Crusaders' (Frank's) War, Ottoman period and the Sykes – Picot and Balfour Declaration period. In addition, the focus of other articles deal with building confidence between East and West in view of the prevailing Islamo-phobia in the West. Included in this publication is the final communiqué of the conference.

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, *Jerusalem* 1983 to 12th Conference, Bethlehem 1994	$10
2. 13th Conference, *Bethlehem*. 1995. (see no. 9 Miscellaneous)	$10
3. 14th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 1996	$10
4. 15th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 1998	$10
5. 16th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 2001	$10
6. 17th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 2003	$10
7. 18th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 2005	$10
8. 19th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 2007 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 22, vol. 4, 2007)	$10
9. 20th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 2008 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 23, vol. 3, 2008)	$10
10. 21st Conference *Bethlehem* 2009 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 25, vol. 1,2, 2010	$10

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

Vol. 1; 1992 – Vol. 34; 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

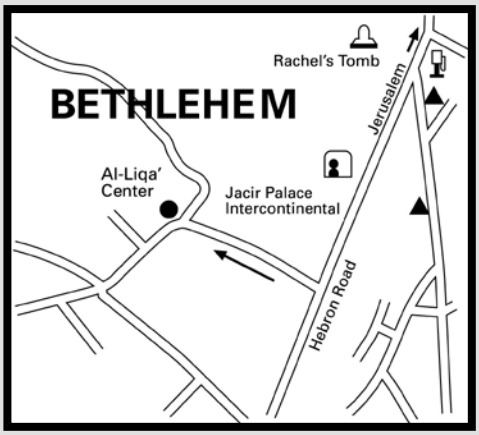
Miscellaneous

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)	$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. Geries S. Khoury, Arab Christians: Rootedness… Presence… Openness (278 pages)	$11
18. Geries S. Khoury, Arab Christians and Muslims: Past… Present… Future (272 pages)	$11

Palestinian Contextualized Theology Conference (1987-2010)	
Proceedings of the First Conference, *Jerusalem* 1983 to the Eighth Conference, Jerusalem 1995	$7
Ninth Conference, Bethlehem, 1996 (Contained in Al-Liqa' Journal, Vol. 9/10, (1997)	$7
10th Conference, *Bethlehem*, December 1998 (See Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 19, vol 1+2, 2004))	$10
11th Conference, *Bethlehem*, June 2003 (There are no published proceedings)	$10
12th Conference, *the Galilee*, 2004 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 20, vol 1+2, 2005)	$10
13th Conference, *Bethlehem*, 2006 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 21, vol 3+4,2006)	$10
14th Conference, *Ibillin*	$10
15th Conference, *Ibillin* (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 23, vol. 1, 2008)	$10
16th Conference, *Bethlehem* 2009 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 24, vol. 1, 2009)	$10
17th Conference, *Haifa* 2010 (contained in Al-Liqa' quarterly review, year 25, vol 3, 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. Geries 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

Condemnation by Al-Liqa' Center

Bethlehem, 15 January 2010

Al-Liqa' Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land issued the following statement:

Al-Liqa' Center, Bethlehem / Jerusalem condemn all acts committed against innocent people and places of worship in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The condemnation demanded the Egyptian government to present all those causing sectarian unrest to the courts.

Al-Liqa' Center, in addition, condemned what is happening in Switzerland, France and Malaysia in the areas of ugly sectarian behavior.

Upcoming Events

23-25 September 2010

22nd Session of the Conference on "Arab Christian and Muslim Heritage in the Holy Land", (Christian – Muslim Dialogue) titled:

"On the Road to Muslim and Christian Relations in the East and the West"

2-4 December 2010

18th Session of the yearly Conference on

"Theology and the Local Church"

(Palestinian Contextual Theology Conference) titled:

"From an Identity of Faith to an Active Presence"