

## UPF International: Paths Toward a Safer Middle East

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From November 17 to 21, 2025, representatives of governments and international organizations will gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York for the [Sixth Session](#) of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. This annual meeting reviews progress toward the objective of reducing the risks associated with weapons of mass destruction in the region and provides a forum for states to discuss practical steps forward.

The Sixth Session of the Conference invites the international community to examine the conditions required for regional stability and shared responsibility. Conducted under the presidency of [H.E. Omar Hilale](#), president of the Sixth Session of the Conference, and mandated by the UN General Assembly, the meeting contributes to global efforts to strengthen cooperation among states. Its agenda on non-proliferation, civilian protection, and transparent governance aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly [SDG 16](#) on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Urgency this year arises from the ceasefire in Gaza, which took effect on October 10, 2025, amid ongoing diplomatic initiatives focused on de-escalation, highlighting assessments by international organizations that the ceasefire remains fragile and requires sustained monitoring by the international community. The outcomes of this session may also inform preparations for the [2026 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons](#), where regional WMD-free zones are expected to remain a concern, with analysts noting the interdependence of the Middle East Zone process and global non-proliferation frameworks.

Preparatory discussions surrounding the conference have highlighted how regional initiatives can inform the 2026 NPT Review and reinforce broader multilateral efforts. This perspective aligns with discussions held at the [UPF World Summit 2025](#) in Seoul from April 10 to 13, where participants examined

challenges to world order and approaches to sustainable peace.

UPF considers this moment an opportunity to underline the principles advanced by its founders, [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and the late [Dr. Sun Myung Moon](#), who emphasized mutual respect and shared responsibility. These ideals shaped the development of the [Middle East Peace Initiative](#) (MEPI). The Middle East Peace Initiative was [launched in early 2003](#) by the Universal Peace Federation's predecessor (the [Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace](#)) as a long-term track-two diplomacy effort to complement official peace processes in the Middle East. Its inaugural consultation, convened in Washington D.C. on Feb. 27 - Mar. 2, 2003, brought together religious leaders, scholars and policymakers to chart a "new culture of peace" for the region.

That same year, MEPI organized its first interfaith peace mission to Jerusalem, inviting 135 American Christian clergy to meet with an equal number of Israeli rabbis - alongside local imams - for grassroots reconciliation amid the ongoing violence. On May 18, 2003, these leaders signed a historic [Jerusalem Declaration](#), a joint statement in which the clergy and rabbis repented "for the dark parts of our past" and pledged to build "a bright future together."

Over the [ensuing years](#), MEPI has convened dozens of peace missions, fact-finding tours, interfaith conferences and cultural exchanges across Israel, the Palestinian territories and neighboring states. Notable programs ranged from a December 2003 peace rally in Jerusalem that drew some 20,000 multi-faith participants, to a 2004 "Women of Peace" mission in which 500 women leaders from 40+ nations fostered dialogue with Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, to grassroots projects like the "Play Football, Make Peace" tournament that united Israeli and Palestinian youth teams. MEPI has included track-two dialogues on the future of Syria and interreligious visits that brought together leaders from Israel, Palestine, and Jordan for discussions in neutral settings.

These dialogue platforms represent expressions of the UPF vision of One Family under God, which seeks to build peace by recognizing shared humanity and fostering cooperation across cultural and national lines reflecting the [UN Office for Disarmament Affairs](#)' view of civil society as vital in raising awareness and capturing the public conscience in support of disarmament.

These activities complement UN agency work in the region, including programs of UNDP and FAO that address drivers of vulnerability and reflect the peacebuilding priorities noted in the [2024 UN Disarmament Yearbook](#). This approach aligns with ongoing United Nations deliberations on future peacekeeping models that are politically focused and people-centered, consistent with the Secretary-General's 2023 policy brief, [A New Agenda for Peace](#).

As the international community meets in New York to advance the aspiration of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, UPF reaffirms its commitment to supporting environments in which trust can deepen and cooperation can emerge. UPF encourages its partners to contribute to track-two peacebuilding efforts in the region, supporting spaces for dialogue and practical cooperation.

This commitment aligns with the [United Nations Pact for the Future](#) adopted in September 2024, which calls for enhanced multilateral cooperation to address shared security challenges, including disarmament. This emphasis is particularly relevant amid continuing humanitarian and security concerns in the region, which underline the value of multilateral cooperation and sustained engagement by civil society. The conference in New York highlights that security depends not only on diplomatic processes but also on the work of civil society institutions and individuals who choose cooperation over division.



## REV. DR. SUN MYUNG MOON, 1920-2012

Rev. Sun Myung Moon was born in 1920 in what is now North Korea. In 1935, after praying near Mount Myodu, Jesus Christ appeared to him on Easter Morning and asked him to "take on a special mission on Earth having to do with Heaven's work." After having escaped to Pusan at the beginning of the Korean War, he began writing and teaching the Divine Principle. In 1954, he founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, now known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon was blessed in marriage to Rev. Moon in 1960. They founded an array of religious, academic, educational, arts and peace organizations working in more than 190 nations. Dedicated to the belief that world peace must begin with harmonious families, they advocate the coming together of diverse political, religious, academic, media, and civic leaders to work cooperatively in addressing and solving the critical problems of the world. The Universal Peace Federation was launched in New York City in 2005, after which Rev. and Mrs. Moon and their family traveled throughout the world delivering peace messages. His autobiography, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, was published in 2009 in Korea and translated into nearly 40 languages



Sun Myung Moon was born on January 6, 1920, into a family of farmers that had tilled the land for centuries. As a boy he studied at a Confucian school and was a keen observer of the natural world. Around 1930, his parents became fervent Christians — Presbyterians — and the young Sun Myung Moon became a Sunday school teacher.

At that time, Japan ruled Korea and was trying to force the practice of the Shinto religion onto all Koreans. The religious intolerance of the Japanese regime was one facet of the contempt they held for the Koreans, a people they believed to be inferior. The Korean people were subjected to forty years of humiliation and cruelty as part of Japan's Greater Asian Co-Prosperty Sphere. Growing up oppressed in his own land, Sun Myung Moon learned early the pain of injustice, whether among his own people or at the hands of the Japanese rulers.

The young Moon became intensely aware of human suffering and the failure of humanity to create a loving and just world. He sought to understand why people suffer and how suffering can be ended. From going to church, he knew that religion addressed the fundamental human condition and promised an ideal world to those who obey God; but he saw that established religions, although centuries old and based on scriptures offering revelatory insights, were, in practice, unable to answer many of life's questions or solve the deepest problems facing humankind. Troubled by the immense gap between religious ideals and the actual state of the world, he began his own ardent pursuit of solutions through a life of prayer and study.



Early Easter morning 1935, Jesus appeared to the young Sun Myung Moon as he was praying in the Korean mountains. In that vision, Jesus asked him to continue the work which he had begun on earth nearly 2,000 years before. Jesus asked him to complete the task of establishing God's kingdom on earth and bringing peace to humankind.

The young Korean was stunned by this encounter, and especially by the request that had been made of him, and at first he refused. However, after deep reflection, meditation and prayer, he pledged to take on the overwhelming mission.

After personally accepting Jesus' call, the young Moon set out to discover the meaning of this unusual call. If Jesus called him to complete his mission, it meant that Jesus' mission was incomplete. Was not salvation through the cross all that humankind needs? What was it that Jesus had left undone on earth? If sin is not completely solved, then what is the actual root of sin?

Sun Myung Moon ceaselessly studied the Bible and other religious teachings in order to unravel these mysteries of life and human history. During this time, he went into deep communion with God and entered the vast battlefield of the spirit and flesh. Through denying his personal desires he overcame temptations of knowledge, wealth and physical pleasure. He came to understand God's own suffering and His longing to be reunited with His children. He learned the difficult steps that humankind would have to take in order to return to God and establish true peace on earth. After receiving his commission from God, he knew he could not succeed in his task without a profound understanding of the Creator and His creation. He intensified his quest for the truth, spending days and nights in passionate prayer, rigorous fasting and study. His method was to posit specific questions, research answers in the physical and spiritual worlds, and then seek confirmation for those answers through prayer. On several occasions he was guided directly by Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Buddha and other saints and sages of all faiths, who met him in spirit and contributed to his understanding of God and the complex history of God's relationship with humankind. By the age of 25, he had developed the fundamentals of the Divine Principle and Unification Principles.

Rev. Moon graduated from high school in 1941 and went to Japan to study electronic engineering at an industrial college affiliated with Waseda University. During his time in Japan, he continued his intense prayer and search for the truth. A school friend during that time said that in his room he kept three Bibles — one in Korean, one in English and one in Japanese, which he studied continuously.

He also was a Christian leader in the Korean independence movement against the Japanese occupation of Korea. Young Christians and communists were the strongest leaders of the independence movement against the Japanese occupation. In Japan, some of his closest school friends were communists, and while their atheism pained him, he recognized their sincere dedication to a utopian ideal. A fellow student at that time, Aum Duk-Moon, reports that Rev. Moon defended communists to his Christian friends, saying that they were good people and that Koreans should work together to save their country. He was eventually imprisoned by the Japanese for his student underground activities and tortured for not revealing the names of his collaborators. This imprisonment was what would be his first of six imprisonments under four governments: Japan, North Korea, South Korea and the United States

Rev. Moon returned to his native land in 1943. Upon returning from Japan, he was married to Sang Il Choi, a strong Christian from a well-known Presbyterian family.

In 1944, Rev. Moon was again arrested and severely tortured by the Japanese occupation government in Korea after his name came up in the interrogation of a communist student friend who had been active in the anti-Japanese underground in Tokyo. He refused to confess and was finally released.

In spite of such treatment by the Japanese, his cousin and companion at the time reports that Rev. Moon showed only love and respect to Japanese people. When the war ended in August 1945 he persuaded others not to take revenge on local Japanese officials and worked secretly to get them safe transport back to Japan.

By 1945 he had systematized his teachings, which came to be known as the Divine Principle, and he began his public ministry. The Divine Principle is the fundamental teaching of Rev. Moon and the Unification Church.

The Republic of Korea, although an Asian country, is recognized having perhaps the most fervent Christian faith of any nation. Rev. Billy Graham was so impressed by the spiritual vitality of her churches during his first visit to Korea that he predicted that one day Korea would send missionaries to revive the West. In this atmosphere of fervent Christianity, Rev. Moon's original plan was not to start a separate denomination but to work with other Christians to build God's kingdom on the earth. He worked hard to introduce his new revelations to existing Korean Christian churches. But his new teachings were not well received. American Christian missionaries disregarded him as an unschooled "country preacher." Korean ministers, jealous of the young man's impact on their congregation members, accused him of espousing false teachings. Despite his many efforts to reach out to established Christian churches, they did not respond to his new ideas. Rev. Moon soon realized that he was headed down the lonely path of a pioneer religious visionary.

In 1946 while buying rice for his family, Rev. Moon was told by God to leave his family without notifying them and go to communist North Korea to preach.

Before World War II, the center of Korean Christian activity was Pyongyang, now the capital of North Korea; it was called the "Jerusalem of the East." Among the spirit-filled churches were many with strong messianic expectations. Some of these churches had received revelations that the Messiah would be born in Korea, and they were directed in various ways to prepare to receive him.

He began to teach publicly, despite the dangers presented by the communist-dominated government. As a poor preacher with new interpretations of the Bible, Rev. Moon was more vulnerable than leaders of the established churches and was, therefore, one of the first religious figures to be imprisoned by the communists.



Rev. Moon at a North Korean court

Charged with disturbing the social order, in November 1946, the young minister was imprisoned and tortured. The police believed him to be dead and tossed his body into the prison yard. Some of his followers found him and carried him away to tend to his broken body. Miraculously, Rev. Moon survived and regained his strength. Undaunted, he began preaching in public once again.



In April 1948, he was arrested a second time and sentenced to five years of hard labor in Hungnam prison. He was among the first of the Christian ministers sent to the Soviet-style North Korean gulag. Hungnam was an extermination camp where prisoners were deliberately worked to death. Few lasted more than six months. Yet in that horrific concentration camp, Rev. Moon survived for nearly three years. Although he did not speak a word of the Divine Principle, many of his fellow prisoners looked to him for spiritual strength and became his disciples.

On June 25, 1950, the North Korean army invaded the South in a lightning attempt to unify the entire peninsula by force. UN and American forces, under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, rescued the beleaguered South. One month after the capture of Seoul, UN forces reached the gates of Hungnam prison. Knowing the UN forces were near, the communist prison authorities began to execute the prisoners. The prison camp was liberated by UN forces just hours before Rev. Moon's scheduled execution.

Despite his brutal prison camp experience, Rev. Moon did not immediately flee to the South. Instead, he returned to Pyongyang and spent 40 days searching for the members of his scattered flock. He eventually found a few members and then traveled south on foot with two of them. One of his followers had a broken leg and protested that he would slow the party down. Rev. Moon insisted on bringing him and for the long trek either pushed him on a bicycle or carried him on his back.



As one of hundreds of thousands of war refugees, Rev. Moon arrived in the southern port city of Busan, where he and one disciple built the first Unification Church from discarded army ration boxes. At that time, he told his small following that one day the message of the Divine Principle would be spread all over the world. He prophesied that people from all over the world would venerate that hillside. Rev. Moon's predictions sounded unbelievable. Today, in fact, tens of thousands of people make a pilgrimage to the spot.

Beginning his evangelization work in the South after nearly five years in the North, Rev. Moon was rejoined by his wife. However, he continued to dedicate himself night and day to his religious mission. She could not accept his dedication to the mission at the sacrifice of his family. Finally she filed for divorce, in spite of Rev. Moon's strong opposition to a divorce and efforts to dissuade her. (His only child from this marriage and his family are loyal followers of Rev. Moon.)



On May 1, 1954, in Seoul, Rev. Moon founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, Rev. Moon's faith community which became popularly called the "Unification Church" worldwide.

The church immediately attracted followers from a major Christian women's university, Ewha University, a school closely linked with the Korean government and with the mainline Protestant denominations. Because many students were joining the church, the school sent professors to investigate. When several professors also joined, instead of sincerely welcoming this new church, the school persecuted it. The university president ordered the professors and students to either leave the church or leave the school.

Coincidentally, newspapers in Seoul suddenly began to print alarming stories about the Unification Church, sex orgies and Rev. Moon being a North Korean agent. Rev. Moon was thrown in jail, to be released weeks later when no charges could be found. Again the following year he was thrown in jail on charges of evading the military draft, even though during the time in question he had been in Heungnam prison. After several months confinement — and sensational media coverage — the charges were dropped. His release received scant notice in the press. Thus began the pattern of collusion between religious leaders, government and the media that to this day suppresses Rev. Moon and his church.

Amid this severe persecution, Rev. Moon nurtured a growing community of faithful disciples, known as the "weeping church" because of the tearful prayers of Rev. Moon and his followers. By 1957, churches were established in 30 Korean cities and towns.

In the late 1950s, the first international missionaries were sent, one to neighboring Japan in 1958 and two to the United States in 1959.



Rev. Moon was blessed in holy marriage to Hak Ja Han on March 16, 1960. Their blessing was followed by a series of group marriage blessing ceremonies for their followers. Hak Ja Han and her mother, a devout Christian, had also fled south during the Korean War. They soon thereafter joined the Unification Church. Since their marriage, Mrs. Hak Ja Han has dedicated herself entirely to supporting Rev. Moon and his mission.

The International Federation for Victory Over Communism was the first of many organizations and activities founded by Rev. Moon to bring about the peaceful downfall of communism. Rev. Moon taught that communism should be defeated ideologically through education about the fallacies of Marxism-Leninism, offering a counterproposal consisting of universal principles called Godism, conferences, global networking, rallies and demonstrations in Asia, the United States and Latin America.

God directed Rev. Moon to expand his ministry to the world level by going to the United States in 1971. America, which embraces all peoples, races and religions, represents the world. What happens in America has global repercussions. He expressed gratitude for America's role in liberating his homeland. But he also knew that God expected much more from this land that had been so richly blessed. It was clear to Rev. Moon that America had drifted from its original ideals.



The "Day of Hope" speaking tour began February 3, 1972 in Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center in New York and went on to seven major US cities with the purpose of reviving traditional Judeo-Christian values.

The Unification Church had centers in ten states, and in 1972 pioneer leaders were sent out to the forty remaining states to found Unification Church centers. In the same year, evangelical teams traveled from state to state in a membership campaign, and thousands of young people accepted his message and dedicated themselves to the Unification Church.

After the successful Madison Square Garden event on September 18, 1973, public

speeches were given and banquets hosted for thousands of society's leaders in all 50 states.



Rev. Moon met with US President Richard Nixon during the Watergate crisis of 1974. Through rattles and newspaper statements, he urged Americans to forgive the beleaguered Richard Nixon at the time of the Watergate scandal. Any public relations strategist would have advised him against such action, which called on Americans to "forgive, love and unite." Virtually no one at the time was willing to side with a president on the verge of impeachment, but Rev. Moon does not flinch when he receives God's directions. He also foresaw the serious consequences of undercutting the American presidency in a world still dominated by the communist threat. His appeal was met with scorn, even though his "forgive, love and unite" message embodied the essence of Christian practice.

As a result the rapid growth of the movement in the United States, it went through a period of persecution similar to what other new religious leaders and movements have faced in the past — the new was seen to be strange and threatening. Rev. Moon's appeal for a true Christian renewal of America was initially welcomed. However, this receptivity proved shallow when, in 1974, he became an easy target for the now-hostile news media unhappy over Rev. Moon's "forgive, love and unite" message concerning the Watergate scandal.

The fair and objective coverage of the past was replaced by portrayals of Rev. Moon and his church in the worst possible light. All sorts of unfounded allegations from Korea were dug up. In this atmosphere of hysteria, the enthusiasm and idealism of his young followers was reinterpreted as "brainwashing." Rev. Moon was portrayed as a hypnotist and an agent of a foreign government. Religious and racial bigotry and persecution, a phenomenon in the United States as old as the country itself, showed its ugly face. Even though the United States was founded for the sake of establishing religious freedom, regrettably, religious intolerance remains today. The Unification Church bore the brunt of America's religious intolerance for three decades.

With churches already established in Korea, Japan, North America, and the Western European countries, in May 1975, Rev. Moon sent out missionary teams consisting of one Japanese, one American and one German to countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Oceania, bringing the total number of nations with Unification Church representatives to 120.



Rev. Moon continued his Day of Hope tour, accompanied by a Global Team of young followers from America, Europe and Asia, with speeches in Japan and Korea, concluding with a rally at Yoido Island near Seoul which was attended by 1.2 million people. Rev. Moon spoke a message of determination to stand against communism in South Korea and establish a world centered on God, at the height of the Cold War during a time of great tension between North and South Korea.

The Unification Theological Seminary, established in 1975 in Barrytown, New York, offers Master's Degrees in Divinity and Religious Education, with a recently added Doctorate of Ministry degree. It was founded as an ecumenical seminary, and faculty members have belonged to a broad range of religious denominations. Rather than concentrating solely on Unification theology, students learn philosophy, psychology, world religions and homiletics, as well as the histories, theologies, and scriptures of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and other world religions.



Starting with dialogues at the Unification Theological Seminary, the New Ecumenical Research Association for Christian Unity and continuing with other initiatives, such as the Assembly of the World's Religions, Rev. Moon promoted interreligious discussion, understanding and cooperation to solve the problems of poverty, war, injustice and breakdown of the family. The 1985 Assembly of the World's Religions was attended by 1,000 distinguished religious leaders and scholars. A key social teaching of Rev. Moon is that the world's most difficult problems will be best solved by religious leaders working interreligiously rather than by purely political and economic initiatives.

An estimated 300,000 people of all creeds and colors came to hear Rev. Moon speak at the "God Bless America Festival" on September 18, 1976 at the Washington Monument in the nation's capital. To date this was the greatest religious rally ever assembled in Washington, D.C. At this historic rally, Rev. Moon called upon America to fulfill its blessing as one nation under God, and to create "one world under God." He referred to himself as a "doctor" or a "fire fighter" from the outside who has come to help America meet its third great "test" as a nation, that of "God-denying" communism, and to revive its religious heritage. He proclaimed that the Unification Church with its "absolutely God-centered ideology" had the "power to awaken America, and raise up the model of the ideal nation upon this land."

He called members from around the world to England in 1978, where he gave them daily guidance and sent them around the country in a grass-roots community service initiative called "home church." He gave direction to members around the world to choose an area of 360 homes and serve the people and be examples of God's love.

Under strong pressure from a few politicians who saw an easy way to garner favor with voters riled up by the bad press about Rev. Moon and the Unification Church, the United States government launched a plethora of official investigations of Rev. Moon involving nearly twenty federal agencies. Hearings were conducted on Capitol Hill to warn of the dangers of new religious movements.

Meanwhile, a five-year Internal Revenue Service investigation finally produced a politically-crafted indictment against Rev. Moon. This indictment, handed down in 1981, charged him with evading income taxes nearly a decade earlier, as well as conspiracy to avoid those taxes. The total amount of taxes supposedly evaded was less than \$8000.00. No one in the United States has ever been indicted for tax evasion of such a small amount. The indictment's real purpose, however, was to spur Rev. Moon to leave America.

However, the US government and some politicians underestimated Rev. Moon's religiosity and commitment to his mission in America. When the indictment was handed down, Rev. Moon was in Korea. His lawyers recommended that he not come back to America, since there is no extradition treaty between the United States and Korea and by staying away he could avoid conviction and imprisonment. However, he did not follow their advice. He was, after all, a man of God, not a criminal fleeing the law. He immediately returned to the United States. He told his counsel: "I will not abandon my mission in America. That I will never do."



Upon arriving in New York for the Federal District Court arraignment he spoke only one sentence: "Your Honor, I am not guilty." The outcome of the trial was a foregone conclusion. He was convicted and sentenced to spend eighteen months in a federal prison. When, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, despite forty amicus briefs from mainline Christian leaders, legal associations, civil liberty groups and state governments, he prepared to go to jail.

Still, the US Justice Department tried to negotiate with Rev. Moon's attorneys, determined to achieve their goal of him leaving the United States permanently. On the condition that Rev. Moon depart for Korea and never come back to the United States, they said the government would waive his prison sentence. He flatly refused. His comment was, "It must be God's will that I go to prison. There must be a providential reason why I must go this way." Imprisonment was not new to Rev. Moon: He already had endured imprisonment in communist North Korea, South Korea and Japan during World War II.

In the meantime, protests were being made all around the nation over the injustice Rev. Moon was suffering as a result of religious persecution. Many Christian leaders who never knew or cared about him began to realize that the government had made a serious assault on religious freedom. Christians, including the National Council of Churches headed by Rev. Dean Kelley and non-religious groups representing more than 160 million Americans, came to his legal defense.



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A US Senate Subcommittee published the following report on Rev. Moon's conviction:

*"We accused a newcomer to our shores of criminal and intentional wrongdoing for conduct commonly engaged in by a large percentage of our own religious leaders, namely, the holding of church funds in bank accounts in their own names. Catholic priests do it. Baptist ministers do it, and so did Sun Myung Moon... we charged a non-English-speaking alien with criminal tax evasion on the first tax returns he filed in this country. It appears that we didn't give him a fair chance to understand our laws. We didn't seek a civil penalty as an initial means of redress. We didn't give him the benefit of any doubt. Rather, we took a novel theory of tax liability of less than \$10,000 and turned it into a guilty verdict and eighteen months in a federal prison."*

*"I do feel strongly, after my subcommittee has carefully and objectively reviewed this [Rev. Moon's tax] case from both sides, that injustice rather than justice has been served. The Moon case sends a strong signal that if one's views are unpopular enough, this country will find a way not to tolerate, but to convict. I don't believe that you or I or anyone else, no matter how innocent, could realistically prevail against the combined forces of our Justice Department and judicial branch in a case such as Rev. Moon's."*



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On August 20, 1985, Rev. Moon was freed after completing thirteen months of incarceration. Upon his release, major Christian and civil rights leaders, including Rev. Jerry Falwell of the Moral Majority and Rev. Joseph Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, held a press conference decrying the persecution and imprisonment of Rev. Moon and to welcome him back.

During his trial, Rev. Moon founded The Washington Times on May 17, 1982, and it became the second largest daily newspaper in America's capital. Its initial purpose was to be instrumental in the peaceful fall of communism, a goal achieved in conjunction with the Reagan Administration, and then with the end of the Cold War, to promote family values and support of the role of religion in society.

Rev. Moon organized a major conference of news media leaders and former heads of state in Moscow in April 1990. This fulfilled a pledge he had made in 1976 that one day he would organize a "great rally for God in Moscow." During this conference, Rev. and Mrs. Moon met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Through several interviews, televised and in print, he gave a message of hope to the Soviet people, urging them to turn toward God. A strong opponent of communism, Rev. Moon taught that the ideology was mistaken but he came to love the communist people. Since the fall of the Soviet Empire, he has funded numerous activities to assist former communist countries in their transition to democracy and freedom.



Rev. Moon made a crucial step in 1991 towards the establishment of world peace through the peaceful reunification of North and South Korea. Risking his life, he traveled to North Korea in December 1991, and met with President Kim Il Sung, under whose regime he had been tortured and sent to a labor camp. His purpose was to seek ways to bridge the gap between the two countries. The North Korean ruler, who had suppressed religion for forty years, met and graciously welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Moon. In the same visit Rev. Moon was permitted to return to his hometown and the house of his birth, placing flowers on the graves of his parents and embracing proud and tearful surviving relatives.

Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, the devoted wife and mother of 14 children, began her own public activities for world peace in 1992 with the founding of the Women's Federation for World. Her mission is both to lead peacemaking work and promote the central role of women in creating a just and peaceful society. Today, after years of intense international work, Mrs. Moon is recognized as one of the most effective woman leaders in the world. She has spoken in such notable venues as Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the United Nations in New York City, the Kremlin, the Great Hall in Beijing, and congressional buildings in Japan, Korea, and Canada. Perhaps no other woman leader has addressed so many large audiences in as many countries as Mrs. Moon.

Her first world tour in 1993 took her to 44 cities in the US, 27 cities in Japan, 40 university campuses in Korea, and 41 nations around the world. In 2006, accompanied by her adult children and grandchildren, she undertook two world tours for peace at the incredible pace of a country per day. She and her family spoke to enthusiastic audiences in 120 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Oceania and Latin America. She was received as a dignitary and met with many heads of states, prominent religious leaders and political leaders.



Rev. Moon announced the end of the era of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity in 1992. In its place, he founded the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, building a network of families from every race, religion and culture, united in the belief that centered on God's love, happy marriages and successful families are the cornerstones for solving the most fundamental problems of society.

Well-known for officiating at mass wedding ceremonies for his followers, Rev. Moon began in 1997 to invite people of all faiths to join in dedicating their marriage to God and world peace. World Peace Blessing ceremonies began with invocations by leaders of various religions. Newlyweds and couples renewing their vows make a sacred promise to love each other faithfully, live together in peace, and raise up their children and grandchildren to uphold purity and fidelity. A special contribution to world peace is made by couples who bridge the divides of race and religion, pledging that they and their families will promote understanding, respect, and harmony.

Rev. Moon proposed the creation of an international council of religious, civic, and political leaders to supplement the peacekeeping work of the United Nations. The Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (known as the Universal Peace Federation since 2005), has been active throughout the world with Ambassadors for Peace who work for peace in their nations and internationally.

A month after the September 2001 attacks on the United States, Rev. Moon organized a peace conference that brought together religious and political leaders from around the globe; a second, unprecedented conference for international Muslim leaders in Indonesia in December 2001, was titled: Islam and the Future World of Peace, reflecting Rev. Moon's confidence in Islam's potential to be a major partner in the global quest for peace.

Rev. Moon dedicated himself to address the world's most unsolvable challenges, among them achieving peace in the Middle East and a peaceful reconciliation between North and South Korea. The Middle East Peace Initiative exemplifies his approach to peace by calling on leaders of all fields, including government, academia, religion and the arts, to join in interreligious peace missions to the trouble spots of the world.

The Universal Peace Federation was established in 2005 to create a global council of religious and other leaders to supplement and support the peace-making work of the United Nations. It has a Global Peace Council with distinguished leaders from all continents and Ambassadors for Peace committed to the vision of a global human family under God. UPF is a non-governmental organization with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN. UPF was inaugurated in September 2005 at a gala event at the Lincoln Center in New York City. After that, the founders embarked on a World Peace Tour, inaugurating chapters on six continents. After a journey of more than 70,000 miles, 280 hours of airtime, and 60 time zones the tour concluded in Toronto, Canada three months later.

While the Internet links people the world over on an information super-highway, there is no highway with bridges and tunnels to connect all the continents. The idea for a Bering Strait crossing was promoted during the UPF Peace Tours of 2005 and 2006 as a vision for overcoming cultural and religious boundaries as well as geographic and political divisions.

Beginning in 2006, a number of Rev. and Mrs. Moon's children and adult

grandchildren, accompanied by their spouses, joined Mrs. Moon on a history-making world tour for peace to 120 nations. Audiences worldwide were inspired that Rev. Moon's important work is being effectively continued through the dedication of the second and third generations of his family.



The initial Peace Message of 2005 was developed for diverse audiences and to address complex issues facing the globe. In 2006 and 2007, the momentum generated from the initial tours continued locally in more than 14,000 locations organized by Ambassadors for Peace inspired by the vision of the Peace Tours.



Going up into the mountains for meditation and prayer has long been a tradition among the peace-loving people of Korea. For decades Cheongpyeong Lake northeast of Seoul was a beloved prayer retreat for Rev. Moon. As he prayed in the hills nearby, his conviction grew that one day there would be a peace village here and people from all over the world would come to his homeland to learn peace.

In addition to the Cheon Jeong Gung Peace Palace, Museum and Meeting Center there is a training center, hospital, seminary, and stadium at the complex.

UPF initiated a 'Legacy of Peace' memorial program at the United Nations headquarters in New York on March 18, 2010 to honor Hédi Annabi, the UN Chief of Mission killed with 100 other UN personnel in the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010 and seven other prominent individuals associated with UPF who had recently passed away and whose lives were dedicated to peace. Rev. and Mrs. Moon were present at the programs in New York and Las Vegas. Similar events were organized by UPF chapters around the world.

A tireless advocate for peace, Rev. Moon and his wife traveled in Asia, Europe, North America, and Africa in 2011 to speak to the public on the theme of "Building a World of Universal Peace."

Rev. Sun Myung Moon passed away on September 3, 2012, of complications of pneumonia. He is survived by his wife, ten of their 14 children, and more than 40 grandchildren.

### Global Citizen of Peace

#### The Life of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon

January 1920—September 2012

1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

View on Slideshare < 1 of 117 >

[Global Citizen of Peace](#) from [Universal Peace Federation International](#)



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## Middle East Peace Initiative

The Middle East Peace Initiative has been promoting peace since 2003 through dialogue, people-to-people diplomacy, fact-finding trips, interfaith pilgrimages and conferences. It brings religious leaders, parliamentarians, academicians, women leaders, youth and civil society representatives together in Israel, Palestinian Territories and Jordan. Forums explore Track II approaches to the crisis in Syria.

UPF's Jerusalem Office for Interfaith and Cooperation among Religions and Office for Peace and Security Affairs convene forums of academics, political and religious leaders, and peace advocates. UPF-Israel organizes culture of peace tours and leadership seminars for international youth.

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### UPF Statement on the Escalation Between Israel and Iran



New York, United States – UPF expresses deep concern over the recent escalation of hostilities between the State of Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Peace in the Middle East: Can NGOs Make an Impact?



26 November 2024 - UPF North America and UPF EUME held a webinar on the theme "Peace in the Middle East: Can Non-governmental Organizations Make an Impact?"

### Diplomats Provide Euro-View of Middle East

A European Angle on Peace in the Middle East

"Toward Peace in the Middle East" is a webinar series that presents the perspectives of the major stakeholders in building peace in the region.

Thursday, February 16, 2023 4pm CET

<https://www.upf.com/en/interfaith-cooperation/peace-building/peace-building-webinar-series>



Dr. Haim Korem  
Israeli Foreign Minister's Special Representative to Egypt and to South Sudan



Chantal Chérel Komagata  
UPF Europe's DRI Coordinator



Robert Vandermolen  
Belgium's former ambassador to Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar

Geneva, Switzerland—The webinar "A European Angle on Peace in the Middle East" featured the perspectives of two diplomats.

### Al-Liqa' Conference: Day 2, Sessions 3 and 4



Bethlehem, Palestine—The final sessions of the Al-Liqa' conference focused on the reality of Christians in the Middle East.

No events



## [Al-Liqa' Conference on "The Reality of the Church and Christians in the Middle East"](#)



Bethlehem, Palestine—The Al-Liqa' Center's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on November 25 and 26, 2022, was co-sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation.

## [Al-Liqa' Conference: Closing Statements and Recommendations](#)



Bethlehem, Palestine—The conference ended with a summary and recommendations.

## [Al-Liqa' Conference: Day 2, Session 2](#)



Bethlehem, Palestine—In this session, religious leaders discussed the reality of the Church and Christians in the Middle East.

## [Al-Liqa' Conference: Day 2, Session 1](#)



Bethlehem, Palestine—Day Two began with a session on the family and on women in the Church.

## [Al-Liqa' Conference: Day 1, Sessions 1 and 2](#)



Bethlehem, Palestine—The chairman of UPF-International addressed the Al-Liqa' 29<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference.

## [Middle East Peace Ambassadors Meet in Albania](#)



Tirana, Albania—Ambassadors for Peace from the Middle East and North Africa held a special consultation over three days.

## [Europe-Middle East ILC July-August 2022: Executive Summary](#)



Europe and the Middle East—The International Leadership Conference focused on Korean reunification and a global culture of peace.



## EUME ILC July-August 2022: Larnaca Session VI



Larnaca, Cyprus—The sixth ILC session was “Outside the Box – Taking a New Look at Peacemaking across the Middle East.”

## Pushing Back the Desert Approaches from the Middle East



Pushing Back the Desert Approaches from the Middle East.

## The Abraham Accords One Year and a Half Later



The Abraham Accords One Year and a Half Later.

## Middle East Peace Initiative Forum - New Paths for the Old World



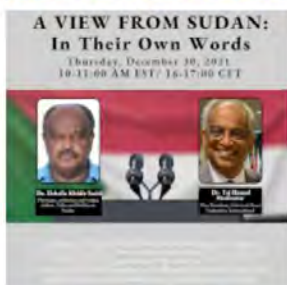
Middle East Peace Initiative Forum - New Paths for the Old World

## Innovative Economic Approaches to the Middle East



Innovative Economic Approaches to the Middle East

## Abraham Accords - A view from Sudan



Abraham Accords - A view from Sudan

## Middle East Webinar Probes the Power of Music



Europe and the Middle East—Building Middle East peace through arts and culture was the focus of a UPF webinar.



## Mutual Prosperity as a Path to Middle East Peace



### Playing the Business Card: The quest for mutual prosperity as a path toward peace in the Middle East

With a focus on Middle Eastern countries and collectively owned, the quest for mutual prosperity as a path toward peace in the Middle East.

Thursday, October 26, 2023 • 10:00 a.m. EDT / 6:00 p.m. CET

Register now to the link: <https://upf.org/online/2023/10/26>



UPF is pleased to bring you this webinar, and we hope it will provide you with a unique opportunity to learn from these experts and gain insights into the quest for mutual prosperity as a path toward peace in the Middle East.

The Middle East—The "Playing the Business Card" webinar focused on the potential of economic cooperation.

## Extending Hand of Friendship through Health Care



Middle East—A UPF webinar focused on international cooperation in providing health care, particularly to Palestinians.

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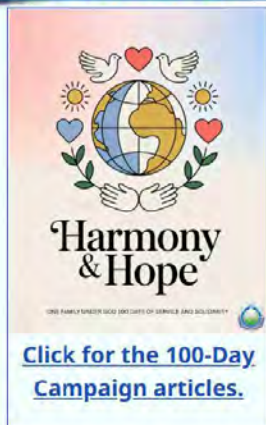
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## Middle East Peace Initiative

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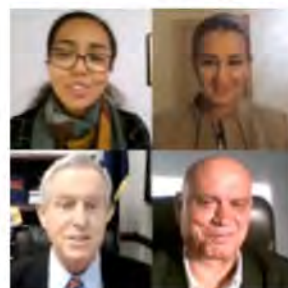
### Faith Leaders Urged to Light Path to Peace

20



Europe and the Middle East—The impact of the Abraham Accords was the focus of a UPF-IAPD webinar.

### Morocco Is Focus of Third Abraham Accords Webinar



Europe and the Middle East—Experts from Morocco, Israel, the United States and Europe discussed the Morocco Tripartite Agreement.

### IAPP Hosts Second Discussion on Abraham Accords



Washington, D.C., United States—The 2020 agreements between Israel and several Arab nations were the focus of an international webinar.

### World Leaders See Hope in Abraham Accords



Jerusalem, Israel—The first of a series of UPF webinars on the Abraham Accords presented a distinguished panel of world leaders.

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## [Session 4B: Middle East Peace Initiatives: Assessing the Role of Religion](#)

Peacebuilding necessarily involves cooperation between all sectors of society. While the world looks in anguish at the horrors of multiple conflicts in the home of the Abrahamic faiths, the evidence on the ground suggests that such conflicts are stoked by an array of other factors, not least a dearth of civic values and near-absence of the rule of law. In what way has—and in what way can—religion play a positive role in bringing peace to the peoples of the Middle East?

### [IAPP Introduced to Parliamentarians in Palestine](#)



**Ramallah, Palestine**—More than 20 people, including Palestinian and European parliamentarians, attended an event introducing the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) to Palestine, held on December 16, 2017 in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

### [IAPP Launched in Israel](#)



**Jerusalem, Israel**—The national inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) was held at Israel's parliament, the Knesset, on June 21, 2017.

### [Youth in Iraq](#)

Intervention by Fatimah Almkhtar at the World International Harmony Week, Toward Peace and Reconciliation in Syria and the Middle East - The Role of Religions, United Nations, Vienna, Austria, February 5, 2016.

### [World Interfaith Harmony Week Observed in Austria](#)



**Vienna, Austria**—UPF marked World Interfaith Harmony Week with a conference that asked how religions can help to bring peace to the Middle East.

### [Executive Report of Geneva Track II Consultation: Toward Peace and Reconciliation in Syria](#)



*Executive Report of the UPF Geneva Track 2 Consultation on «Toward Peace and Reconciliation in Syria: The Significance of Religion, Faith-Based Organizations and Civil Society », Geneva, Switzerland, January 23-24, 2014*

### [Track II Consultation on Syria Held in Geneva](#)



**Geneva, Switzerland** - UPF convened a special program entitled "Geneva: Track II" in Geneva, Switzerland on Jan. 23-25, 2014, concurrent with the "Geneva II" inter-governmental conference that aims to bring about a peaceful resolution of the crisis in Syria.

### [Clergy March for Peace in Old Jerusalem](#)

**Jerusalem, Israel** - The Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) pilgrims spent their last full day in the Holy Land, May 18, 2013, marching arm in arm through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem chanting, "Peace, *Shalom, Salaam Alaikum*."

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# UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

## *A Global Network of Peacebuilders*



## INITIATIVES PROMOTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE

### [Middle East Peace Programs](#)

Friday, May 16, 2014

Written by: UPF - Israel

A listing of programs of the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) from 2003 to 2014. MEPI was launched with an international consultation convened by the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, February 27-March 2, 2003, in Washington, DC, called Beyond Coexistence Toward a New Culture of Peace: Focus on the Middle East. Programs have included peace missions and fact-finding tours, service and youth activities, cultural programs, and conferences.

#### PEACE MISSIONS AND FACT-FINDING TRIPS

##### ***Peace Mission: "A Mission for Peace and Reconciliation"***

Rome, Israel, May 12-19, 2003

132 participants from North America

FOLLOW-UP: Briefing at the United Nations, June 19, 2003

##### ***Peace Mission: "Peace Under One God"***

Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza, Sept. 16-24, 2003

122 participants from North America

FOLLOW-UP: Briefing at the United Nations, September 30, 2003

##### ***Peace Mission: "God's Ideal Family: The Model for World Peace"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Oct. 18-24, 2003

##### ***Peace Mission: "Heart to Heart for Peace in the Middle East and the World"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, December 1-23, 2003

Participants from 84 nations (20,000 attended peace rally in Jerusalem)

FOLLOW-UP: Briefing at the United Nations, January 19, 2004

##### ***Peace Mission: "Peace Under One God: A Mission of Peace and Reconciliation"***

Jordan, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, March 30-April 6, 2000

120 participants from North America

FOLLOW-UP: Briefing at the United Nations, April 21, 2004

##### ***Peace Mission: "Women of Peace"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, May 21-28, 2004

526 participants from 41 nations

##### ***Peace Mission: "Forging a Path to Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, July 16-29, 2004

307 participants from 33 nations in Latin America and the Caribbean

##### ***Peace Mission: "Forging a Path to Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, August 7-20, 2004

300 participants from 34 nations in Oceania and Africa

##### ***Peace Mission: "Forging a Path to Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, September 2-23, 2004

583 participants from Europe and Eurasia; 511 participants from North America

##### ***Peace Mission: "Forging a Path to Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East"***

Israel, West Bank, October 15-28, 2004

409 participants from Asia

##### ***Peace Mission: "Forging a Path to Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, November 5-18, 2004

138 participants from Africa, Oceania, Turkey and the US

##### ***Peace Mission: "Forging a Path to Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East"***

Jordan, Israel and the West Bank, March 29-April 5, 2005

80 participants from 4 nations

FOLLOW-UP: Briefing at the US Capitol, April 29, 2004

##### ***Peace Mission: "Innovative Approaches to Lasting Peace in the Middle East"***

Israel, West Bank, Gaza, May 10-16, 2005

177 participants from 26 nations

##### ***Peace Mission: "Forging a Path to Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East"***

Jordan, Israel, West Bank, November 15-21, 2005

Jordan, Israel, West Bank, November 13-21, 2005  
120 participants from North America and Europe

***Peace Mission: “God’s Ideal Family: The Model for World Peace”***

Jordan, Israel, West Bank, March 14-21, 2006  
120 participants from North America and Europe

***Peace Mission: “Peacebuilding and Human Development in the Middle East”***

Jordan, Israel, West Bank, May 18-24, 2006  
300 participants from North America, Europe, Korea and Japan

***Peace Mission***

Israel, West Bank, August 21-25, 2006

***Peace Mission and Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel, West Bank, October 20-25, 2006

***European Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel and West Bank, November 12-17, 2006

***European Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel and West Bank, December 4-9, 2006

***European Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel and West Bank, January 11-15, 2007

***European Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel and West Bank, February 9-14, 2007

***Peace Mission***

Israel, West Bank, April 10-16, 2007  
200 participants from 40 nations

***Peace Mission***

Israel, West Bank, May 13-17, 2007

***Peace Mission and Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel, West Bank, June 22-27, 2007

***Peace Mission and Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel, West Bank, August 27-31, 2007  
120 participants from the US and 60 from Europe

***Peace Mission and Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel, October 27-31, 2007  
100 local participants

***Peace Mission and Fact-Finding Tour***

Israel, West Bank, December 4-9, 2007  
170 participants from 41 nations

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel, West Bank, March 10-16, 2008

***Peace Mission***

Israel, West Bank, May 25-30, 2008  
70 participants from the US and Canada

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel, West Bank, June 22-1 July, 2008

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel, West Bank, July 1-16, 2008

***European Fact-Finding Tour***

December 4-9, 2008

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel, West Bank, December 14-20, 2008

***Peace Mission***

Israel, West Bank, December 17-23, 2008

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel, West Bank, June 21-July 4, 2009

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel, West Bank, August 8-22, 2009

***Peace Mission***

Israel, West Bank, April 21-27, 2010

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

***Peace Mission and International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel, West Bank, July 26-August 3, 2010

***Peace Mission***

Israel, West Bank, August 20- 24, 2010

***Peace Mission and Fact-Finding Tour***

December 16-22, 2010

Leaders from Benin and Ghana

***International Youth Leadership Project***

Israel and Palestinian Territories, July 15-31, 2012

15 international participants and Israeli youth

***10th Anniversary of the "Jerusalem Declaration"***

May 14-18, 2013

***10th Anniversary MEPI Pilgrimage for Peace***

May 12-16, 2014

SERVICE AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

***Computers Donated for Palestinian and Israeli youth***, in Gaza and Beit Shemesh

***Service Projects*** in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Israel, 700 participants from Europe and North America, December 20-22, 2003

***Global Peacemakers Project***, Jerusalem, Bet Shemesh and Haifa, Israel; Bethlehem, Palestine, July 13-August 11, 2004

21 participants from 8 countries, including Jews and Arabs for Israel

***Religious Youth Service Project***

21 participants from 10 nations and 3 religions, October 1-12, 2004

Um Al Ammad village, Salt, Jordan

Sponsors: Religious Youth Service, Women's Federation for World Peace

Local Organizations: Jordan's Higher Council for Youth, Greater Salt Municipality

***Play Football Make Peace Tournaments***

Gaza and Israel, December 2004-January 2005

8 teams each in Gaza and Israel

Sponsor: WANGO Play Football Make Peace

Local Organizations: Palestinian Football Association, Israel Football Association, OneVoice

***"Building Bridges between Austria and Palestine"***

Austria, July 2006

Sponsors: Universal Peace Federation, HARP

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS: Arabic Chamber of Commerce of Vienna, Burj Al Luz Lug Social Center, East Jerusalem

***"Europe Meets Middle East: Connecting Youth to Bring Change"***

Israel, West Bank, January 4-11, 2007

17 participants from England

Sponsors: Universal Peace Federation-Europe, IRFF-Europe, Service For Peace-Middle East

Local Organizations: Bet Shemesh, SOS Children's Home in Bethlehem, mayoral offices

***Sports for Peace***

Middle school students from 4 communities near Haifa, Israel, December 1-6, 2007

700 students from Muslim, Druze, and Christian middle schools participated in a program that promoted sportsmanship and interreligious understanding through a basketball tournament.

***Global Peacemakers Project***

Israel, West Bank, December 7-14, 2007

21 participants from 8 countries took part in dialogues, service activities, briefings, visiting historic and sacred sites

***Italian Youth Visit Israel***

Israel, West Bank, December 27, 2007 to January 3, 2008

20 young Italians took part in dialogues, service activities, briefings, visiting historic and sacred sites

***Religious Youth Service and Faith Link***

Israel, West Bank, February 12-24, 2008

Youth of various religious backgrounds from Austria, England, Africa, India, Turkey, and America took part in dialogues, service activities, briefings, visiting historic and sacred sites

***Israelis & Palestinians Visit Italy***

September 1-10, 2008

23 young Israelis and Palestinians traveled together to several cities in Italy for dialogues, home stays, and tourism

***Religious Youth Service Project***

December 18-22, 2013

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

***"Culture of Peace" Evening***

National Congress Hall, Jerusalem, September 10, 2004

COUSIN: HARP with performers David RICO and the Refugee Symphony Orchestra

SPONSOR: IIFWP, with performers David D'Or and the Ra'anana Symphony Orchestra

***Exhibition of Cooperation between Peace and Love International and IIFWP in Israel***

Tel Aviv, 70 participants, December 26, 2004; Jerusalem, 120 participants, December 27, 2004

SPONSORS: Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace and Peace and Love International Movement

***Hebrew Version of Shi'ite Passion Play and Premiere Performance***, translated by Dr. Eldad J. Pardo and Shelly Elkayam

Jerusalem, May 29, 2006

A Hebrew version of the Shi'ite Passion play, "The Martyrdom of Imam Hussein," a central component of the Iranian-Shi'ite culture. The production combined a theatrical interpretation of the Imam Hussein's martyrdom with selections from the Hebrew scriptures and traditional writings.

***CD: "Halelu,"*** Musical Composition by David Eaton, released July 2006

Recorded in Israel by David D'Or, Ra'anana Symphony Orchestra and members of the Philharmonia Chorus of Israel

SPONSORS: IIFWP, Artists Association for World Peace

***Charitable Concerts***

St. Peter's Church, Notting Hill, England, February 26, 2006; St. Stephen's Church, London, England, October 18, 2006

Sponsor: Universal Peace Federation-United Kingdom, with Jewish and Arab musicians from various nations.

Beneficiaries: Palestinian Youth for Non-Violent Democracy; Charities of the Bishop of Jerusalem to aid traumatized children of Palestine, Haifa and Lebanon; Bereaved Families Forum of Israel and Palestine

***Holiday of Holidays in Haifa***

Musical performances from a variety of cultural traditions during the annual festivities in Haifa, December 20, 2008. In addition, pairs of people from enemy nations broke symbolic "arrows of war," signifying a commitment to peace.

CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

***Middle East Peace Initiative Consultation: "Beyond Co-Existence toward a New Culture of Peace"***

Washington, DC, 150 participants, February 27-March 2, 2003

Sponsor: Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP), proceedings published as a book

Follow-up briefing at the UN, May 8, 2003

***Middle East Peace Initiative Consultation: "Innovative Proposals for Peace, Cooperation and Prosperity in the Middle East"***

Washington, DC, June 27-29, 2003

Sponsor: IIFWP, proceedings published as a book

***International Leadership Conference***

Tiberias, Israel, October 29-31, 2007

10 Jewish, 10 Christian and 10 Muslim leaders from Israel; 88 Druze scholars, teachers, sheikhs, and professionals.

***International Leadership Conference: "Divine Winds of Freedom: New Opportunities and New Responsibilities for the Middle East"***

Istanbul, Turkey, May 6-8, 2011

Participants from throughout the Middle East

***Roundtable on "The Arab Spring One Year Later"***

Washington DC, USA, February 29, 2012

Forum organized by UPF's Office of Peace and Security Affairs

***Conference: "Religion and Peace in the Middle East"***

Jerusalem, August 26-28, 2012

***Conference: "Interreligious and International Relations in the Middle East: Toward Peace and Stability"***Jerusalem, December 22, 2013

Download a .pdf file of a booklet about the [Middle East Peace Initiative](#)

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