

لِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



WORLD INTERFAITH
HARMONY WEEK

OFFICIAL UN WEEK

1st WEEK OF FEBRUARY



The
H.M. King Abdullah II
World Interfaith
Harmony Week Prize
Ceremony 2014



PROGRAM

Date: 27 April 2014

Time: 1 pm

Location: The Royal Hashemite Court, Amman

Welcoming remarks and introduction by Dr. Minwer Al-Mheid,
Director of Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thoughts

- Remarks by Sheikh Ali Gomaa, Senior Advisor to The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought
- Remarks by Patriarch Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem
- Remarks by Bishop Munib Yunan, Bishop of the Lutheran Church
- Remarks by H.R.H. Princess Areej Ghazi

Presentation of Medals and Certificates to the winners

- Joint Third Prize
- Joint Third Prize
- Second Prize
- First Prize

Winners' remarks

Group photo with the Winners and Judges





*Love of God and Love of the Neighbour, or
Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour*

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WELCOME

Welcome to the second annual WIHW prize-giving ceremony! This year His Majesty King Abdullah II has consented to have the prize named after him and so it will be known as the 'King Abdullah II WIHW Prize'. We have now celebrated four years of the WIHW and each year has shown a marked increase in both the quantity and quality of events held. We congratulate all those who have managed to support an event during the WIHW, and thus have made it firmly established on the international peace calendar.

Since the first year the WIHW was celebrated in 2011, the number of events has risen steadily each year:

2011 - 213 events

2012 - 290 events

2013 - 363 events

2014 - 409 events

The events are held in over 50 countries of the world and are arranged by groups as diverse as government agencies, various social groups, schools, private individuals and of course the numerous interfaith organizations that exist worldwide.

UN WIHW Resolution Initiative.

In September 2010, His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed a World Interfaith Harmony Week at the Plenary session of the 65th United Nations General Assembly in New York. This was a call to establish a week every year where people of all faiths, and those of no faith, would promote the message of 'Love of God, and Love of the neighbour', or 'Love of the Good, and Love of the Neighbour'. The Draft Resolution for the World Interfaith Harmony Week was later written and presented by H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, Chief Advisor to King Abdullah II for Religious and Cultural Affairs and Personal Envoy of King Abdullah II, before the United Nations General Assembly where it was unanimously adopted on 20 October 2010

UN Resolution A/65/PV.34; the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) as it is called, recognises the first week of February of every year as a time when people of all faiths, and those of no faith, work together to promote and celebrate religious and cultural understanding and cooperation, to address each other in favorable terms drawn from their own traditions and

to accept and respect ‘the other’ based on the foundations of ‘Love of God, and Love of the Neighbour’, or ‘Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour’. Remarkably the WIHW excludes no one and includes and unites everyone.

The H.M. King Abdullah II World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize

The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan established the WIHW Prize in 2013 to recognize the three best events or texts organized during the UN WIHW (first week of February) which best promote the goals of the WIHW. Prizes are awarded to each event or text that is judged to have been most successful in promoting interfaith harmony and impacting religious understanding. Since 2014, this prize has been known as the King Abdullah II WIHW Prize. The prizes are:

First	\$25,000 and a gold medal
Second	\$15,000 and a silver medal
Third	\$5,000 and a bronze medal

The Judges for the 2014 The King Abdullah II WIHW Prize were:

- H.R.H. Princess Areej Ghazi
- H.B. Patriarch Theophilus III – Patriarch of the Holy City, Palestine and Jordan
- H.E. Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa – Senior Advisor to The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought
- H.E. Bishop Munib Yunan – Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and President of the World Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches
- Father Nabil Haddad – Founder and Executive Director of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Centre
- Dr Minwer Al-Mheid – Director of the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought
- Mr Aftab Ahmed – Director of the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre

THE WINNERS



First Prize

The United Nations Interfaith Harmony Partners – Zamboanga

for their event

The 3rd World Interfaith Harmony Week in Zamboanga City, Philippines

*Prof Alih Aiyub and Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra
will collect the award.*

This is the third year that Silsilah has celebrated World Interfaith Harmony Week. Unlike the other two celebrations, this year presented unusual and demanding challenges because of the MNLF attack last Sept. 9, 2013 which left many Muslims and Christians dead, both civilian and military.

A continuing disturbing consequence of that attack is the disruption of the friendly relationships between many Christians and Muslims in the city. This sets back the ties that gave the reason of peaceful coexistence established for many years between Muslims and Christians which now has to be renewed with delicacy and care to ensure that peace is re-established and preserved in the city.

The Silsilah objective of keeping the friendship between Muslims and Christians, which has not been easy even from the beginning, is now made even more difficult.

But Silsilah has faith in the innate goodness of man regardless of culture and religion and has great hope and trust in a loving God and believes that as long as dialogue is sustained, the lost friendship and goodwill can be restored and love and peace can be found in Zamboanga once again. With this spirit, Silsilah led the UN INTERFAITH HARMONY PARTNERS OF ZAMBOANGA organizing and managing the secretariat of this special event in the city.

In the WIHW, the following events/activities were held to uphold the theme: “Strengthening love for God and one



another: A celebration of Hope for Life, Peace and Solidarity

WIHW list of Events/Activities

- January 29, 2014 – Gathering of the Religious Leaders and the Interfaith Council of Leaders of Zamboanga in Preparation for The World Interfaith Harmony Week
- January 30, 2014 – Interschool Elocution Contest for Peace
- January 31 – February 1, 2014 – Gathering of Trauma Healers for Interfaith Harmony
- February 1, 2014 – Launching of The World Interfaith Harmony Week 2014
- February 2, 2014 – 8Th Harmony Youth Day
- February 3, 2014 – Forum with Student Leaders
- February 4, 2014 – Blood Letting Activity
- February 5, 2014 – Tree Planting Activity
- February 6, 2014 – Forum for the Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association
- February 7, 2014 – A Day of Service of the Youth

Winning the First Prize this year has proven that Silsilah has done well and gives the movement great courage, inspiration, and hope to continue in its quest for lasting peace in the world.



Second Prize

Saeed Khan Falahi

for the event

An Ordinary Step for Ensuring Extraordinary Peace

Saeed Khan Falahi and Nazar Abbas will collect the award.

The Organizer

Saeed Khan Falahi has been voluntarily working for peace and human rights in India and around the world for the past 20 years. His main issues are global peace, communal harmony, equal rights for women and men, child rights, etc. He also campaigns for inter-religious understanding and harmony which he considers to



be of utmost importance to achieve world peace. He is an independent, non-party socialist and has a strong wish to create powerful projects to end religious intolerance, illiteracy, poverty, malnutrition, child labour, child marriage, femicide, dowry murder and other similar social problems.

The Event

This event included different religions' prayers for interfaith harmony and global peace, children's participation for interfaith harmony and peace, a concert for interfaith harmony and a harmony lunch. Hundreds of people of different faiths – mainly Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian – were present on this occasion to promote interfaith harmony mutually. Several social, political and religious leaders, priests, activists, teachers, advocates, doctors, legislators, school children and women and girls were also present.

In his address, Saeed Khan Falahi expressed his concerns over increasing religious intolerance in many parts of India. He further appealed to all persons to live in peace and harmony and spread the spirit of mutual love, tolerance and coexistence. He insisted that people of all faiths must respect the religious feelings of each other in order to strengthen interfaith harmony

everywhere. Saeed Khan Falahi called on the State Government of Uttar-Pradesh as well as Union Government of India to take effective measures to ensure a strong setup of interfaith harmony among the people of all religions, faiths and beliefs.



Joint Third Prize

Gamal Farghaly Sultan Secondary School for Boys, Assiut, Egypt

for their event

Peace...without Prejudice

*Mrs. Eman Mohamed Yousif Saddik and
Mr. Ashraf Sayed Godha will collect the award.*

To convey our message of peace for all, we held a party for a retired Christian teacher. We invited different parties and sectors inside our city to attend this peaceful party. We asked that no one bear religious symbols. Our purpose was to create one nation without discrimination, without any symbols, to live in peace, as we come from one source. We believe that this is better for our community and humanity.

So, to overcome such issues among our society, we held a party to celebrate the retirement of one of the Christian teachers from the school. We invited different parties of youths from our society and introduced a lot of activities such as speeches, singing, plays and dancing. We asked them all not to carry or show any signs which may draw negative reactions. We want to draw the sign of tolerance, love and peace inside our hearts first. We are one society. Our message is to convey love, tolerance, and cooperation. Peace is one of God's Names; He is the Peace. If our society and the world would follow our message, we would achieve peace on our mother land, the earth. We ask



God to accept our good intentions to humanity as a brotherhood in humanity. This is the message that we send from our school, the Gamal Farghaly Sultan Secondary School for Boys in Assiut, Egypt.



Left to right: Mrs. Eman Mohamed Yousif Saddik; Mr. Ehab Salah; Mr. Nabil Fahkry; Mr. Ashraf Sayed Godha; Major Mohamed Yousif Sayed; Captain Magdy Shehab; Mr. Ali Baghet; Mahmoud Abdel Maboud.

Joint Third Prize

Faiths Together, Uganda.

for their event

Faiths Together

*Mr Micheal Boyondo and Mrs. Irene
Bulindi will collect the award.*

We strive to create a world filled with hope, not hate, one person at a time, where you and I have a role to play.

Faiths Together Uganda organised this event at Goma Health center III in Goma village, Mukono district. Our religious activities include treating the social and physical ailments of the community as well.

First, there were prayers, then speeches from the health center administration and by the following religious leaders: the Imam of the area Mosque Masjid Jamiah; Pastor Joshua Elasu Martin (Pentecostal) of Overcomers Church; Canon Kiseka (Anglican) of Mukono Diocese, later joined by our Muslim district Khadhi Sheith Ahmed Kisakya, and finally by URI personnel and the Director for Faith Together Uganda Buyondo Michael.

Faith Together Uganda also has a cultural troupe which entertained the guests with cultural dances.

It was a great moment of reflection on how faiths when working in harmony can bring about social change in our communities. The religious leaders also stressed that the Golden Rule of treating others the way we want to be treated should be the cornerstone in leadership and community service as this promotes unity and social responsibility to everyone and can bring about a positive change in our community where we live.

While all this happened, there was safe male circumcision, HIV counseling and testing in the clinic. Traditional folk songs were sung to urge people to change their moral behaviour to roll back HIV because, even when circumcized, one can still be infected with this deadly disease that knows no religion.

After news of our event spread to several villages around the area, Member of Parliament Hon. Betty Namboze Bakileke invited Faiths Together Uganda and all the faith leaders who deliberated at the event to join her in resolving a conflict between the Muslims and Pentecostal Christians of Kiko Market in Mukono town. We are now working on this.



HONOURABLE
MENTIONS
and the
SHORT
LIST



Honourable Mentions

1. Interfaith Dialogue, The Motor, Driving New Synergies for Harmony, by Religions for Peace, Belgium.
2. World Interfaith Harmony Week by URI.

The Short List

1. Boxes of Love to the Syrian Refugees. (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)
2. MLK Day of Service (Montgomery Village, United States)
3. Muslims and Christians are Walking in the shade of each other. (Waterloo/Cedar Falls, United States)
4. Worldreligions-Worldpeace-Worldethics (Lienz, Austria)
5. Building Bridges (Pakistan)
6. What Does Interfaith Look Like? (Glasgow, United Kingdom)
7. Abbotsford Canada – World Interfaith Harmony Week (Abbotsford, BC, Canada)
8. Stop Violence in the Name of Religion (Oujda, Morocco)
9. Commemoration of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2014 (Siliguri, New Delhi, Chennai, India)
10. Interfaith dialogue dinner (Kampala/Mukono, Uganda)
11. The Students' Dialogue of A Common Word Between Us and You (Medan, Indonesia)
12. Promote Interfaith Cooperation on Sustainable Development (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
13. Interfaith Friendship Pilgrimage 2014 with The Peacemakers' Circle (Quezon City and Manila, Philippines)
14. Interfaith dialogue for Muslim-Christian understanding (Kidapawan, Philippines)
15. Promoting Harmony a multi-fatih project (Sarawak, Malaysia)
16. 10th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice Celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week (White Plains, United States)
17. World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration by International Association for Religious Freedom South Asia (India)
18. Grassroots Community sharing of Interfaith Celebration

(Baseco And Taguig, Philippines)

19. UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2014 (Copenhagen, Denmark)
20. Compassionate Cities Launch in Atlanta, Georgia (Atlanta, United States)
21. URI - World Interfaith Harmony Week (Worldwide)
22. Open Quiz on Holy Scriptures (Kottarkkara, India)
23. Finding Common Ground (Online Resource from the Pluralism Project) (Nationwide, United States)
24. International Interfaith Harmony Seminar And Awards (Kuala Lumpur and India)
25. Interfaith Videos and Speeches (Islamabad, Pakistan)
26. Russian Orthodox Church Archpriest meets with Russian Swami of Hindu Tradition during WIHW (Nizhny Novgorod Oblast, Russian Federation)
27. The Best of Interfaith: An RFPUSA & EHF Webinar Series (New York, United States)
28. Question Time - The religious perspective (London, United Kingdom)
29. Special Interreligious Assembly on Religious Harmony for National Unification (Abuja, Nigeria)
30. The role of Youth in promoting Interfaith Harmony in our Communities & Societies (United Kingdom)
31. Engaging Religions in the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes (New York City, United States)
32. Poway Interfaith Team Harmony Breakfast (Poway, United States)
33. Harmonious Coexistence: Each Person is a Gift (Lahore, Faisalabad, Pakistan)
34. Public Symposium (Kwangju, Republic Of Korea)
35. Cantata, sacred readings and interfaith prayers for peace and reconciliation in Venezuela (Caracas, Venezuela)
36. Interfaith Breakfast (Cape Town, South Africa)
37. YARA's (The Youth Association for Reality & Awareness) "COEXIST" 2014 - "Coexisting with the World" (Amman, Jordan)
38. The Second UN World Interfaith Harmony Week (Sarajevo,

Bosnia and Herzegovina)

39. Showcasing harmony from the land under the winds (Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia)
40. The Best of Interfaith: What Research and Big Data Can Do for Interfaith with Dr. Patrice Brodeur (New York, United States)
41. Ishmael-Isaac Program (Los Angeles, United States)
42. Interfaith dialog meeting (Aligarh, India)
43. Forum on Tolerance , Reconciliation and Forgiveness (New York City, United States)
44. Broad Based Awareness Campaign to Promote Interfaith Harmony to Create Culture of Peace (Sialkot, Pakistan)
45. 2014 DC Young Adult Faith Leaders Summit (Washington, United States)
46. Closing Forum of the World Interfaith Harmony Week - Colombia 2013 and 2014 (Bogotá, Colombia)
47. Peace, Reconciliation, and Harmony (Warsaw, Poland)
48. Observance of World Interfaith Harmony Week (Petaling Jaya, Malaysia)
49. Feast of Faiths - Student Dialogue Dinner (North Andover, United States)
50. Interfaith Cafe and Sikh Langar (Brisbane, Australia)
51. Where We Dwell Together - 11th Annual Interfaith Prayer (North Andover, United States)
52. Building Communities of Peace: Muslim-Christian Relations in Asia (New Delhi, India)
53. Us and Them: Christian Muslim relations and cultural Harmony in Australia (Australia)
54. Ma'din Harmony Campaign (Malappuram, India)
55. Conversations: Pluralism and Islam (Los Angeles, United States)
56. Jews in the Arab Lands (London, United Kingdom)
57. Universal Inter-Faith Understanding and World Peace. (India)
58. Halal Monk (Ghent, Belgium)

APPENDICES



APPENDIX I

The World Interfaith Harmony Week Resolution UNGA Resolution A/65/PV.34

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/243 of 13 September 1999 on the declaration and programme of action relating to a culture of peace, 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, 58/128 of 19 December 2003 on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 60/4 of 20 October 2005 on a global agenda for dialogue among civilizations, 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, 64/81 of 7 December 2009 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and 64/164 of 18 December 2009 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people,

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, and the initiative “A Common Word”,

Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;
2. Proclaims the first week of February of every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs;
3. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or on love of the good and love of one's neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

APPENDIX II

His Majesty King Abdullah's address at the Plenary Session of the 65th General Assembly of the UN in NY on Thursday September 26, 2010, in which he proposed the World Interfaith Harmony Week.



Bism Illah Al-Rahman Al-Raheem

President Deiss,
Mr Secretary General,
Your Excellencies,

More than ever before, our world is confronting multiple global crises, which cannot be effectively addressed, without a coordinated, multilateral action. No country can

face these crises and provide for its future in isolation. The threats are global, and so are the solutions. A strong, central role for the United Nations is essential.

It is also essential to resist forces of division that spread misunderstanding and mistrust, especially among peoples of different religions. The fact is, humanity everywhere is bound together, not only by mutual interests, but by shared commandments, to love God and neighbour; to love the good and neighbour. This week, my delegation, with the support of our friends on every continent, will introduce a draft resolution for an annual World Interfaith Harmony Week. What we are proposing is a special week, during which the world's people, in their own places of worship, could express the teachings of their own faith about tolerance, respect for the other and peace. I hope this resolution will have your support.

My friends,

Another critical area for UN leadership is peace, and one peace hangs in the balance today. With direct negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, a door opens to a final, two-state settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the establishment of an independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian state, living side by side with Israel, will pave the way for a comprehensive regional peace.

An end to this conflict is long overdue. No regional crisis has had a longer or broader impact on global security and stability. No such crisis has been longer on the UN agenda or has frustrated peacemakers more. Every resource spent in this conflict is a resource lost for investing in progress and prosperity. Every day spent is a day lost to forces of violence and extremism that threaten all of us in the region and beyond.

People are wary of disappointment, and spoilers are doing everything they can to make us fail. We cannot underestimate the importance of success, or the painful cost of failure. All of us need to support swift action, hard choices and real results. The alternative is more suffering deeper frustrations with spreading, more vicious warfare. Such a catastrophic scenario will continue to drag in the whole world, threatening security and stability far beyond the borders of the Middle East.

To prevent that, the talks must be approached with commitment, sincerity and courage. There should be no provocative or unilateral actions that can derail the negotiations. Instead, the parties must work hard to produce results, and quickly. That means addressing all final-status issues, with a view to ending the occupation and reaching the two-state solution, the only solution that can work, as soon as possible. The status quo is simply unacceptable, Enough injustice, enough bloodshed.

Jordan and the rest of the Arab and Muslim worlds are committed. In the Arab Peace Initiative, we reach out to Israel with an unprecedented opportunity for a comprehensive settlement, A settlement that will enable Israel to have normal relations with 57 Arab and Muslim states, one-third of the United Nations.

Now, we reach out to you, our fellow members of this United Nations. All stand to lose if the talks fail; all gain when peace is achieved. Our global and collective influence is key. Together, we must tip the balance towards peace.

Thank you.

APPENDIX III

H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad,
Personal Envoy of and Special Advisor to
H.M. King Abdullah II, delivers H.M. King
Abdullah II's World Interfaith Harmony
Week proposal at UN on Oct.20, 2010



Bism Illah Al-Rahman Al-Raheem

Mr. President, I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the 29 other co-sponsors Albania, Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Costa Rica; the Dominican Republic; Egypt; El Salvador; Georgia; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras;

Kazakhstan; Kuwait; Liberia; Libya; Mauritius; Morocco; Oman; Paraguay; Qatar; the Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Tanzania; Tunisia; Turkey; the United Arab Emirates; Uruguay and Yemen, the draft resolution A/65/L5 entitled the 'World Interfaith Harmony Week'.

Allow me to explain in brief the reasoning behind this resolution which was launched by H.M. King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein before the United Nations General Assembly on September 23rd 2010.

As this august assembly is well aware, our world is rife with religious tension and, sadly, mistrust, dislike and hatred. These religious tensions can easily erupt into communal violence. They also facilitate the demonizing of the other which in turn predisposes public opinion to support war against peoples of other religions. Thus, for example, according to the results of the 2008 Gallup Poll one of the largest international religious surveys in history 53% of Westerners have 'unfavorable' or 'very unfavorable' opinions of Muslims and 30% of Muslims polled worldwide hold negative views of Christians.

The misuse or abuse of religions can thus be a cause of world strife, whereas religions should be a great foundation for facilitating world peace. The remedy for this problem can only come from the world's religions themselves. Religions must be part

of the solution, not part of the problem. Much good work has already been done towards this starting really with the Second Vatican Council from 1962–1965 by hundreds of intra-faith and interfaith groups all over the world and of all religions. Yet the forces inciting inter-religious tensions (notable among them being religious fundamentalisms of various kinds) are better organized, more experienced, better coordinated, more motivated and more ruthless. They have more stratagems, more institutes, more money, more power and garner more publicity such that they by far outweigh all the positive work done by the various interfaith initiatives. The sad proof of this is that religious tensions are on the rise, not on the decline.

Mr. President, Turning now to the text itself, allow me to explain some of its most essential terminology and concepts: 1) In the very title of the resolution and in the second operative paragraph and elsewhere, the word ‘harmony’ is used in the Chinese sense of the term. We add it to the term ‘tolerance’ (which we have also used) because ‘tolerance’ can suggest that the other is so negative they have to be ‘tolerated’; we cannot use ‘acceptance’ because it implies that religions accept each other’s doctrines rather than their right to those doctrines and this is not the case; we cannot use the term ‘peace’ alone because it suggests merely the absence of war, and not necessarily the absence of hatred. Only the Confucian concept of ‘harmony’ can rescue us here because it suggests not merely ‘peace’, but also ‘beautiful and dynamic interaction between different elements within a whole’.

2) In the third operative paragraph, there is mention of ‘Love of God and Love of the Neighbor, or Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor’. Why is this religious reference necessary in a UN resolution? In answer to this question, it will be noted first that this draft resolution is unique because it is specifically about peace between religions and not about anything else, therefore some religious references in this particular case is only natural. To rigidly maintain the contrary would be to disregard the feelings of 85% of the world’s population which belongs to one or another faith.

Second and more importantly perhaps we include these references because whilst we all agree that it is clearly not the business of the UN to engage in theology, it is nevertheless the primary goal of the UN to make and safeguard peace, and without the specific mention of God and of the Two

Commandments of Love [see: Matthew 22:34–40 and Mark 12:28–31] many if not most devout Muslims, Christians and Jews will consider a secular call for an interfaith harmony week a feckless platitude that they cannot fully or sincerely support. For in the Holy Bible Jesus Christ ﷺ (echoing the words of Deuteronomy) said: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God [Luke 4:4 and Matthew 4:4, see also: Deuteronomy 8:2–3] and also that: Hallowed be Thy Name [Matthew, 6:9], and similar meanings are to be found in the Holy Qur'an wherein it is stated that no act is rewarded Save for seeking the Countenance of [the] Lord, the Most High [Al-Layl, 92:19–20] and that: Verily the Remembrance of God is of all things the greatest [from: Al-Ankabut, 29:45]. In other words, for many Muslims, Christians and Jews who together make up perhaps 55% of the world's population and (I regret to say) are involved in most of the world's conflicts it is necessary to mention the Substance of their faiths. Otherwise, hoping to foster peace between religions by foisting upon them an external and purely secular and bureaucratic language is simply a house divided against itself which shall not stand [Matthew, 12:25]. Third, it will be noted that this language excludes no one, of any religion or of no faith at all: every person of good will, with or without faith can and should commit to Love of the Neighbour and Love of God or Love of the Neighbour and Love of the Good. Loving the neighbour and the good is after all the essence of good will. And referring to 'the Good' obviously does not necessarily imply belief in God or in a particular religion, even though for many believers 'the Good' is God precisely: Jesus Christ ﷺ said: 'No one is Good but God Alone' [Mark, 10:18; Luke 18:19, and Matthew 19:17], and 'the Good' ('Al-Barr') is one of God's Names in the Holy Qur'an [Al-Tur, 52:28]. Thus speaking of 'the Good' is a theologically-correct but inclusive formula in so far as it goes that unites all humanity and leaves out no one. Fourth, there is another reason why it is specifically necessary to mention love of the neighbour: it sets an invaluable practical standard based upon which people can ask themselves and each other if their actions stem from caritas (love) towards the neighbour or not. Indeed, as the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "None of you has faith [in God] until you love for your neighbour what you love for yourself." [Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Iman, Vol. p.67, Hadith no.45].

3) Also in the third operative paragraph, the phrase 'on a

voluntary basis' is used because the entire proposal must be purely voluntary. No place of worship should be forced to observe the World Interfaith Harmony Week; for whilst we hope to encourage interfaith harmony, the last thing we want is for anyone at all to feel that anything is being imposed on his or her faith, beliefs or convictions. Nevertheless, one can conceive of positive incentives to encourage and help support and monitor the implementation of this resolution.

4) Finally, also in the third operative paragraph, the phrase 'each according to their own religious traditions or convictions' is vital because the different religions do not necessarily interpret 'Love of God and the Neighbour' in exactly the same way, and do not all want it said that they do. This phrase thus avoids the dangers of syncretism or reductionism and allows for religious differences within the same goal of working towards inter-religious peace and harmony.

In summary, then, I very humbly ask the member states of the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the proposed draft resolution for the World Interfaith Harmony Week, noting that it excludes no individual, compromises no one, commits no one, forces no one, harms no one, costs nothing, and on the contrary includes everyone, celebrates everyone, benefits everyone, unites everyone and has the potential to bring much needed Peace and Harmony to the entire world in sha Allah.

Thank-you Mr. President.

APPENDIX IV

2013 Winners

First Place

Interfaith Mediation Centre, Kaduna: \$25,000 Grand Prize and a gold medal was awarded to the Interfaith Mediation Centre, Kaduna for their event 'Imam and Pastor from Vengeance to Forgiveness' in Nigeria.

Second Place

Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy: \$15,000 Prize and a silver medal was awarded to the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy for their event 'A Common Word Towards A Common Peace' in the Philippines.

Third Place

World Interfaith Harmony Week Malaysia: \$5,000 prize and a bronze medal was awarded to the Department of National Unity and Integration for their event 'World Interfaith Harmony Week Malaysia 2013' in Malaysia.

Honourable Mentions

1. 'Student Leaders' Confluence for Harmony' Friday, 1 February 2013 (Davao City, Philippines) Organized by Silsilah Forum Davao.
2. 'Faith, Hope and Love'. Saturday, 3 February 2013 (Copenhagen, Denmark) Organized by Tro i Harmoni (Faith in Harmony).