

Confirmed Speakers

Sabeel's 9th International Conference

The Bible and the Palestine-Israel Conflict

Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek is a co-founder and the Director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem and the first Palestinian to articulate for the international community a Palestinian theology of liberation in "Justice only Justice: A Palestinian Liberation Theology" and again in his more recent book, "A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation."

Dr. Hala Khoury-Bisharat has been a long-time member of Board of Directors for Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, and she is now also the Chairperson of the Board, and a lecturer in criminal procedure, law of evidence, public international law and international criminal law at Carmel Academic Centre-Haifa.

Dr. Gary Burge is a Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, with forty years of experience among Christian communities in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon. He has written extensively about West Asian Christians, land theology, and Zionism.

Ms. Diana Buttu is an attorney based in Ramallah. She is also a Research Fellow in the Middle East Initiative of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government as well as an Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow in the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School. She specializes in negotiations, international law, and international human rights law and is a former spokesperson for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Ms. Cedar Duaybis is a retired school teacher from Haifa (pre-1948) and Nazareth. She is one of the founders of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center and served on its Executive Committee as secretary of the Board of Directors through 2011. She is also a co-author of the Kairos Palestine document and one of the editors of many Sabeel publications.

Rev. Dr. Peter Du Brul, SJ, is a professor and the first chairperson of the Religious Studies Department at Bethlehem University as well as having been the former chair of the Humanities Department.

Dr. Mads Fredrik Gilbert is a Norwegian physician and professor specializing in anesthesiology and emergency medicine. He has volunteered at a kibbutz and for over forty years labored for justice in Palestine, most recently serving in Gaza at al-Shifa Hospital during the 2008–2009 and 2012 Israeli bombardments.

Mr. Gerard Horton is an attorney at Defense for Children International, an international organization working in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel to promote and defend the rights of children. His area of specialization is Palestinian children who have been detained and prosecuted in Israeli military courts.

Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac is a professor of Bible and the Assistant Academic Dean at Bethlehem Bible College where he is also the Director of the Christ at the Checkpoint Conference.

Rev. Dr. Gregory Jenks is an Anglican priest, biblical scholar, and the Academic Dean at St Francis Theological College in Brisbane, Australia. He is also the co-Director of the Bethsaida Excavations Project in Israel and Coordinator of the Jesus Database project.

Fr. Pietro Kaswaller, OFM, is a Professor of Old Testament Exegesis and Archeology at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem and the author of many highly influential works such as “Biblical Archaeology and the Origins of Israel.”

Dr. Victor Kattan is the author of the critically acclaimed “From Coexistence to Conquest: International Law and the Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1891-1949.” Formerly, he was a Program Director of Al-Shabaka as well as a legal adviser with the United Nations Development Program in East Jerusalem of the State of Palestine.

Ambassador Hind Khoury is an economist who is active in Palestinian domestic and international affairs. She is a PLO delegate and Palestine’s former Ambassador to France (2006-2010) as well as a past Minister of State for Jerusalem Affairs, and serves as the Vice President on the Executive Board of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center.

Mr. Jonathan Kuttab is a leading Palestinian human rights attorney in Israel and Palestine. He is also a co-founder of Al Haq, Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, and Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence. And he continues to serve as chairman of the Board of Bethlehem Bible College.

Rev. Dr. David Mark Neuhaus, SJ, was born in South Africa, immigrated to Israel as a teenager, and converted as a young adult from Judaism to Catholicism through an elderly nun from the Russian Orthodox Church. He teaches at Bethlehem University and at the Seminary of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem; and he is the Latin Patriarchal Vicar for Saint James Vicariate for Hebrew Speaking Catholics in Israel. His most recent book is entitled *The Land, the Bible and History: Toward the Land That I Will Show You*.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Cardoso Pereira is a Brazilian Methodist pastor, community organizer, member of the Land Pastoral Commission, and Professor of Ancient History, Porto Alegre Institute of the Methodist Church, Brazil.

Mr. John B. Quigley, LLB is the President's Club Professor of Law at Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University where he teaches International Law and Comparative Law. Professor Quigley’s numerous publications include works on human rights, international law, the United Nations, war and peace, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the State of Palestine.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb is a Palestinian, Christian, scholar, the pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, and the founder of the Diyar Consortium and Dar al-Kalima College. He has written and edited more than a dozen books, the latest two of which are: “The Biblical Text in the Context of Occupation: Towards a New Hermeneutics of Liberation” and “The Invention of History: A Century of Interplay between Theology and Politics in Palestine.”

Dr. Andrea Smith is a Native American (Cherokee) activist, scholar and professor at the University of California, Riverside. She is the U.S. Coordinator for the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologian and the author of “Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances” and “Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide.”

Mr. Joakim Wohlfel is the Head Policy Officer for Conflict and Justice for Diakonia, a Swedish human rights and development organization with Christian values that works with local partner organizations for sustainable change for vulnerable people throughout the world.

Ms. Jean Zaru is the Presiding Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting in Palestine and a founding member of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. She is the author of the influential book, “Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks” and a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.