



EMBASSY OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Honorable Sir Rateb Rabie
President /CEO
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, NW suite 518
Bethesda, MD

Dear Mr. Rabie,

It is with a great pleasure that I am extending my sincere congratulations to you and the members of your esteemed foundation on the occasion of the 17th International Conference and Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. The event provides a fitting context for the celebration of the enduring work of HCEF to establish solidarity between Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Holy Land and elsewhere.

As you are aware, our region is facing dire straits that paved the way for various security, economic, and social challenges, particularly at the Holy land. The ongoing Syrian civil war, the Israeli occupation, and the emergence of terrorist groups have fueled the intra-religious, sectarian, as well as ideological conflicts in our region. Concomitantly, Arab Christians, who will always be a unifying factor in our social fabric, become victims of the blind and deaf instigation to revolt from which everyone in certain Arab countries has suffered. It is now, more than ever, that we need concerted efforts to tackle such threats in a holistic and comprehensive approach.

Jordan will remain steadfast in its determination and efforts to bring peace to our region. These efforts stem from Jordan's deep conviction of the role of the Arab Christians in building Arab societies, defending the just causes of our nation, and unifying our social fabric. The latest visit of His Holiness Pope Francis' pilgrimage to the Holy Land on May, 2014, marked 50 years of papal visits to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's Commission for Relations with Islam. The visit bolstered both His Holiness' and His Majesty King Abdullah II's efforts to promote harmony and respect among religions, nations and people. The messages of peace carried by both leaders are essential in the Middle East today, where injustice, sectarianism and extremism are on the rise.

While I am sure that those efforts go in line with the aims, programs, and achievements of your organization over the years, I am completely confident that you will spare no efforts in raising awareness for the Western Christians to support Christians in the Holy Land and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Allow me again to congratulate you on your 17th International Conference and to wish you continuous success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alia Bouran".

Alia Bouran
Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Washington, DC