

Press Release on King Abdullah
By Swami Agnivesh
Member of the Board of Director –
KING ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERRELIGIOUS
AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE (KAICIID) , Vienna

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My sincere heartfelt condolences to all family members and associates of King Abdullah bin Abdullah Aziz who died at a great age of 91. The path breaking initiatives by the late King Abdullah paved the way for transition from fundamentalist Islam to moderate Islam and together with State of Spain and Austria from created the International Centre for Dialogue in Vienna in Nov 2012.

Besides Kingship of Saudi Arabia he was also the custodian of the two Holy Mosques at Mecca and Madina.

King Abdullah's epochal initiative for Dialogue among Religions and Cultures started from Mecca in 2005 at Islamic Summit between Sunni and Shia leaders.

He personally went to meet Pope Benedict in the Vatican in 2007 to invite Holy see to join.

It was formally launched in Madrid (Spain) in June 2008 with King of Spain as Co-host. The year in Nov the UN formally took note of this initiative.

On 13 Oct 2011 Council of Parties, Saudi, Spain & Austria with Holy see as observer signed a formal agreement.

As President of World Council of Arya Samaj my own participation in this initiative started from Madrid in June 2008 and continued throughout and soon thereafter I was appointed to a 9 Member Board of Directors. Besides Sunni and Shia Islam , Judaism, Christians both Catholic & Protestants , Buddhism and Hinduism are represented in BoD.

The International Centre KAICIID was inaugurated in Vienna in Nov 2012 followed up by a series of International Dialogue Conferences on Education, Media and Peace Building.

Inside Saudi Arabia the King initiated Dialogue among youth and gave freedom to women to participate in Shura Council.

In Nov 2014 an International Conference in Vienna with top Muslim, Christian, and Jewish religious leaders and foreign Ministers of Austria , Spain and Saudi Arabia and the UN officials condemned the "Violence in the name of religion and ISIS" As Board Member I called for direct intervention and Dialogue to solve the middle East Conflict.

On the demise of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz I pay my homage for his visionary initiative and leadership to end all violence in the name of religion by promoting peace through Dialogue.

May his soul rest in Peace and may we carry forward his initiative towards realisation of World Peace with Justice.



Swamiji presents "RIG VEDA" and "SATYARTH PRAKASH" to King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

On a personal note I am releasing today photograph with HRH King Abdullah in Madrid (2008) in which I am presenting a copy of Rig Veda and Light of Truth (Satyarth Prakash) to the King.

The second was in his palace in Casablanca, 2012 (Morocco)

