

Press Release
“Israeli Christians: Breaking free?”
The advent of an independent Christian voice in Israel”

The Liaison Committee will host a symposium entitled **“Israeli Christians: breaking free? The advent of an independent Christian voice in Israel”**. The meeting will take place on Monday, September 23 at 17:00 at Djanogly Hall, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, Yemin Moshe, Jerusalem. Announcement of the event was made by Liaison Committee co-chairs Alan Schneider, Director, B'nai B'rith World Center and Rev. Dr. Petra Heldt, Director, The Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel.

The symposium will take place in light of new voices that have appeared over the past year among the Christian population in northern Israel encouraging Christian youth to volunteer for military and civil service and expressing support for the integration of the Christian minority into the life of the Jewish state.

Speakers at the symposium will include:

- **Fr. Gabriel Naddaf**, Greek Orthodox priest in Nazareth and spiritual leader of the “Israeli Christian Recruitment Forum”
- **Lt. (ret.) Shadi Khalloul**, Spokesman, Israeli Christian Recruitment Forum
- **Captain Bishara Shlayan**, founder, Christian Israeli party

Government Representative:

- **MK Ofir Akunis**, Deputy Minister, Appointed to promote Christian recruitment, Prime Minister's Office.

Responses will be delivered by:

- **Dr. Dror Eydar**, Columnist, Israel Hayom
- **Dr. Gabi Zeldin**, Expert in the science of religions
- **Mr. Malcolm Lowe**, Analyst of religions.

The event will take place in Hebrew with simultaneous English translation.

The “Liaison Committee” is an informal Jewish-Christian initiative aimed at fostering better mutual respect and understanding between local Jews and Christians, and is as a platform for raising and resolving issues that impact on both communities. It was reconstituted by the B'nai B'rith World Center in

Jerusalem and the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel in 2010. The Liaison Committee's last event was a symposium entitled "Radicalization and Purging of Minorities in the Middle East: How should the West Respond?" Speakers at the event were Dr. Qanta Ahmed—a British-educated US medical doctor, author of "In the Land of Invisible Women: A Female Doctor's Journey in the Saudi Kingdom," and frequent commentator against radical Islam—and Bar-Ilan University Arab affairs expert Michael Widlanski, author of "Battle for Our Minds: Western Elites and the Terror Threat." See the presentations on the PCIME Facebook page <http://vimeo.com/67217664>.

The press is invited.

For further information please contact Alan Schneider, Director, B'nai B'rith World Center, Tel: 972-2-6251743, Fax: 972-2-6258097, worldcenter@012.net.il.