

Religious Field Reform

May 30, 2015

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The Third workshop of the "Nisan Center Forum for Policy Dialogue", a program supported by Konrad Adenauer Foundation was held on May 30, 2015 in Amman – at Jerusalem Hotel with the participation of about 50 people, as well as a the former Prime Minister Mr. Taher Al-Masri, A number of social & political activists, representatives of political parties In addition to specialist and clerics concerned in this field.

Former Senate president Taher Masri called for reforming religious speech. "Religious speech is a personal matter; one cannot impose it on others by force," Masri said, adding that religion is for God, but the country is for all.

He noted that despair and humiliation due to the injustice many feel as the Palestinian issue remains unresolved, among other reasons, have maximized religious feelings and gave credibility to radical religious speech.

Amer Al Hafi, academic adviser at the Royal Institute for Inter-faith Studies, said the current era needs more than reflecting on ancient glory without moving ahead, while Father Rifat Bader, director of the Catholic Centre for Studies and Media, called for consensus on modern terms used when describing "the other", rejecting the terms "minority", "Ahel Al themah", "coexistence" and "dialogue".

Before calling for reform, there must be consensus on the need for reform in the first place, he told The Jordan Times on the sidelines of the event.

Bader said religious reforms require reforming religious institutions and the way preachers and teachers deal with the faithful, setting a model in modest. He stressed the need to reform the Christian- Muslim relationship, "and now".

The most important discussion papers and the most important conclusions:

"The terms tolerance and accepting the other will remain terms without true values unless they are put into practice, when citizens feel they are being treated equally."

There has been press coverage on the workshop done by the daily newspapers Al-Ghad Newspaper and Jordan Times, Ro`ya TV as well as by a great majority of frequently viewed and popular websites.

The workshop has achieved the following objectives:

1. It opened the way to an open discussions and debates about the need of humanist religious speech but Noting that Muslim intellectuals when they talk about the reform of the religious field is as if they are moving in a minefield.
2. Whenever the mind is contemporary in general, it can understand the spirit of the text in a comprehensive way, and as we tighten the mind and couldn` t understand the text then those impurities appear.
3. There should be an immediate reform in the field of religion to keep up with the spirit of the times in order to reach social

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and political peace, scholars and religious leaders agreed on that.

3. The speakers emphasized on the need of a revision of all speeches put by humans in the religions and that this is the only way to stop extremism, violence and hate.

Conclusion: We consider the workshop was successful in all standards and has achieved its goals, the quality of the attendees and the discussions that followed the session were in a high standard.

Press Coverage:

<http://jordantimes.com/scholars-call-for-religious-reforms-to-ensure-interfaith-harmony-counter-extremism>

<http://www.alghad.com/articles/873677-%D8%A5%D8%B5%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A>

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<http://ar.ammannet.net/news/252361>

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<http://www.alghad.com/m/articles/879903>

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