

On the occasion of the  
100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF  
THE ALAWI SUFI ORDER

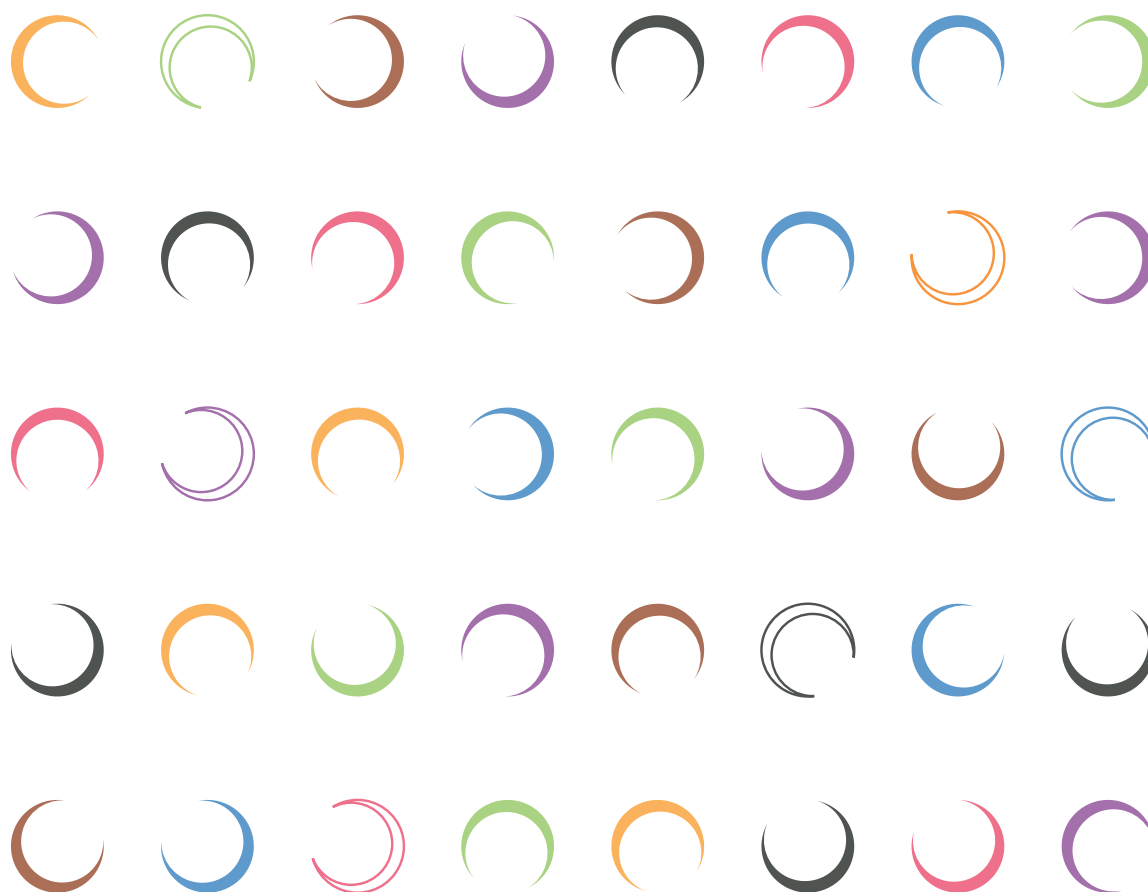
AISA International NGO organizes an International Conference

# SPIRITUAL ISLAM AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

UNESCO HOUSE - PARIS

**28 & 29 SEPTEMBER 2015**

REPORT





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## Introduction

UNESCO, at its 37<sup>th</sup> General Conference on November 2013, decided to honour the Sheikh al-'Alâwî by a "100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the 'Alâwî Sufi Order, a school for religious tolerance and conviviality (1914)." UNESCO explained its decision by reminding the world that "the 'Alâwî Sufi Order, founded by Sheikh al-'Alâwî, has made the promotion of interreligious dialogue its priority. The Order shows how to better serve humanity; how to attempt to harmonize and beautify the world. It accepts and admits everything that can bring man material comfort, but always in close contact with the inner dimension, in a permanent balance between the secular and the sacred. The Order is based on the loving fraternity of mankind. In fact, it invites us not to reject rationality at the expense of spirituality, not to lock oneself away in a chilly religiosity." (191 EX / 32, 17 April 2013, p. 2).

AISA International NGO, with its special consultative status in ECOSOC, celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by organizing the Conference "Spiritual Islam and Contemporary Challenges" at UNESCO House in Paris the 28 & 29 September, 2015.

This conference gave participants the opportunity to reflect together, in the light of the teachings of Sufi masters, around themes both major and current such as Muslim humanism, reform of the Islamic tradition, education for Living Together, the transmission of universal wisdom and the Culture of Peace.

These two days have been rich and intense with sessions, roundtables, exhibitions, spiritual evenings and the premiere of the film "Islam, Voices of Women". A large and diverse audience of over 1,200, and of note many young people, followed the highly animated exchanges of the enthusiastic speakers around the theme of the conference.

Two exhibitions on the life and work of two great Algerian spiritual figures, whose thinking is still alive today, one on the Sheikh al-'Alâwî and the other on the Emir Abd el-Kader, both were a great success especially amongst the many representatives of delegations from the countries present at UNESCO.

*"Relief and timid pride. Also there were also many foreigners, many intellectuals but especially young people, many young people. Algerians, girls and boys. Many wondered if they were not dreaming and if all this abundance of energy and ideas wasn't just the exception. There was almost a disbelief seeing Algerians relaxed, happy to be among civilized people, without anything thrown in the face, without defending their village or their tribe; away from the tensions and anger of back there."*  
Saad Khiari, Liberté, Wednesday, October 7, 2015.



Monday, 9/28/2015

## Spiritual Islam: a School for Tolerance and Conviviality

### Opening of the conference

The opening was made by Ms Ann-Belinda Preiss, representing UNESCO, Mr. Mohamed Aissa, Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments of the Algerian Republic and Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, Honorary President of AISA International NGO.

The Minister Mohamed Aissa portrayed Sheikh al-'Alâwî as a humanist reformer whose prospective vision continues to arouse the interest of new generations and is a valuable contribution to meeting our common challenge: to restore confidence in Islam in the face of religious extremism.

Ann-Belinda Preiss stressed the point that religious leaders have moral influence and that there is a growing search for the meaning of life, in the face of violence that it is the result of a lack of spirituality. In an email received from her after the Conference, she was very grateful to AISA for involving UNESCO in this important event that was successful and that has enriched the debate on shared universal values.

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes recalled the importance of the event to the Sufi 'Alâwî Order and as an opportunity using this occasion to show the face of an Islam that works to promote ONE humanity in the context of a world drifting towards an uncertain future, without a soul.





*"Salafist fundamentalism has been steadily gaining ground in the Muslim world these last few years, saturating the media. The followers of Sufism do not resign themselves to it, and are determined to raise awareness of the other face, the spiritual or mystic side, of Islam."* L'indpendant.fr, October 11, 2015

*"It is true that at the hour when religious fundamentalism seems to want to dictate the overall behaviour of believers in a unique way of reconciliation to God and that the worst barbarism continues to be committed in certain parts of the world in the name of a vengeful and conquering Islam, saying and demonstrating that Islam is "a school for tolerance, friendliness and living together" is more beneficial."* Saphir News, September 28, 2015

## Conference sessions

Session Chairs: Bariza Khiari and Nasreddine Mouhoub



The following were addressed successively, the universal dimension of the thought of Sheikh al-'Alâwî (Denis Grill), the contribution of the prophetic legacy in the Sufi doctrine (Tayeb Chouiref), media and journalistic investment tools to change the world (Yacine Benabid), the influence of the Sheikh on French converts in 1924, Valsan, Schuon, Buckardt... (Rezki Slimane), the parallels between Emir Abd el-Kader and Sheikh al-'Alâwî, two Sufis ahead of their time (Neema Ghenim), cosmology by the Sheikh al-'Alâwî through his work "Miftah al-shuhud - the key witness", a vision of the world, that includes inspiration, reflection and science (Ines Safi).

All the participants recognized the universality of the work and actions of Sheikh al-'Alâwî, his modernity. His message of peace and fraternity is available to everyone in this crucial moment when violence is trivialized.



## Opening of exhibitions

The two exhibitions, "THE SHEIKH AL-'Alâwî (1869-1934), A SCHOOL FOR TOLERANCE AND CONVIVIALITY" and "EMIR ABD EL-KADER, A MAN, A DESTINY, A MESSAGE" were inaugurated by the Algerian Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments Mr. Mohamed Aissa, Mrs. Bariza Khiari Senator of Paris and Sheikh Bentounes.



For the first time all 30 panels of the exhibition on Sheikh al-'Alâwî were presented to the public. They trace his life, his work and in particular his fight for an Algerian identity.



*"O people, to date, faithful to your religion; your attachment to Islam has placed you first among Muslim countries; you have inherited a glorious past, the past of your ancestors who never betrayed the covenant that they made with God; you always respected this sacred trust. Can you sacrifice your past, diminish the worth of so many virtues, or allow upstarts guided by interest to do so? It's fraudulent, to proclaim to the whole world that one represents all the Algerian people, and that the people would be happy to sacrifice the myth of naturalization, Arab-Berber nationality, their beliefs, their past, and all that constitutes their honour. O People! You gave France proof of your dedication. You deserve a recompense. You will obtain this recompense. But it cannot be tied to your naturalization." Sheikh al-'Alâwî.*

His reformist discourse also intends to preserve authentic Islam, its practices and manners from decline and perversion. It is in this context that he denounces, already during his time, the Salafi vision and the dangers of fundamentalism that impose on the Muslim world one single way to see the religion, governed by a purely literal interpretation of the scriptural sources. Instead he calls for a return to the original Islam, living, universal and tolerant, nourished by freedom of expression, diversity of debates, the plurality of ideas, constructive criticism, input from different disciplines intellectual, spiritual... and the entire Islamic heritage in its diversity since the Revelation.

## CHEIKH AL-'ALÂWÎ UNE ÉCOLE POUR LA TOLÉRANCE ET LA CONVIVIALITÉ

LA DÉCISION de  
L'UNESCO, lors de sa  
37<sup>ème</sup> Conférence générale, en  
novembre 2013, déclare :

« L'ordre soufi 'Alâwî, fondé par le Cheikh al-'Alâwî, a fait de la promotion du dialogue interreligieux sa priorité. L'ordre montre comment mieux servir l'humanité; comment tenter d'harmoniser et d'embellir le monde. Il accepte et admet tout ce qui peut apporter à l'homme le confort matériel, mais toujours en étroite relation avec la dimension intérieure, dans un équilibre permanent entre le profane et le sacré. L'ordre mise sur la fraternité aimante des hommes. Il invite, en effet, à ne pas rejeter la rationalité au détriment de la spiritualité, à ne pas s'enfermer dans une religiosité frileuse. »  
(191 EX/32, 17 avril 2013, p. 2).

**EXPOSITION** Sous la Direction du Cheikh Khaled BENTOUNES  
Réalisation : AISA ONG Internationale  
Diffusion : Fondation Adlania  
Avec l'aimable contribution de la délégation  
Permanente de l'Algérie auprès de l'Unesco



100<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de la fondation  
de l'ordre soufi alawî, une école  
pour la tolérance et la convivialité  
interreligieuse (1914-2014)  
Célébrée en Algérie du 14 au 15 mai 2014





## Roundtable 1: Sufism and Humanism

Moderator: Jean Pierre Perrin

*"The Sufis (...) have promoted spiritual humanism that is so lacking in our time; they were, and remain, those that pass between religions and cultures. They show by their teaching the humanity of Islam, the wealth and the benefits of diversity. Clearly, it is this openness that is targeted by fundamentalism when it denigrates and destroys Sufi heritage, its mausoleums and its manuscripts."*

*"..., it is clear that this is a depressing and violent vision of Islam that it carries due to politicizing this religion and using it for needs of power and domination. The conference hopes to restore the balance of things and bring some solutions to the violence and insecurity prevailing in the world, notably Arab, with the increase of armed conflicts and the proliferation of Islamist terrorist groups who use the Muslim religion to kill and destroy part of the human civilization."*  
El Watan, September 26 2015

The speakers captivated us time after time, from diversity as a condition of the living world and humanism (Boris Cyrulnik), to the human dimension of Islam (Souad Hakim), to Persian poets as masters of life showing us the way to Peace, Love and self-realization (Leïli Anvar), and to the promotion of a spiritual humanism by the Sufis wherein lies the only real hope for mankind (Eric Geoffroy).





## Roundtable 2: Islam, a Necessary Reform

Moderator: Abdenmour Bidar

The idea of reform in Islam is omnipresent. The first centuries of Islam were characterized by an intellectual audacity that most contemporary Muslims, have not even suspected. But Islamic thought open to change, has suffered slow degeneration due to the wear of time. Should we not question ourselves on the reasons why Muslim societies are still unable to practice an *aggiornamento* (update) in order to meet the many challenges of the contemporary world?

The issues raised by this theme were addressed from different angles: the allegiance of the religious to politics and the potential role that the Sufis could play in reform (Saad Khiari), looking at another reality of Islam (Dominica Reynié), the universal dimension of the spiritual message of Sheikh al-'Alâwî, freedom of conscience and the absence of all proselytism (Khaled Roumo), the need for a culture that desecrates violence (Ghaleb Bencheikh).

There are three huge paths to open: that of freedom of conscience, the ontological equality of people, and desecration of violence. This is a call to get out of the dogmatic fences that Mr. Arkoun described, and make the effort to harmonize legal systems to meet the needs and the urgent necessities of today's Muslim society.



## Concert in support of the International Day of Living Together

In the evening, the Qawali concert from Pakistan with Faiz Ali Faiz in support of Living Together lit up the room with his songs drawn from the Sufi tradition of Pakistan. Sheikh Mohiuddin Hassan Qadri of Quadiriya made a special trip from Pakistan to attend the conference and was in the room, accompanied by a large number of followers of the Sufi path Qadiriya.



## Tuesday, 9/29/2015

# Spiritual Islam and Living Together

Asked about Islam, the majority of the Western public will respond without hesitation that they see it as an intolerant and violent religion. The news is indeed studded with crimes committed here and there in its name.

However Islam has given rise to an authentically spiritual and universal tradition: Sufism. Founded on the principles of divine love and the sacredness of life, the Sufi experience inspired the greatest thinkers, be they poets, philosophers, mystics or artists of Muslim history, contributing to the richness and diversity of the human civilization.

## Conference Sessions

Chairs of the session: Virginia Larousse and Leïli Anvar

The sessions also were an opportunity to focus on the place of Islam in the majority of secularized societies, the potential role of spiritual Islam in the development of citizenship.



*"The media gives us the impression of an Islam incompatible with the Republic and detrimental to living together," says Virginia Larousse, Chief Editor of The World of Religions. [...] "Islam does not confine itself to radicalism. Just take an interest in medieval thinkers like Al-Ghazali, or more contemporary ones, such as Emir Abd el-Kader and Mohammed Iqbal, who have promoted tolerance and respect of all people, regardless of their religion, origin or culture."* Le Monde des religions, October 5, 2015

*"Fiercely Republican but serenely secular", Bariza Khiari has opened channels of possibility. For her, Islam has become a political issue when it is spiritual. Sufism because it allows for abstraction in meditation and an anchor in reality, promotes the opening of the heart while being in the city.*



As for the history of Islam in France reported by Sadek Sellam, it has long been neglected. His study reveals the existence of a Muslim spiritual movement in the nineteenth century, in an elite (the Emir Abd el-Kader and his companions and exiles of the Ottoman Empire), which became stronger in the twentieth century, especially after the First World War (Sufi paths).

*"In the interwar period, fraternities settled in Paris. In 1923, migrant workers requested a place to perform their ritual slaughter. From 1936 Islamic reform gets organized with the opening of thirty circles of conferences. The sublime ideal of the Algerian Sufi Sheikh Ahmad Al-Alâwî finds its place among the workers, advocating a tolerant and open Islam, impregnated with a mystical religious culture. "At the end of Taraweeh prayers, these workers invoked the blessing of the Torah, the Gospels and the Quran," observes the historian. A humanist Islam that could today be the basis for an educational platform."* Le Monde des religions, October 5, 2015.

Edwy Plenel stressed the need, in these alarming times, to talk about "Us" that is to say the dialectic relationship into which the Islam of France fits. This context prompts us to find an elevated way, an ideal, which is the democracy, a vibrant democracy with the concern of minorities, and not to remain passive, because "worse than the noise of boots, there is the silence of slippers".

For Tareq Oubrou, Sufism is an introduction to otherness. The word "alteration" in Islam means "gift", the action of being available, to leave a place for the other person in the realization of their individual being. Today there is a fixation on the external norm to the detriment of the interior message.



For Wassyla Tamzali, who claims to be a free thinker and Muslim, we must work through education and create alliances. As a feminist, she recognizes that the message of equality between men and women has failed.

Issam Tualbi Thaâlibi said that the ways of Tajdid (Renewal) and Ijtihad (effort of interpretation) are open and that in the past, innovative solutions could be proposed.



## Roundtable 1: Sufism, a way of recourse?

Moderator: Khaled Roumo

For Sheikha Nur Artiran, Sufism can provide answers to the problems of society. But everything starts with justice, and first of all justice towards oneself.

Dr. Ouazzani affirms that Sufi education distances us from our animal side.

Khaled Roumo said he was impressed during these two days by the discovery of hidden treasures, some resources that exist in the Muslim community, and that we ignore, for going towards peace and contributing to the Living Together.

Sheikh Mestaoui spoke of the gravity of the circumstances and the urgency for action faced with a suffering humanity.

Mustafa Ceric has seen positive signs during his meditations, which encourage us particularly to move towards forgiveness without waiting for a gesture from the other side and for us to respect ourselves first in order to be respected.

For Sheikh Bahauddin Adil, the signification of Sufism, is in the humane qualities.



## Roundtable 2: Living Together is Doing Together

Moderator: Philippe Dessaint

Nadir Mohamed Aziza brings his support for the International Day of Living Together and for the Emir Abd el-Kader Award to be vested in the promotion of Living Together around the Mediterranean and in the World. It will be established in November in Mascara, Algeria, the town where the Emir received the oath of his companions to defend freedom.

For Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, living together and doing things together must come from the depths of our conscience and not solely from reason. Because today, global governance no longer reasons and wisdom is no longer audible.

Returning to what was proclaimed by the UN at its creation, we can question ourselves: the state of the world, at the beginning of the XXI century, has it improved or is it entering into a new era of destabilization and confrontation, increasing fears and regression, inflicting deep wounds on the bruised body of a humanity that does not know how to unite and federate the scattered and different members of the human family. Fraternity cannot be imposed. It is a state of being, the source within us is to regain the sense of the humane and give some meaning to our life.

## Launching of the Emir Abd el-Kader Award

The conference closed at the end of the second day, with the launching ceremony of the Emir Abd el-Kader Award for the promotion of Living Together and peaceful coexistence around the Mediterranean and in the World. The plan for the award, on the initiative of AISA International NGO and the Program MED21 will be symbolically signed under the Dardara Tree at Ghriss-Mascara at the first Festival of The International Day of Living Together to be held from November 24 to 28, 2015 in Algeria. Mr Omar Said Aitouni, the great grand-son of the Emir Abd el-Kader has offered us the friendship of his presence.



## The film "Islam, Voices of Women"

The film "Islam, Voices of Women", filmed on the occasion of International Feminine Congress - for a Culture of Peace - produced by Boualem Gueritli, had a preview screening on this occasion.

*"Through her education, transmission of values, pain of childbirth, the huge sacrifices that she has made, and in spite of the injustices she has suffered, the woman remains the matrix and the guarantor of the stability of a nation. She is the centre of gravity, revealing its strength, as its fragility. If Muslim society wants to find peace and joy in life, if it respects her dignity, repairs the injustice and harm that it caused her and returns to her the place and the rank that is her due right, then everything becomes possible in the near future."* Sheikh Khaled Bentounes.



## Spiritual Evening

The Conference ended with a Sufi concert of spiritual songs from the Tariqa 'Alâwîyya to a large public audience and several Sufi Sheikhs representing different Sufi Paths from around the world.

*"Men and women in unison, a grand medley to the glory of universal love, peace and fraternity, and the hope that Islam regains its lights in the heart of mankind and that Algeria finally steps out of this terrible and long parenthesis. What should be learned from this conference, when the moments of emotion and warmth of the reunion are spent? An enormous need for explanation and the urgent need to establish an International Independent Authority charged with Islam, to restore the authenticity of the Quranic message and to watch over and denounce all form of drift from wherever it comes. This will prevent any attempt at distortion and instrumentalisation of Islam for any purpose whatsoever. This will return hope to the hearts of millions of men and women. And God knows we need it immensely."*  
Saad Khiari, Liberté, Wednesday October 7, 2015.



## Personalities present

Political, religious, academic and civil personalities, coming from different countries have honoured us with their presence for these two days, drawn by the rich content of the conference, organization, and open, level-headed debates.

Among these are:

The Algerian Minister of Religious Affairs, Mr. **Mohamed AÏSSA**,  
Mrs. **Ann-Belinda PREIS**, Head of Section for Intercultural Dialogue UNESCO,  
Ambassador of Algeria to France, Mr. **Mohamed Amar BENDJAMA**,  
Mrs. **FADILA LAANAN**, Minister-President of the College of the French Community Commission (COCOF),  
Mr. **Stefan WILHELM MÖRSDORF**, President of the Foundation ASKO-EUROPE - former Minister of Ecology of the Government of Saarland, Germany,  
The Consul General of the United States of America, Mr. **GODDSPIT**,  
The Vice President of the National Assembly of Senegal, Mr. **Moustapha Cissé Lô**  
The Vice President of the National Assembly of Senegal and Co-President of the World Council of Religions for Peace, Mr. **Djamil MANSOUR SY**,  
Mr. **Djibril SENE**, former Minister of Senegal,  
The Ambassador of Burundi to the DRC, Mr. **Moïse NZEYIMANA**,  
Mr. **Doudou DIENE**, former Director of the Division of Dialogue Intercultural and Interreligious of UNESCO and Special Rapporteur to the UN,  
Mrs. **Bariza KHIARI**, Senator of Paris,  
Mr. **Yves TESSIER D'ORFEUIL**, Deputy Advisor for Religious Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France,  
Mr. **Jean AMEIL JAFARI**, Ministry of Defence, France,  
Mr. **Claude JAMATI**, Mayor of Bailly. Vice President of Grand Versailles Park 78,  
Mr. **Marc BENEVISTE**, in charge of Culture in the City of Nice,  
Mr. **Lassaad BOUTARA** of the Embassy of Tunisia.

### Representatives of the large religious fraternities:

**Sheikha Nur HAYAT ARTIRAN**, President of the International Foundation Sefik Can for Education and Culture on Mevlânâ,  
Mrs. **Yenny Zannuba WAHID**, Director of the Wahid Institute and daughter of the late President of Indonesia Abdurrahman Wahid, Adviser to the Presidency, Indonesia,  
Mr. **Mohamed Ameer SHAHUL**, representing the Tariqa Chishtyya and descendant of the founder Sheikh Mohamed Ali Chishty - Ajmer, India,  
**Sheikh Bahauddin Adil**, brother and representative of the Leader of the Sufi path Naqshbandiyya,  
**Sheikh Hassan Mohiuddin QADRI**, Professor of Islamic Sciences and President of the Federal Council of Minhaj ul Quran International, representing the Tariqa Qadiriyya, Pakistan,  
The Grand Mufti of Bosnia Herzegovina Emeritus, Professor **Mustafa CERIC**,  
**Cherif Abdellah OUZZANI**, teacher, researcher and doctor in Islamic Studies Mohamed V University, Rabat, representing the Tariqa Ouazzania,  
**Sheikh Mohamed Slaheddine MESTAOU**, member of the Supreme Islamic Council, Zaitouna University in Tunis.

### Representatives of the large Mosques of France:

Mr. **Anouar KBIBECH**, President of CFCM,  
**Sheikh Djelloul BOUZIDI**, Representative of the Paris Mosque,  
Mr. **Tareq OBROU**, Mosque of Bordeaux.



**The dignitaries of different religions:**

Monsignor **Francesco FOLLO**, Permanent Observer of the Saint-Siege for UNESCO,  
Monsignor Cardinal **Jean-Luc KUYE-NDONDO WA MULEMURA** of the DRC,  
Monsignor **Michel DUBOST**, Bishop of Evry,  
**Christian DELORME**, Priest,  
Mr. **Vincent FEROLDI**, Episcopal delegate for relations with Muslims, France,  
Mrs. **Clara KHIJOYAN** the World Council of Churches in Switzerland,  
Mrs. **Stephan ASTRID**, Member of the Presidency of the Synod Congress of the Protestant Church, Germany,  
Mrs. **Agnès ADELIN SCHAEFFER**, Pastor, Issy les Moulineaux,  
Mr. **Yann BOISSIERE** Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Movement of France.

**Representatives of civil society:**

Professor **Mohamed AZIZA**, President of the MED 21 program - Award Network for the promotion of excellence and Cooperation in the Mediterranean,  
Mr. **Dee Dee MOZELESKI**, Director, Office of Institutional Advancement Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership,  
Mr. **Omar Said AITOUNI**, Great grand-son of the Emir Abd el-Kader,  
Mr. **Abdellatif BERNOUSSI**, President of the Association of Accountants Morocco,  
Mr. **Pierre CHEVALET**, President of the Association for Living Together, Cannes,  
Mr. **Boualem GUERITLI**, Director,  
Mr. **Alain GUILHOT**, Founder of Alain Guilhot Lighting,  
Mr. **Mahieddine KHELADI**, Secretary General of Islamic Relief,  
Mr. **Philippe LAMARQUE**, Academy of Sciences Overseas,  
Mrs. **Alberta LUCIANI**, President of Social Weeks of France,  
Mr. **Alain MICHEL**, President of Terre du Ciel,  
Mr. **Guy REINAUD**, President of PRONATURA,  
Mrs. **Marie Laure STURM**, Representative of Rebuilding Together-Switzerland,  
Mr. **Sid Ahmed AGOUMI**, Algerian actor,  
Mrs. **Wassyla TAMZALI**, journalist and former Director of Women's rights at UNESCO,  
Mr. **Philippe DESSAINT**, Director in charge of International event-projects TV5 Monde,  
Mr. **Edwy PLENEL**, Political journalist, President of Médiapart,  
Mrs. **Elisabeth INANDIAK (DANIERE)**, Political journalist,  
Mrs. **Virginie LAROUSSE**, Editor of the magazine "Le Monde des Religions",  
Mr. **Dominique REYNIE**, Professor at Sciences Po Paris, Director General of the Foundation for Political Innovation Fondapol,  
Mr. **Radouane AMRI**, Journalist,  
Mr. **Christian ROESCH**, Managing Editor of the journal Reflets,  
Mr. **Richard FEDERMANN**, Presenter of the radio show « Mes sages de vie »,  
Mr. **Amadou BA**, Director of Radio Okapi,  
Mr. **Verlain MOUMBOUOLO**, Rapper,  
Mr. **Faiz Ali FAIZ**, Pakistani Singer, specialist in Qawwali,  
Mr. **Khaled ROUMO**, Poet, writer,  
Mr. **Ghaleb BENCHEIKH**, President of the World Conference of Religions for Peace,  
Mr. **Bernard MONTAUD**, Founder Art'as, a spiritual movement and Body Psychoanalysis.

### Academics:

Mrs. **Leïli ANVAR**, Professor of Language and Persian Literature I, translator and specialist in mystical literature,  
Mr. **Yacine BENABID**, Professor of Letters and Languages at the University of Setif,  
Mr. **Abdenmour BIDAR**, Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
Mr. **Tayeb CHOUIREF**, Islamic scholar, Sufi specialist,  
Mr. **Boris CYRULNIK**, Neuropsychiatrist, Educational Director at the University of Toulon and psychoanalyst,  
Mr. **Eric GEOFFROY**, Professor at the University of Strasbourg, Islamic scholar, Sufi specialist,  
Mrs. **Neema GHEINIM**, Professor at the University of Oran,  
Mr. **Denis GRIL**, Islamic scholar, Sufi specialist,  
Mrs. **Souad HAKIM**, Professor at the University of Beirut,  
Mr. **Saad KHIARI**, Filmmaker and researcher at IRIS,  
Mr. **Nasser Eddine MOUHOU**B, Doctor of Science; Islamic scholar,  
Mr. **Slimane REZKI**, Translator, specialist of Sufism and Rene Guenon,  
Mrs. **Inès SAFI**, CNRS researcher in theoretical and fundamental physics,  
Mr. **Sadek SELLAM**, Historian of contemporary Islam,  
Mr. **Antoine Airtos MATUS**, Mexico.

### Media-Press Coverage

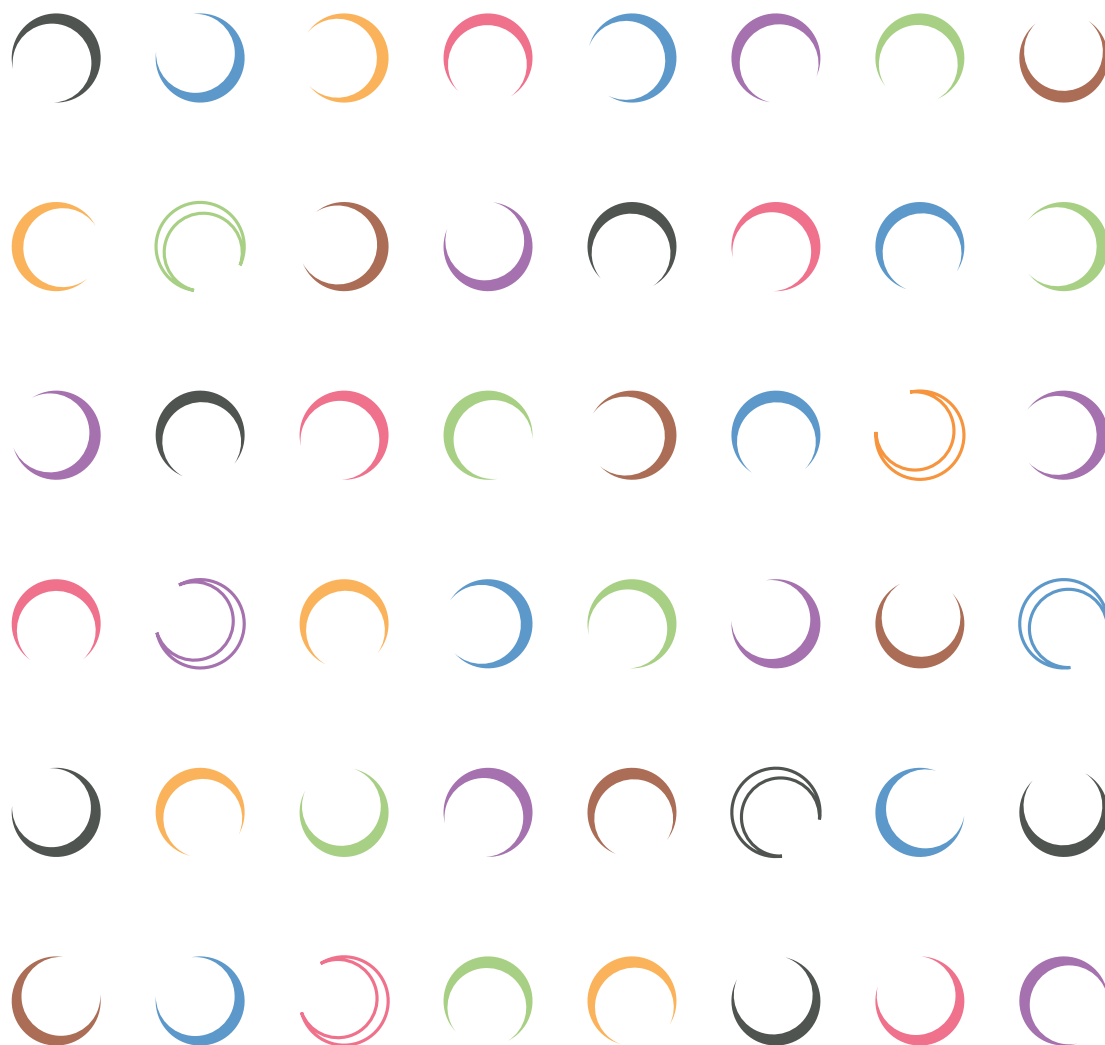
Several Algerian media covered the event: El Watan, Liberte, El Khabar, Expression, Algeria news, Tribune, Algeria1, Canal Algeria and various French and international media including Indonesian, Pakistani, Spanish, Swiss, Turkish, ...

L'Indépendant, BeurTv, WAQAT NEWS, YESURDU, LA CROIX, ALKHABAR, ORIENTMAG, ALTEIA, SAPHIR NEWS, REFLETS, Le Monde des Religions, La Tribune, TVE (Televisión Española), Salama Magazine, Le Magazine Littéraire, ULTREIA, Radio Orient, El Ahram, Jeune Afrique, RMC Doualiya, Chahrazade, La Locale TV, Minhaj TV, SAHAR TV (Iran), Madame Figaro, France 24, Radio Notre Dame, ID FM 98, Biotechinfo 3.0, Kompas and Antara News (Indonesia), Agence Anatolie, Radio Télévision Suisse Romande, Zaman France, ALLAFRICA, Les Cahiers de l'Islam.

Partnerships have been signed with Le Monde des Religions, Saphir News, Salama News, Reflets and Beur FM.



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**AISA International NGO**  
CH-1200 Geneva - Switzerland  
[info@aisa-ong.org](mailto:info@aisa-ong.org)  
[www.aisa-ong.org](http://www.aisa-ong.org)

[www.aisa-ong.org](http://www.aisa-ong.org)