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'06 International Peace Conference

"The greatest prayer of Man asks not for victory, but for peace."

UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld

In 2006, the U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace organized its 3rd Annual International Peace Conference under the auspices of his Excellency Mister Amer Mousa, Secretary-General for the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, and the International Muslim Youth Organization.

Sally Kader, USFMEP president, was one of the key speakers at the event held September 20-22, 2006 at the Arab League.

Attendees were ministers and members of parliament, governors, diplomats, religious leaders and scholars and US Congressman Swett traveling with members of the USFMEP Delegation hailing from Australia, Ohio, New York and Washington D.C..

This Conference is an annual event which the USFMEP has held in Cairo for the past three years. The objective of the conference is to spread the Federation's peace message among the Middle Eastern countries and to celebrate a day of non-violence in all nations.

It is a day of global cease-fire, when all countries and their people are asked to halt hostilities for the entire day, and at noon, local time, to observe a minute of silence for those whose lives were claimed by hostile confrontations.

Above: Religious leaders participated in this Conference in Cairo, Egypt with Mrs. Kader and Congressman Swett pictured in the center.

Below: 1) USFMEP president delivers her message of peace for the region.
2) Participants during conference talks.



WHO ARE WE?

The U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes the United Nations' commitment to international peace and justice through educational programs, public relations and community outreach efforts. The USFMEP works to heighten the American understanding and awareness of the Middle East through open dialogue and education and has established liaison offices in the Middle East and North Africa. The Federation aims to implement efforts towards healing the current state of affairs and ultimately achieve a lasting peace throughout the region.



President's Message

Dearest Friends in Peace,

This edition of our annual newsletter brings news of the USFMEP's most notable endeavors since 2005 to spread a message of education and tolerance around the world. I am especially pleased to speak with you now, just as we are finalizing plans for our International Day of Peace, conferences and other events which will be held throughout the world. This year we will also have a major commemoration within the United States.

It has been a busy year for USFMEP – one of intense planning and solidification of ideas which have been presenting themselves in all my travels. As I meet with person after person, and group after group, who though from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, all want the same peace and stability that we seek, I am encouraged to move forward with even greater efforts to bring about change in the world. Our Board of Advisors and others who support our efforts have done much this year as always to further the movement.

Events which mark this year as one of great success have been The Fifty-First Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which took place from 26 February to March 9, 2007. Please read more of this event on page 12 of the newsletter and also read more on our Web site. Also, this year, we conducted panel and forum discussions on the status of women at the UN headquarters in NY. The panel topics focused on three areas – education of Arab women, the empowerment of women in politics and decision making in Muslim countries, and the deplorable practice of trafficking young girls in the 21st century. Please learn more about these topics in this letter and on our Web site. A summer trip to the mid-west also brought about much fruit and will allow for the revival of an old tradition with the People to People International program there.

This year is a critical year for us as we are making aggressive plans to move forward our diplomatic efforts and translate them into to a more wide spread people to people, grass roots message that will be taken to the American people and abroad via a series of highly targeted letters, lectures and events. Please track our activities closely and stay tuned for more dramatic news concerning other events to be held in 2007 and 2008. We find friends in peace all around the world who are ready for change. The message of the USFMEP and our mission has been well accepted in venues in every nation and with every audience that it has been presented to. Again, it is merely time now to do more of what we have been doing – bringing education, understanding and tolerance to a world unfortunately prone to hate and judgment.

Until we meet again, yours sincerely,

Sally Shatila Kader

Sally Shatila Kader, President USFMEP

OUR MISSION

The primary mission of the U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace is to promote respect, understanding and tolerance between the American public and the peoples of the Middle East.

We strive to educate citizens of the world and Americans in particular, on the culture, traditions, history and issues pertaining to the Middle East and it's people.

This is part of our effort to initiate dialogues and discussions, in the hopes that they would lead to establishing steps toward creating and sustaining peace in a region plagued with turmoil and instability.

Ralph A. Kader



Ralph A. Kader has worked with the United Nations for 22 years. A career diplomat, his tenure has included serving on diplomatic missions to numerous countries and working on peace initiatives with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO).

Ambassador Riad B. Tabbarah



His Excellency, Ambassador **Riad B. Tabbarah**, formerly the Lebanese Ambassador to the United States, now serves as the Director of the Center for Developmental Studies and Projects.

Sally Shatila Kader



Sally Shatila Kader, the President of USFMEP, has traveled to 42 countries around the world leading the organizations efforts to build bridges between the United States and the Arab and Muslim world. She is also a world wide speaker and advocate promoting the rights of women and children globally.

Fmr. Congressman Mark Siljander



U.S. Congressman **Mark Siljander** is a Republican representative for the state of Michigan. Congressman Siljander has led several delegations to the Middle East and has also served as an Official Delegate to the UN General Assembly.

Mariana Thomas



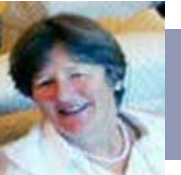
Mariana Thomas is a well-known author, social activist, painter, poet and speaker. Ms. Thomas has been recognized among the Who's Who of American Women and named in the Who's Who in the World in 2005.

Robert C. McFarlane



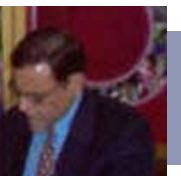
Robert McFarlane, former National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan from 1983 to 1985, now chairs an energy development firm in Washington, D.C.

Libby Lloyd



Libby Lloyd is the former President of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Australia and currently serves as the International Relations Representative. Ms. Lloyd actively promotes women's rights and encourages political participation among women around the world.

Brigadier General Khalid Kibriya



Brigadier General **Khalid Kibriya** serves as the Secretary-General for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society based in Islamabad, Pakistan. General Kibriya also served with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York.



Peace Day in Cairo Amid Un-Peaceful Events

Text | Deana Douara

"The root of the world's problems are fear and ignorance - nothing more."
Sally Kader, USFMEP President

Politicians, scholars, diplomats, religious leaders and many other notable officials from Egypt and beyond recognized the USFMEP 3rd Annual International Peace Day at the Arab League Sept. 21 2006. This annual event was hosted by the U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace and the Young Men's Muslim Association. Though the day did not see its mission to cease violence throughout the world succeed, leaders of various communities were on hand to express their commitment - and reservations - regarding pursuing peace and dialogue in their communities.

Assistant Secretary-General Ahmed bin-Heli spoke on behalf of Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa. Moussa was away attending the UN General Assembly in New York. In light of recent comments by the Pope, he spoke much in defense of Islam, citing it as a "religion of peace, balance, tolerance, and coexistence." He also encouraged listeners to "deny evil and arrogance" of groups trying to act against peace.

"The Islamic world has been under a lot of pressure and a lot of intrigue has been done against it," bin-Heli said. The tide against Islam was reiterated in a speech given by Palestinian Ghazi Fakhry. His remarks were addressed mostly to U.S. Congressman Richard Swett. In this, the most passionate speech of the meeting, Fakhry spoke of the continued injustice against his country preventing peace. He reminded the audience that on this day, "we are besieged" and that children cannot go to school, families cannot move beyond the West Bank or Gaza, Muslims cannot go pray in Al-Aqsa mosque during Ramadan, and people are suffering from hunger and poverty.

Earlier during the talks, the New Hampshire congressman promoted interfaith meetings and relationships and stressed the commonalities amongst the faiths. Swett optimistically referred to the hotbed of current crisis as the tremendous heat jewelry must undergo before being "doused in cold water" to be reshaped. A representative

for Kofi Annan gave startling statistics regarding military expenditures. Most notably, he announced the figure for peace-keeping as just \$5 billion, less than half a percent of the world expenditures on weapons, which is approximately \$173 for every person in the world. He also referred to the



comparatively low expenditures on economic and development departments such as UNICEF and the UNDP in relation to military expenditures.

USFMEP President Sally Kader, perhaps put it best in her speech when she talked about today's challenging times of "hidden agendas, ulterior motives, misunderstandings and miscommunication." She, like Swett, emphasized her belief in dialogue as the "best way to let each other know who we are," not in conferences but "in person, on a human level."

Kader claimed the root to the world's problems and prejudice as "fear and ignorance, nothing more" and hoped people could "open [their] hearts and tell each other why we're afraid ... it's the only way to reach each other." Kader also announced a documentary showing young Americans and Middle-Easterners expressing their feelings toward each other, and a new peace museum to be opened in Cairo, "the most fitting place."

Trafficking of Young Girls in the 21st Century

Text| Sally Kader

In the 21st Century there are 27 million slaves worldwide. The theme of our panel held this year in conjunction with the UN Commission on the Status of Women, was 'Eliminating Violence and Discrimination Against the Girl Child.'

Approximately 50% of those enslaved today are children. We must join hands to fight this global phenomenon, and comprehend how the eight different faces of human trafficking interconnect and overlap transcriminally and transnationally.

The U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace human trafficking forums literally walked the audience across the globe with trafficking and health experts, a survivor, journalists, and a law enforcement official with expertise on all continents – specifically covering Russia, Canada, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, the United Kingdom, Europe, the Balkans, Latin America, the United States, Africa, and the Mideast.

Human trafficking on the street generates \$31 Billion annually on the street and Internet pedo-criminality generates \$34 Billion. Over the Internet, babies and toddlers are being raped. This is morally repugnant. This human trafficking session will address the eight different human trafficking faces engulfing this horror – sex, labor and war slaves, Internet pedo-criminality, sex tourism, organ and skin trafficking and ritual abuse torture.

Members of our first panel: Canadian Ritual Abuse Torture experts, Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald, shared their ground breaking work on ritual abuse torture. Kelly Watt, a survivor of ritual abuse torture; Lois Herman, Coordinator of the Women's UN Report Network, who has led trafficking projects around the world also participated with powerful lectures on these major issues.

The second panel, Clive Michel of the UK Child Exploitation and Online Protection Center and Virtual Global Task Force – an international law enforcement operational task force, which is heeding the call to catch the predators and traffickers, shared stunning statistics. Aarti Kapoor, a U.S. and U.K. lawyer who has served as legal advisor in South East Asia flew in from Cambodia to join us, lending her expertise on the



USFMEP panelists delivering their messages at the 50th UN Commission on the Status of Women.

subjects.. Christine Dolan (pictured above), an investigative journalist also gave dynamic testimony.

At our 2006 Panel during the CSW, we learned that over the past decade, trafficking in human beings has reached epidemic proportions. No country is immune; the search for work abroad has been fueled by economic disparity, high unemployment and the disruption of traditional livelihoods, and traffickers face few risks and can earn huge profits by taking advantage of large numbers of potential immigrants.

Human trafficking is not confined to the sex industry; children can be trafficked to work in sweatshops as bonded labor, and men often work illegally in "three D-Jobs" - dirty, difficult and dangerous. A recent CIA report estimated that between 45,000 to 50,000 women and children are brought to the U.S. every year under false pretenses and are forced to work as prostitutes, abused laborers or servants. UNICEF estimates that more than 200,000 children are enslaved by cross-border smuggling in West and Central Africa.

(See more of our CSW panels on page 9 & 11.)

A major part of the USFMEP mission globally is to raise awareness on this vitally important issue regarding the horrific practice of human trafficking in all it's forms, whether regarding labor or slavery trafficking around the world in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights initiatives.

GLOBAL ISSUES



Sally Kader Delivers Powerful Message to Mauritania

Mr. President:

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is within the context of our action towards peace and justice, as well as the continuing reflection upon them that we have been impressed by your progressive democratic agenda and referendum for Mauritania. Such hope inspiring reforms as you pledge to fight corruption, guarantee freedom of the media, eliminate poverty, alleviate unemployment, and promote the role and active participation of women and youth in public life are encouraging.

Mauritania was entangled with numerous internal conflicts from social inequality and the misrepresented public on one end, to the rampant corruption and the lack of freedoms on the other end. Fortunately, you have engaged your country to resolve these issues and others with meaningful, courageous, and resilient reforms.

Now fully accepted by the international community, the non-violent coup of August 3rd, 2005 which brought you to your current position was the beginning of a much needed solution to these internal conflicts. We praise your initiative, most notably the successful transition in which there was no loss of life. Such is a clear indication that the political climate of the country was in need of such change and that the people believe that you, Mr. President,

are most suited to bring about such change.

We would like to salute in particular your approach to directly involve and associate with the political parties and social networks in this new referendum. Another democratic act was your proposal to the new constitution in which you set a limit to the presidential term of 5 years one time renewable. This proposal, which just this past June was overwhelmingly approved by the people of Mauritania with an astounding 97%, is similar to what we have here in the United States.

Furthermore, you take precaution by establishing a presidential oath which each president elect must uphold and be sworn into office by means of.

For these reasons, we have organized in your honour this evening, a modest and symbolic ceremony to support the realization of your goals and to encourage you to pursue them with the same steadfast resolve that you are known for. We have great hope in your leadership to help bring about



Ms. Kader giving the opening speech at an official USFMEP reception in the honor of Mauritanian President and attending Prime Minister.

the changes you have outlined and all other pending matters, in particular human rights issues.

Finally, we congratulate you, Mr. President, and we congratulate the people of Mauritania to whom we wish a full success during those important electoral meetings this coming November and March that will permit them to choose freely their Representative and their President.

As active players in the arena of democracy, social development, justice, peace and security we place big hope in your leadership for the future of Mauritania.

Presidential Reception : Mauritania

On September 18, 2006, the USFMEP held a reception at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City in honor of the President of Mauritania for his efforts towards peace and social progress. The USFMEP President Sally Kader gave the opening speech. The reception was attended by diplomatic community and U.S. officials from Washington D.C.

GLOBAL ISSUES



The Prime Minister of Mauritania, Mr. Sidi Muhammad Ould Bakr, attended the reception on the President's behalf.

PHOTOS

- 1) USFMEP president Kader greets (l to r) former Congressman Neil Gallagher of NJ, and UN Mauritanian Ambassador Mohamad Tulba. 2) Mauritanian Prime Minister, Mr. Sidi Muhammad Ould Bakr (left), with other Cabinet Members, who flew in from Mauritania to attend the reception on the President's behalf. 3) Prime Minister Bakr greeting visiting dignitaries.

New York, NY- December 5, 2006.

The United States Federation for Middle East Peace congratulates the people of Mauritania and our Mauritanian sisters and would like to express our appreciation and admiration of the reform policy introduced by the new rulers of Mauritania, wishing them success in completing the reform process in the interest of the Mauritanian people.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has been the only country in the world this year to take legal action aimed at securing the representation of women in legislative and municipal councils at a percentage of no less than 20 percent of the number of candidates.

The outcome of the first round of the elections organized by the military on November 19, 2006: as part of the democratization plan designed by the transitional authorities following the 2005 coup d'état, the number of women elected to Parliament exceeded 20 percent and came close to 40 percent in municipal councils. This is a rare and unprecedented occurrence in Africa and the Arab and Islamic worlds.

We hope that this example can be followed by many peoples and countries whose women are marginalized and excluded in a manner that hurts the interests of peoples and violates principles of justice and equality.

Sally Shatila Kader



USFMEP GROWS GAINING LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE WORLD



Malaysian Chapter



Hawaiian Chapter



Lebanese Chapter



Hungarian Chapter



Australian Chapter



Egyptian Chapter



GLOBAL CHAPTERS

Children in Slavery: The 21st Century Summit at Georgetown University

USFMEP President Sally Kader participated as a panelist at the Children in Slavery 21st Century Summit at Georgetown University in November 2005. The summit, which discussed Human Trafficking, had an audience that included business leaders and the international diplomatic community.

The summit presented experts who work on the front lines investigating human trafficking in its eight faces: sex, war, labor slavery, sex tourism, child pornography, organ and skin, ritual abuse, and torture. This event was unique in that it encouraged the public and persons not necessarily part of this arena to become educated, empowered and engaged in the worldwide campaign to end human trafficking now.

Almost 50 percent of those enslaved in this century are children. The summit was endorsed by His Excellency Jan Eliasson, president of the UN General Assembly, U.S. President George W. Bush, the U.S. State Department, the Australian Embassy, many law enforcement agencies and several prominent business leaders. Claude Allen, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy at the White house, was one of the speakers.

Journalist Christine Dolan, the organizer of this event, said, "This is a global shame shared by all of us. Every ten minutes around the clock and across the globe, there are between 15 to 76 new trafficked victims. This is a global phenomenon with dra-



cally dangerous ramifications not only for society but for future generations to come."

As a result of the Human Trafficking Summit, a worldwide bipartisan coalition was launched. Students Stopping Trafficking of Persons (SSTOP) aims to continue fighting the injustices done to trafficking victims. The International Students Trafficking Summit was held in Washington D.C. at Georgetown University on February 24-26, 2006.

In 2007, SSTOP executed a world-wide multi-dimensional campaign and joined forces with other organizations with one goal in mind: to decrease slavery around the world. Kader is an Ambassador of "Children in Slavery: the 21st Century" 2007 campaign.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES



COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The USFMEP is fighting the "war" on human trafficking in February 2006. The panel was held at the United Nations building in New York in conjunction with the UN Commission on the Status of Women. This event was extremely well attended and the panelists were well received.

Below: Christine Dolan, former CNN European Bureau Chief and Sally Kader, USFMEP president with His Excellency Jan Eliasson, General Assembly President.



The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The 49th CSW – USFMEP Panels and Forums - 2005

DURING the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW2005) on March 4, 2005, the USFMEP organized the panels and forums.

“Women in Islam: East Meets West.”

Speakers were Najat Ikhich, from Morocco, of the Ytto Foundation, dedicated to housing and rehabilitating women victims of violence; Suad M. Marafie, from Kuwait who is a senior Aerobiologist and social activist; Hadil El-Kholy, representative of CELWA of Cairo, Egypt. The feature speaker for the panel was Dr. Saeeda Malik, Minister of Women Development and Social Welfare, from the government of Karachi, Pakistan.



“Women in Islam: East Meets West” panel speakers.

“The Rights of Muslim Women: Islam and Tradition.”

This panel was moderated by the Federation on March 8.

The first speaker was Mona Mikhail, author and professor of Arabic Literature and Women’s Studies at New York University. The second speaker was Dr. Nahid Mozaffari, editor of the PEN Anthology of Contemporary Persian Literature. She has taught Middle Eastern history at the New School in New York and at Cabot University in Rome, Italy. She received her Ph.D. in history and Middle Eastern studies from Harvard University. The third speaker was Safiyya Sarkin, a representative of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences.



“The Rights of Muslim Women: Islam and Tradition” panel speakers.

The 50th CSW – USFMEP Panels and Forums - 2006



“Muslim and Arab Women Speak Out.” This panel focused on the misconception held by the West towards Muslim and Arab Women. The speakers were: USFMEP Sally Kader, Houda Abadi of Pakistan, Sahar Dar of Palestine, Leila Buck an American, Aisha Al-Adawiya and American Muslim, Dr. Ibtihaj Arafat of Palestine and Dr. Najwa Sadik of Egypt.

“Widows in Islam.” This panel examined what widows are facing in Muslim countries and their rights according to Islamic law. The speakers were: USFMEP Sally Kader, Dr. Hanan Yousef, Dr. Ibtihaj Arafat and Soad Hammad.



WOMEN'S ISSUES

51st UN Commission on the Status of Women - '07



Education for Women
in the Arab World



Feature photo: Her Highness Princess Lubna Al-Saud (Saudi Arabia) delivering a speech on behalf of HRH Princess Luluah al Faisal al Saud.

In this forum, participants learned that Arab women have a unique take on the region and have important insights into the lifestyle and culture of their homelands. Increasingly, they must play a larger role in dispelling negative and incorrect views of Arabs. Speakers included: **Her Highness Princess Lubna Al-Saud (Saudi Arabia)**. The princess delivered a speech on behalf of **HRH Princess Luluah al Faisal al Saud**. Dr. Joyce Barak (United States), and Nada Tabbara Soubra (Lebanon), also spoke. The moderator was USFMEP President Sally Kader.

Empowering Women in the Politics and Decision-Making of Muslim Countries

Women play an important role in politics all over the world. With Muslim countries becoming more willing to allow the voices of women to be heard, the women in these countries must have the vital resources and information available to them in order to invoke change within their cultures. 🐦



More on the 2006 50th UN Commission on the Status of Women – Human Trafficking in the 21st Century (continued from page 9)

The United Nations (UN) has taken an important step forward in coordinating an international response to trafficking. On November 15, 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted a package of instruments against various forms of transnational organized crime, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

These instruments require the countries that become States Parties to adopt basic criminal offences, including trafficking in persons or the equivalent, participation in the activities of an organized criminal group, money laundering and other illicit conduct.

They also establish a framework for international cooperation, including various forms of assistance in the

conduct of investigations and prosecutions and provisions for the extradition of offenders.

Within the first year, both the Convention and Protocol had obtained more than half of the 40 ratifications needed to bring them into force, and they are expected to take effect in the near future.

The U.S. Federation for Middle East organized a forum discussion at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 50th Session at the UN to discuss these vital issues.

USFMEP event speakers included: Christine Dolan, former FBI agent Maria Velikonja, Linda MacDonald, Jeanne Sarson of Canada, Anna Paden, and Ann Holladay. Sally Kader, USFMEP president acted as the moderator of the panel. 🐦



Federation ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

The Prayer Breakfast



King Abdullah of Jordan at the 2006 Prayer Breakfast.

The USFMEP attended the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., in February, 2006. Notable guests included U.S. President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, his Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan, and rock star/activist Bono.



(From left to right) First Lady Laura Bush, President George W. Bush, Senator Mark Pryor and singer/activist Bono.

Sally Kader and Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, at the 2007 Prayer Breakfast.



International Peace Walk



This International Peace Walk took place in December, 2005, in Sharam el-Sheikh, Egypt, after the bombing of the Egyptian resort earlier that year. USFMEP President Sally Kader and Vice-President Ahmed AlFadaly, along with an international delegation and Muslim and Christian youth organizations, all participated in the Walk. Also present were the auspicious Minister of Youth, Dr. Mamdouh El-Beltagui, and the Governor of Sinai, Major General Mostafa Afifi.

The USFMEP also held an Athletic Peace Forum during the International Year of Athletics and Physical Education, which aimed to emphasize the importance of sports in society, specifically how athletic and physical education programs can be used as tools to aid in bringing peace and unifying youth to build a better future. Sport activities are also effective in bringing positive results for socioeconomic development.



During the Athletic Peace Forum, Sally Kader received the Sinai Peace Award from the Governor, Major General Afifi and Youth Minister Dr. El-Beltagui.

USFMEP '05 International Day of Peace

The USFMEP attended the International Peace Day conference on September 21, 2005. Over 1600 persons attended the conference, which was held at the Remises Hilton Hotel in Cairo, Egypt. Among the attending was President Hosni Mubarak's Political Advisor, his Excellency Osama Al-Baz. Sally Kader headed delegations from the USFMEP New York headquarters consisting of U.S. Congressman Mark Siljander and the New York City Commissioner.

Mrs. Kader opened the celebration with a warm welcome and an outline of the Federation's goals for peace through cross-cultural, inter-faith dialogue and education, denouncing all forms of violence. Following the opening, Majada Khorshid, representing Secretary-General Kofi Annan, read a speech to the audience on his behalf. The speech urged the countries present to stand united against violence and assured that peace would be the United Nations' first priority. In closing, Mrs. Kader awarded the Peace Shield to President Mubarak for his continuous efforts towards maintaining regional peace and enhancing the role of women in his country.



Participants of the International Peace Day conference, including U.S. Congressman Mark Siljander (center).



The Governor of Sinai, Major General Afifi, hosted an official press conference with USFMEP President Sally Kader and USFMEP Vice-President Ahmed AlFadaly at a press conference. An official reception honoring Mrs. Kader's peace efforts was held following the press conference.



Photo | www.destination360.com

USFMEP Vice-President Ahmed AlFadaly participated in the International Conference on Inter-Religious Dialogue on June 7-8, 2005. The conference, which was located in the Vatican City, Italy and organized by the World Council of Churches, evaluated and examined the development of inter-religious dialogue and collaboration during recent decades. Pope Benedict XVI and more than a hundred persons of various religious backgrounds also discussed how the dialogue should be practiced in the future.

Religion specialists met in the Ecumenical Centre of Geneva to examine the way inter-religion dialogue functioned in the present and would function in the future. Among the speakers were Swami Agnivesh, Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer, Rabbi Ehud Bandel, and Professor Rita M. Gross.

International Conference on Inter-Religious Dialogue



MORE ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Almal Institute for the Disabled

The Al-Almal Institute for the Disabled has been in service in Lebanon since 1959. In October, 2006, Sally Kader visited the Institute and the Welfare Wheat Program.

At right, Mrs. Kader and Sana El-Solh at the Al-Almal Institute for the Disabled, watching one of the disabled students at work.



Conference for the Disabled



Ms. Kader attended the Conference for the Disabled in October 2005 in Beirut, Lebanon. Participants included Middle Eastern and North African countries.

Paris Peace Rally

In Fall of 2006, Sally Kader attended an American Peace Rally in Paris, France.



Inter-religious Dialogue on the Nile



Banners of welcome flew proudly as Mr. Ahmed AlFadaly, the Muslim Youth Association and the Egyptians participating in this event welcomed the USFMEP.



Ms. Kader with UN representative Majeda Khurshid and Dr. Ahlam Henafi, the head of the national Egyptian Women Association at a luncheon for an inter-religious and cultural forum held on the Nile River.

Visiting Egyptian Youth



In October of 2006, the President of USFMEP visited the Egyptian youth community in Alexandria, Egypt.

Round Table Discussions



On March 5, 2006, the USFMEP hosted a round table discussion of interfaith and cultural dialogue. The discussion was attended by U.S., British, Egyptian, Lebanese and Palestinian nationals in hopes of finding a common ground between faiths.

Award for the Empowerment of Women



Mrs. Kader received an award honoring her efforts in empower women. Dr. Souad Kafafi, PhD, founder of Misr University for Science and Technology, the first private university in Egypt, presented the award. Sadly she passed away in 2005.

Business Women's Summit



Ms. Kader with a few of the Summit participants.

USFMEP President Sally Kader was invited to attend the Business Women's Summit held on May 24-26, 2006 in Tunis, Tunisia. During the summit, a number of leading U.S. business women offered management and leadership skills training to 200 Middle Eastern women.



The assistant to the under-secretary of Condoleezza Rice also attended the Summit.

The summit was a response to U.S. President George W. Bush's bi-partisan initiative to link Arab, U.S. and global private sector businesses together, along with non-governmental organizations and governments, to develop innovative policies and programs supporting economic, political and educational reform in the region.

President Bush also founded the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI); MEPI is the administration's primary diplomatic tool for supporting the new policy. As the President outlined in his November 6, 2003 speech, given at the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. has adopted a forward strategy of establishing freedom in the Middle East.

Spicey Babies Liven Up Recent Events



The Spicey Babies are recent regular performers at the USFMEP events. This spectacularly talented children's group performed, singing and dancing. A special favorite of the crowd was one song which extolled the need for all God's children, of all creeds and races to call for Peace.

Mrs. El-Emery Appointed USFMEP Ambassador of Peace



USFMEP President Sally Kader has appointed Safia El-Emery, a renowned Egyptian actress, to be the Ambassador of Peace for the Middle East and the Federation Representative to the United Nations.

Ms. Darley Appointed of Communications Advisor

The USFMEP has announced the appointment of its first Communications Advisor. Sabrina Darley is the President and chief executive officer of Kansas-based Distinctive Media Corporation, publisher of lifestyle magazines and business journals. "I am honored to have been chosen by Mrs. Kader to head up the increased communications roll out for this profoundly important cause," said Darley. "I will work tirelessly to exceed her expectations and to do my part to further this movement."





'05 Peace Conference with Muslim Youth Association

Numerous government officials, dignitaries and diplomats attended the 2005 USFMEP United Nations International Peace Day Conference held under the auspices of the Minister of International Cooperation and the Minister of Youth in Cairo Egypt.

Among those participating in the conference with Sally Kader, USFMEP president and Ralph Kader - UN Diplomat - were FR Congressman Mark Siljander - USFMEP board advisor, Dr. Moufid Shihab - Egyptian Minister of Legal Affairs, and Dr. Ahmed Darwish - Egyptian Minister of Economic Development. Numerous religious leaders participated including those from El Azher Mosque, the local Catholic Church and a Vatican Envoy, the Coptic Christian Church, and other denominations as well as other significant government officials, heads of Universities, leading area scholars and notable Egyptian actors and actresses. Master Mahmoud Badry, General President of the Muslim Youth Associations and Counselor Ahmed El Fadaly - representing the USFMEP and the Muslim Youth Associations - were engaged in the conference as well.

In an overwhelming show of unity regarding Mrs. Kader's challenge to all attending, the crowd joined hands in a vow of peace keeping.

Footage of this monumental peace vow was aired repeatedly on all major Middle Eastern television stations. In her concluding remarks, Kader plead with the audience to "...commit to joining your hands now in working towards peace in the region."

The audience gesture in taking Kader's challenge is historically significant due to the high level of dignitaries affirming her call for peace. 🕊



Sally Shtila Kader, President of the U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace addresses the audience at the 2004 International Day of Peace conference.



All audience members, including pictured here left to right - Dr. Moufid Shihab, Dr. Ahymed Darwish, Dr. Osama Al-Baz, US Congressman Mark Siljander, UN Diplomat Ralph Kader and others with the amous Egyptian actor Ahmed Maher at the extreme ruight - raise their hands together in affirmation of Sally Kader's call for a vow and committment to working towards peace in the region.



His Excellency, Dr. Osama Al-Baz, receiving Peace Award from Ahmed Fadaly and Sally Kader - USFMEP.

Peace Shield Awarded to Egyptian President Mubarak

Also at the 2005 USFMEP United Nations International Peace Day Conference held in Cairo Egypt, Sally Kader presented the Federations highest USFMEP Peace Shield award to President Husni Mubarak in recognition of his continuous and on-going effort to bring peace and stability to the region. The shield was accepted enthusiastically by the president's First Political Advisor, Dr. Osama Al-Baz.



Dr. Osama Al-Baz, President Husni Mubarak's First Political Advisor, receiving the peace award on behalf of President of Egypt from USFMEP President Mrs. Sally Kader, Vice. President. Al-Fadaly and Egyptian Actor Mr. Ahmed Maher showing the Peace Shield award during the ceremony.

Other Activities in Egypt Foster Peace and Stability

2004 International Peace Forum

The USFMEP, in collaboration with the International Muslim Youth Organization, hosted the International Peace Forum in conjunction with the International Peace Day. The conference was held in Cairo, Egypt on October 2, 2004, under the auspices of the Egyptian government. Among the attending were President Mubarak's First Advisor, Dr. Al-Baz, and Dizan Durani, the Under Secretary-General for the Arab League. Ambassadors and diplomats from over 80 countries participated in the forum. The Federation President, Mrs. Kader, initiated discussions with the conference participants on ways of overcoming conflicts in the Middle Eastern region. These dialogues helped formulate principles for lasting peace and outlined actions to develop collective attitudes toward peace.

2004 Peace March and Forum



On October 14, 2004, USFMEP organized a Peace March in Taba, Egypt after the bombing of a Red Sea resort. The Federation invited the Vatican Ambassador, among others, to participate in this march as an act of denouncing all forms of terrorism.

MORE GLOBAL ISSUES

USFMEP Spicy Babies Performances Are Enjoyed By All Visiting Dignitaries



In September of 2005, the Spicy Babies performed a song for the USFMEP. Mufed Shihab, Minister of Egyptian Government Legal Affairs (pictured at right) was among those who attended the concert.



More Highlights of USFMEP World Wide Activities



Tony Hall, UNFAO Ambassador, and chief of the US Agency to the UN in Rome, with Sally Kader at the 2007 Prayer Breakfast.



Famous Egyptian actor Ahmed Maher in Cairo with the USFMEP delegation from New York.



Guests at a USFMEP reception hosted in honor of their invited speakers during the 51st Commission for the Status of Women, on March 1, 2007 in the Dag Hammarskjold Towers.

AS OUR ACTIVITIES INCREASE, OUR INFLUENCE WILL STRENGTHEN.
JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND PEACE TO THE WORLD.



Left: Sally Kader, President USFMEP with Dr. Hans Blix, President of the World Federation for United Nations Association (WFUNA), and Pera Wells, Secretary General of the WFUNA, March 2007 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace

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The task before us is how we collectively and individually promote tolerance, understanding and mutual respect towards each others diverse cultures and religions in a non-violent movement for peace: to have a world free from hatred, a world united in friendship, mutual respect, forgiveness, trust, harmony and love.

- Sally Kader - USFMEP President



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