



**AISA**

International 'Alawiyya Sufi Association

**GENEVA 2010**

A Spiritual Islam for Freedom and  
Responsibility

**PROGRAM**

**9-10 October, 2010**

Geneva Palexpo  
Congress Center  
(Hall 1)

[www.aisa-suisse.ch](http://www.aisa-suisse.ch)

For several years now the International 'Alawiyya Sufi Association (AISA) and its founder-president Sheikh Khaled Bentounes have been working tirelessly in the interest of cultural understanding and respect for humanity and nature.

The Swiss section of AISA is organizing, this coming 9-10 October, 2010, in the Palexpo Congress Center in Geneva, a conference entitled "Geneva 2010—A Spiritual Islam for Freedom and Responsibility". This conference is open to one and all: families, associations, businesses and all other groups who are concerned by ecology, the Earth, cultural understanding and spirituality.

A living spirituality, a profound link with Mother Earth and the understanding that humanity has a shared destiny--all these factors call for the emergence of new models for reflection and action.

This conference, which hopes to be a laboratory for new ideas, also hopes to propose fresh ideas and directions for today's world, with the help of eminent men and women: political representatives, philosophers, builders of the future, spiritual guides, concerned citizens, poets and musicians. It is urgent for us now to cultivate hope, peace and fraternity by acting together as responsible and autonomous citizens. It is in this spirit that this meeting will offer a new way of looking at Islam and Sufism.

This event, "Geneva 2010", is intended to be a democratic project conveying hope.

The following personalities have accepted to be part of the Honorary Committee of the “**Geneva 2010**” conference, “**A Spiritual Islam for Freedom and Responsibility**”, and give the conference their support :

## **PRESIDENT**

**Sheikh Khaled Bentounes**, Spiritual Guide of the International ‘Alawiyya Sufi Association, France

## **MEMBERS**

**Dominique Baudis**, European Deputy, President of the “Arab World Institute”, Paris

**Lytta Basset**, Pastor, Professor of Theology at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

**Ali Benouari**, President of the Swiss Association of Muslims for a Secular Society (ASML), Switzerland

**Father Christian Delorme**, Catholic priest in the diocese of Lyon, France

**Doudou Diène**, Special Rapporteur for the United Nations on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, Senegal

**Lama Denys Teundroup**, Founder and Director of the Karma Ling Institute, Honorary President of the European Buddhist Union, France

**Rabbi Marc-Raphaël Guedj**, Director of the Foundation Racines et Sources (Roots and Sources), Interfaith Research and Dialogue--Jewish Thought and Wisdom, Switzerland

**Peter Houseyin Cunz**, President of the Swiss branch of the International Mevlana Foundation, Switzerland

**Bariza Khiari**, Senator from the city of Paris, judge in the “Haute Cour de Justice de la République”, and “Chevalier de l’Ordre de Mérite”, France

**Countess Setsuko Kossowska de Rola**, Painter, Honorary President of the Balthus Foundation, Switzerland

**Abdel Lamhangar**, Swiss citizen of Muslim extraction, geographer and anthropologist, elected socialist representative from the city of Romont, Switzerland

**Stéphane Lathion**, Teacher, coordinator of the Research Group on Islam in Switzerland, Switzerland

**Abbot Mauro Giuseppe Lepori**, Cistercien abbey of Hauterive, Switzerland

**Ueli Leuenberger**, National Counselor and President of the Green Party, Switzerland

**Monsieur le Prévôt du Grand-Saint-Bernard, Jean-Marie Lovey**, Switzerland

**Nemat Mardam-Bery**, President of the Foundation « Entre-Connaissance-Genève » and vice-president of the « Interfaith Platform », Switzerland

**Zidane Meriboute**, Author and researcher, Associate professor at the “Ecole d’Etudes Orientales et Africaines” (SOAS/CISD-Université de Londres), Switzerland

**Jacques Moreillon**, Honorary member of the International Red Cross and ex-Secretary-General of the International Scouting Movement, Switzerland

**Gabrielle Nanchen**, ex-member of the International Red Cross, Switzerland

**Hafid Ouardiri**, Director of the Foundation “Entre-Connaissance-Genève,” Switzerland

**Sister Pierrette**, Prioress of the “Communauté de Grandchamp”, Switzerland

**Noël Ruffieux**, Orthodox priest, head of the « Ecumenical Group » of Fribourg, Switzerland

**Majdouline Sbai**, Vice-President in charge of citizenship, decentralized cooperation and international relations of the “Conseil Régional du Nord-Pas-de-Calais”, member of the “Green” Party—Europe Ecologie, France

**Djibril Sène**, ex-Minister, ex-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Senegal, ex-Mayor of Bambey, Senegal

**Canon Paul Simon-Vermot**, Abbey of St.-Maurice, Switzerland

## SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2010

### 13h00            **OPENING OF STANDS AND EXHIBITS**

#### **Exhibits**

- The Life and Work of the Emir Abd el-Kader  
Celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rescue of the Christians of Damascus: The life and times of this exceptional man seen through the exhibit "The Emir abd el-Kader: a man, a destiny, a message", created by Setty Simon-Khedis (curator).
- The Maqâms, tombs of the saints in Muslim lands, photographs by Catherine Touaibi.
- Portraits by Semmy Demmou on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Alawiyya Sufi Way, in Mostaganem, Algeria, July, 2009.
- The Koran  
Some very rare and beautiful illuminated manuscripts, including early copies of the Koran, in particular one of the first translations into French, bound in Edinburgh (1649).
- Women of an Iranian Sufi fraternity, photographs by Patricia Laguerre.

#### **"The Village"**

- "The village" is a group of stands provided for associations and organizations concerned by the themes of this conference. This area will make it possible, for a day and a half, to discover activities and products linked to the various themes of the conference.
- Parents' and children's area.

### 14h-14h45        **OPENING SESSION**

#### **Words of Welcome**

Philippe Mottet, President of AISA, Switzerland  
Hamid Demmou, President of AISA International

#### **Presentation of the Program**

Coordinator: Tayeb Belmihoub, President of the Association, "Une Balle Pour la Paix" ("One Ball for Peace").

### 14h45-16h15     **CONFERENCES (PART ONE)**

**Moderator: Eric Geoffroy**, Islamologist at the University of Strasbourg and at the Open University of Catalonia.

#### **Women and Globalization: between tradition and modernity**

**Bariza Khiari**, Senator from the city of Paris

## **Nature, Spiritual Source**

**Philippe Roch**, Independent Consultant, ex-Director of the World Wildlife Fund, Switzerland, and ex-Director of the Federal Office for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (OFEFP).

16h15-16h45 BREAK

## **16h45-18h15 CONFERENCES (PART TWO)**

### **The media, vectors of hope**

**Patrick Busquet**, co-Founder and director of the press agency Futuring Press.com, editor-in-chief of the magazine "Décisions Durables" (Sustainable Decisions).

### **For an Islam of Peace**

**Sheikh Khaled Bentounes**, Author, Pedagogue, Lecturer, founder of the Muslim Scouts of France, Spiritual guide of the 'Alawiyya Sufi Way, Founding member of the "Conseil Français du Culte Musulman" (French Council of the Muslim Faith).

19h DINNER

## **21h00-23h00 EVENING OF SUFI CULTURE AND MUSIC**

### **"Razbar", Iranian ensemble, Kurdish sacred music.**

Until recently, the venerable tradition of Kurdish sacred music was practically inaccessible for the uninitiated. Razbar, made up of eminent musicians, has decided to make this tradition known and thus to share their spiritual experiences. Their respect for the authentic form and spirit of this musical and liturgical tradition is more than just an aesthetic exercise. It is a real sharing of their sense of the sacred.

### **"Ensemble Diwan".**

A voyage into the heart of the rousing chants of the Isâwiyya Sufi Fraternity. This youthful group performs the repertoires of various Sufi masters. The mystical poems are chanted in rhythm with such traditional instruments as the bendir, the daff or the ghayta.

### **Choir of the 'Alawiyya Sufi Fraternity.**

The poems of the spiritual guides of the 'Alawiyya Sufi Way provide the material for the chants performed by this ensemble. These singers and musicians thus communicate the essence of this universal spiritual heritage, as well as the venerable tradition of Arabo-Andalusian music.

23h00-24h00 JEMAA

Spiritual meeting with chants and invocations of the divine names, in the Sufi tradition.

## SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER, 2010

From 9h30 STANDS AND EXHIBITS

### 10h00-12h15 WORKSHOPS: NETWORKING FOR A WORLD IN MOVEMENT

#### RE-THINKING GLOBALIZATION.

- **Moderator: Christiane Isabelle Johnson Aghoton**, co-Director of the United Nations Institute for Research on Disarmament (UNIDIR)

- **Women at the heart of globalization.**

**Salamatou Sow**, Socio-linguist, Professor-researcher at the University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger.

The spiritual approach is a path toward the universal. This path implies knowledge of the source and the maintaining of memory. "Source" and "memory" are two key words in the re-thinking of globalization and our common humanity, by placing the energy of womankind at the center of this transformation.

- **Futuring press—"the press of the future".**

**Patrick Busquet** will share his experiences in Futuring Press and "Reporters d'Espoir" (Reporters for Hope), breaking away from the dictatorship of "infotainment", and from passive voyeurism. How to help the media become vectors of hope.

#### MOTHER EARTH

- **From Humus to Humanity: the case of Morocco.**

**Fettouma Benamdenbi**, co-President of "Terre et Humanisme" (Earth and Humanism), Morocco. Sharing of experience in agro-ecology. "No peace on Earth without peace with the Earth."

The workshop will be moderated and co-hosted by **Gaston Jouffroy**, member of the Federal Committee of the movement "Appel Pour une Insurrection des Consciences" ("Call for an Insurrection of Consciences").

#### SPIRITUALITY IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE

- **Moderator: Saad Khiari**, Author-filmmaker, graduate of the "Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinématographiques" (School of Cinematography).

- **A Spiritual and Free Islam.**

With **Eric Geoffroy**, Islamologist at the University of Strasbourg and the Open University of Catalonia, and **Patrick Haenni**, Researcher with the "Religioscope" foundation.

In Islam, human liberty is fundamental, since no clerical authority can interfere in the relationship between man and God; however, man must have the courage to live up to this freedom which, as it is often stated in the Koran, engages his personal responsibility. In this sense, spirituality is a privileged path to awakening. It creates an interior space in the

human consciousness, which allows the human being to have access to the only true form of liberation—that which delivers man from illusion and passion.

## THE AWAKENING OF CONSCIOUSNESS

- **Moderator: Nassera Bousbaine**, Nurse trained in “interior ecology” at the Pachamama Alliance, and in the practise of the Cercle des Qualités (“Circle of Values”) by the Association Thérapie de l’Ame (“Therapy of the Soul”).
- **Le Langage des Oiseaux (The Language of Birds) by Farid ud-Dîn Attar (1140-1230).**

With **Manijeh Nouri**, Professor at the Institut Catholique de Toulouse (Catholic Institute of Toulouse), translator of Persian Sufi poetry. Initiation through the crossing of seven valleys: Quest, Love, Knowledge, Self-Reliance, the Oneness of God, Stupefaction, Poverty and Disintegration of the Self.

- **Artisans of Peace, Men of their Word.**

With **Alain Michel**, Director-General and Founder of Hommes de Parole (“Men of their Word”).

Why is interfaith dialogue unavoidable—and a necessary prerequisite to peace—in today’s world? How can we promote cultural understanding? Based on his experience in the context of the “Congrès Mondiaux des Imams et Rabbins pour la Paix” (World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace), Alain Michel offers some observations.

## THE FUTURE IS MADE TODAY

- **Moderator: Majdouline Sbai**, Vice-President of the Conseil Régional Nord-Pas-de-Calais, member of the political party Les Verts (Green Party) Europe-Ecologie.

- **Cultivating Hope.**

With **Foad Khatir**, Scout leader, Educator and expert in adult education, and with **Hocine Sadouki**, Commisary-General of the Scouts Musulmans de France (Muslim Scouts of France—SMF) and **Younes Aberkane**, President of the French Scouting movement.

Ethics, self-management, involvement. Scouting and its place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Presentation of the “super-potager” (“super vegetable garden”), a project to create innovative gardening techniques for family self-sufficiency.

- **Awakening Children to Spirituality.**

With **Mahal Da Costa**, Consultant in ethical education and responsible for the training of teachers in the Réseau Mondial des Religions pour les Enfants (GNRC: Global Network of Religions for Children.)

The members of the GNRC come from the main world religions, as well as from other spiritual traditions. They share a common devotion to the cause of building a world in which all children might partake not only of the right to life, but also of the right to become actors in creating their

own destinies and thus contributing to the emergence of a world with peace and dignity for one and all.

- 12h30 LUNCH
- 14h00-17h30 **PLENARY SESSION**
- 14h00-15h00 **ROUND TABLE: "A DIFFERENT VIEW OF ISLAM: CITIZENSHIP FOR ALL AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL". (PART ONE)**
- With **Sheikh Bentounes**, Spiritual Guide of the 'Alawiyya Sufi Way, and **Sheikha H. Nur Artiran**, President of the Sefik Can International Mevlana Education and Culture Association, Istanbul; **Jean-Claude Basset**, Pastor and teacher of Islamology in the department of theology and religious studies of the UNIL; **Marouane Bouloudhine**, President of Mosaic, Fédération Laïque des Citoyens de Sensibilité Musulmane de France ("French Secular Federation of Citizens of Muslim Persuasion"); **Saïda Keller-Messahli**, President of the "Forum for Progressive Islam", Zurich; **Abdel Lamhangar**, Swiss citizen of Muslim background, geographer and anthropologist, socialist elected representative from the city of Romont.
- Moderator: **Guy Mettan**, Executive director of the Club Suisse de la Presse ("Swiss Press Club").
- 15h15-16h15 **ROUND TABLE: "A DIFFERENT VIEW OF ISLAM: CITIZENSHIP FOR ALL AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL". (PART TWO)**
- With **Sheikh Bentounes**, Spiritual Guide of the 'Alawiyya Sufi Way; **Ali Benouari**, President of the Swiss Association of Muslims for a Secular Society; **Bariza Khiari**, Senator from the city of Paris; **Ueli Leuenberger**, National Counselor and President of the Green Party; **Tariq Oubrou**, Philosopher and Theologian, Imam of the central mosque of Bordeaux, France.
- Moderator: **Guy Mettan**, Executive Director of the Swiss Press Club.
- 16h15-16h45 BREAK
- 16h45-16h50 **Reading of the "Spiritual Address of Geneva"**
- By **Hafid Ouardiri**, Director of the "Entre-Connaissance-Genève" foundation. This address was delivered in 1999 by a number of local and international personalities in order to urge world leaders to respect three basic principles so that neither religious nor spiritual force might be used to justify violence, discrimination, exclusion, domination or exploitation of others.
- 16h50-17h05 **Reading of the projected "Charte Ethique des Religions" (Ethical Charter of Religions)**

By **Alain Michel**, Director-General and founder of Hommes de Parole (Men of Their Word).

The "Ethical Charter of Religions" is not a punctual or final act, but rather a beginning. It is a guide for joint action on the part of different religions and spiritual traditions concerning the issues facing today's world. Its goal is to give expression to the ethical principles and values held in common by the various religions, thus facilitating the passage from theological concerns to a common spiritual ethos. It hopes to widen the scope of interfaith debate by focusing on our relationships with others, a fundamental element in all religions.

**17h05-17h15      Reading of the "Appel du Forum de Soest" (Call of the Soest Forum)**

By **Thomas Dreessen**, President of the Curatorium du Zentralinstitut Islam-Archiv-Deutschland Amina-Abdullah-Stiftung e.V., Allemagne.

This "call" was made by the "Soest Forum" regarding young people. This interfaith forum was created by the Curatorium du Zentralinstitut. This forum brings together a wide variety of experts whose goal is to help build a brighter future for Islam in Germany.

**17h15-17h20      Award ceremony of the "Entre-Connaissance" foundation.**

By **Madame Nemat Mardam-Bey**, President of the "Entre-Connaissance" foundation and vice-president of the "Inter-religious platform" of Geneva.

**17h20-17h40      La Flamme de l'Espoir (The Flame of Hope) Geneva-Compostella-Cordoba**

A "citizens' flame" which will link the "Geneva 2010" conference to the colloquium entitled "Compostella-Cordoba - A Path towards comprehension and dialogue", which will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2010 in Cordoba, Spain.

With the participation of the "**Muslim Scouts of France**" (SMF) and the **Association "Compostella-Cordoba"**.

**17h40                      CONCLUSION**

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION:**

### **Dates:**

9-10 October, 2010

### **Place:**

Centre de Congrès (Halle 1) of the Geneva Palexpo

### **Access:**

- 18 minutes by foot from the airport, 15 minutes by foot from the "Geneva-Airport" train station
- 3 minutes by bus from the airport (Bus 5, direction "Hôpital")
- By car: access from the highway (autoroute); parking lot P12 (2 francs per hour until 6:00 PM; 20 francs per day for more than six hours)
- Maps showing access can be downloaded on the site [www.aisa-suisse.ch](http://www.aisa-suisse.ch)

### **Fees:**

- **For the two days of the conference** (including two meals):

CHF 160 (125 euros).

Children from age 3 to 7: CHF 30 (24 euros).

Children from age 8 to 18: CHF 50 (40 euros).

- **One day of conference**, with one meal:

CHF 80 (65 euros).

Children from age 3 to 7: CHF 15 (12 euros).

Children from age 8 to 18: CHF 25 (20 euros).

- **Cultural evening:**

CHF 40 (30 euros).

Children and teenagers: free.

### **Information and Contact:**

Congrès Genève 2010

Secrétariat Tous-Vents 22

CH 1950 Sion - Suisse

[geneve2010@aisa-suisse.ch](mailto:geneve2010@aisa-suisse.ch)

[www.aisa-suisse.ch](http://www.aisa-suisse.ch)