



## Secretary of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem addressed a conference on inter-religious dialogue



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On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, at the conference hall of the David Citadel Hotel in Jerusalem, a round table "Religious Leaders for Peace" was held on the occasion of the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

The forum was attended by religious leaders, members of the Israeli Knesset, members of the Kazakhstani Senate and Majlis, representatives of the Israeli and Kazakhstani ministries, as well as by academics and members of the public, and media correspondents.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary B. Sarsenbayev, Kazakhstani statesman and Chairman of the Board of the Nazarbayev Centre for the Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilisation Dialogue, opened the meeting with a welcoming speech.

His Beatitude Theophilus III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine, then gave a plenary address, reports the press service of the Russian Youth Forum.

Among the speakers and those present at the forum were: Israeli Minister of Religious Affairs M. Malchieli, Judge (Kadi) of Israel's High Sharia Court of Appeals and Director General of Israeli Sharia Courts I. Zahalka, Latin Patriarchal Vicar of Jerusalem Bishop Boulos Marcuzzo, Secretary General of the Bahai International Community D. Rutstein, spiritual leader of the Israeli Druze community, Sheikh M. Tariff, director of the Department of World Religions of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, T. Berg-Rafaeli, head of the Christian Department of the Israeli Interior, S. Marji, leaders of Jewish communities in Israel, representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Episcopate and other officials.

At the invitation of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the State of Israel S. Bourshakov, Secretary of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem Hegumen Nikon (Golovko) made a presentation on the role of the Russian Orthodox Church in the inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue.

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