



## *International Press Release*

ORDO SUPREMUS MILITARIS TEMPLI HIEROSOLYMITANI (OSMTH)  
Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

*Religious Protector*

His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian,  
Patriarch of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem  
Holy See of St. James

*Royal Patron*

HRH Princess Elisabeth Marie Alexandra  
zu Ysenburg und Büdingen  
Princess zu Schleswig-Holstein-  
Sonderburg-Glücksburg

*International Grand Master*

COL David N. Appleby  
Grand Master IV

### **PAPAL VISIT TO IRAQ**

OSMTH joins with all people of goodwill in noting the importance of the meeting between His Holiness Pope Francis and the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, spiritual leader of most of the world's Shiite Muslims. This landmark first meeting is hoped to be the precursor for further dialogue between the Abrahamic Faiths and encourage peaceful collaboration between religions.

OSMTH notes the importance of this meeting near to historic Ur, the birthplace of our common Father in Faith, Abraham, and align our organisation with Pope Francis' words

“From this place, where faith was born, from the land of our father Abraham, let us affirm that God is merciful and that the greatest blasphemy is to profane his name by hating our brothers and sisters. Hostility, extremism and violence are not born of a religious heart: They are betrayals of religion.”

David Appleby  
Grand Master IV  
OSMTH

George MacLean  
Grand Commander  
OSMTH

### **About OSMTH**

OSMTH (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in special consultative status with United Nations registered in Geneva, Switzerland and maintains Missions at the UN in New York City, Geneva and Vienna. OSMTH maintains UN Representatives at the UN Representative Offices throughout the world. OSMTH is also a board member of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) and a member of the International Peace Bureau. OSMTH fully endorses the United Nations Human Rights Declaration.

OSMTH works with leadership of different nations, and with other Non-Governmental Organizations [NGO] in order to provide humanitarian aid and other involvement in resolution of serious humanitarian needs or political, ethnic and religious conflict.

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