

To Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen) “2013 Mediterranean Award” *President of Palestine*



The ceremony for the Award of the Mediterranean was held in Naples 28 April 2013 at the headquarters of the United States of the World with a historic speech by President of Palestine

The President of the United States of the World, Michele Capasso, together with Caterina Arcidiacono, Vice President and other members of the institution welcomed the President of the State of Palestine Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen) to their headquarters in Naples where he received the “2013 Special Edition of the Mediterranean Award” “for his action – as is stated in the reason - “as the architect of dialogue in the fraught peace process between Israel and Palestine”.

In his speech, which was of high political-institutional content, President Abū Māzen emphasized the pivotal role of the peace process: “We have chosen the path of negotiation and only negotiation to achieve peace with Israel. There is no other way. In this historical building where the pages of the history of peace have been written thanks to the passion and commitment of President Capasso, I hope that one day we will write a happy page of history about the lasting peace between Israel and Palestine. I am honoured to have received this acknowledgement from the Fondazione Mediterraneo, which has been an anchor for peace and cooperation among peoples for more than twenty years”.

President Abū Māzen made a gift of a handcrafted work of art depicting Bethlehem representing the “Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus” and inaugurated the “Palestinian Room” at the United States of the World, and participated at a solemn flag-raising ceremony before the “Totem for Peace” by Mario Molinari: “This universal symbol of peace” he stated, “will soon be erected in Ramallah and I would like to welcome you all to our country for that occasion to celebrate this work of art for Peace”.

The reason

President Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen) has been the architect of constructive dialogue in the fraught peace process between Israel and Palestine. Thanks to his commitment, together with that of the entire Palestinian population, he has succeeded in achieving the grant of Observer State for Palestine before the United Nations, laying down the foundation stones for statehood of the State of Palestine, so that it can be free to enjoy its own territory in a spirit of peace and cooperation with its neighbouring States. As an accomplished negotiator, he has taken dialogue beyond the confines of those involved the Peace Process itself, successfully advocating that the only way forward is through peaceful coexistence both in the Middle East and throughout the rest of the world.

With Palestine in their hearts

Since its establishment in 1991, the United States of the World has sustained and continues to sustain the Palestinian cause. Appeals, assistance, seminars and solidarity initiatives for a people that is at the heart of Mediterranean culture. These include, notably, the 8 February 2002 manifestation with an enormous flag that departed from the headquarters of the Fondazione in Naples. With this Award, Abu Mazen completes

a journey which transforms the United States of the World into one of the very bastions of the Palestinian cause. This is how President Capasso referred to the Fondazione in his address to Parliamentary Assemblies and representatives of Civil Society in Marseille.

Read on statiunitidelmondo.org/en/documents-and-publications-en/appeals-documenti-e-pubblicazioni-en



President Abū Māzen: I recognize Israel, two Peoples in two States

Naples | 28 April 2013

Dear President Capasso,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am truly happy to be here at the headquarters of the United States of the World, such an important institution, which has been actively promoting Peace and Dialogue for more than twenty years.

I am honoured to receive this prestigious Award and hope to fulfill the expectations that it places on me: when I see the name of those who have received the award, including personalities such as Mahmud Darwish and Naguib Mahfouz, I realize what an honour it is to be considered alongside them.

The mission of Peace at the United States of the World and that of its President Michele Capasso deserves our full recognition and appreciation: because the world is tired of wars, and our task here is to stop this process, and bring those "senseless wars", which fill our world with bloodshed, to an end.

We want and must also bring this campaign to militarize the world to an end, especially through nuclear arms.

We continue to ask – as the United States of the World has been vociferously doing so for the past 20 years – for all problems to be solved through dialogue, dialogue, dialogue!

Those of you, who, like myself, have lived through the Second World War, know only too well that wars only bring about destruction and tragedy. We can see this around us today, not only in the Middle



East, and these realities cause us great heartache. This is why we have to be resolutely committed to Peace, especially in Palestine. We know that the path is long and tortuous, but we cannot simply resign ourselves to this situation. Resignation means failure and we cannot and must not accept this.

Accordingly, we have invited our Israeli friends to participate in dialogue, dialogue, dialogue, to bring about peace, a real peace based on international legitimacy; we do not ask for anything but the international legitimization of the State of Palestine, nothing but what was decided by international agreements and compliance with the commitments undertaken therein.

Some people believe that the peace process has gone on for so long and there is no longer any hope of finding a solution. We cannot accept this culture and these words as this is not what our Peoples desire: in Palestine, we make enormous efforts every day to disseminate the culture of peace among our citizens.

Nobody wants war or a Third Intifada: we reject this categorically! If Israel does not want peace now, we can wait: tomorrow or the day after or even longer.

Peace is not a whim: it is an imperative for all of us and for our future.

We cannot allow another war to happen, nor the use of violence. Thanks to the support of people like Michele Capasso, we have succeeded in obtaining the status of "Observer Country" at the United Nations: many countries have supported us throughout the world, first among them was Italy and then France, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Many more countries did not object and remained impartial and they should be applauded for this.

Given that we have been granted "Observer Country", we must now do even more to build peace.

There is an Arab initiative for peace between Israel and Palestine that we have been supporting for 10 years, which is simple but innovative: "Israel withdraws from

Palestinian territories and in exchange, all Arab countries recognize Israel".

This means that from Mauritania to Indonesia everyone is ready to recognize Israel and open to human relations in exchange for peace with Israel! This is why we say to our Israeli neighbours: instead of living in an isolated manner, in an armoured oasis, open up to an "ocean of dialogue and exchange" from Mauritania to Indonesia. This is how we can build peace not only between Israel and Palestine, but in all countries. We hold out our arms in the hope of peace: we do not want to withdraw them and I am here today to relaunch the peace and not war. I greet you all, especially those who have written the pages of history right here in this building, the headquarters of the United States of the World. It is precisely here that I would like to lay down the foundation stones of peace so that tragedies such as the Second World War can be avoided as they caused the deaths of more than 40 million innocent victims.

Ours has to be the message of peace in order that our Peoples, Israel and Palestine, may live in safety and serenity.

I would like to offer President Michele Capasso a gift: it is the Virgin Mary with "Our Baby Jesus". As you know, Jesus was Palestinian, he was born in Palestine: we love and respect him as the "Great Harbinger of Peace".

This top quality work of art is handcrafted and was made in Bethlehem, I invite you all to Palestine to Ramallah where the "Totem for Peace" by the sculptor Mario Molinari will be raised.

Let Peace be with You!

The President of Palesine Abū Māzen inaugurates the Palestinian Room of the United States of the World



Naples | 28 April 2013

The President of Palestine Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen) inaugurated the "Palestinian Room" of the United States of the World: it was a historical event involving the raising of the historical Palestinian flag.

A numerous Palestinian delegation was present at the ceremony led by the Palestinian Ambassador to Italy, Sabri Ateyeh, the Head of Palestinian Negotiations (former spokesman to Yasser Arafat) Saeb Erekat as well as ministers, diplomats and advisers to Abū Māzen.

Important members of the United States of the World spoke, together with delegations from various countries, diplomats and representatives of cultural, scientific, political, religious and military authorities from various countries, and Mayors who support the "Totem for Peace" (author Mario Molinari).

President Michele Capasso: Israel and Palestine have to live together in peace and solidarity



President Abū Māzen with President Barak Obama



President Shimon Peres receives the Keys to the City of Assisi



President Abū Māzen with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI



President Shimon Peres with President Michele Capasso

"At the Headquarters of the United States of the World, where the pages of the history of peace have been written, President Abū Māzen, not wanting to fall below expectations, recognized the role of Israel and the imperative nature of dialogue and peace. In a process that began several years ago with President Obama in Washington, continued at the Vatican with Pope Benedict XVI, and might reach its conclusion in Naples in the "Palestinian Room" of the United States of the World, which was inaugu-

rated by President Michele Capasso, "A Man of Peace", precisely for this occasion. "We are willing to wait" declared Abū Māzen, "knowing that the peace cannot be achieved in a short period of time. But this is the only way forward: dialogue, dialogue, dialogue".

This is the press release made by the major press agencies on the speech by President Abū Māzen to the United States of the World.



President Abū Māzen with President Michele Capasso



Naples | 28 April 2013

President Abū Māzen made a present to the United States of the World of a handcrafted work of art of Bethlehem depicting "The Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus".

The Totem for Peace by Molinari to Ramallah

Napoli | 28 April 2013

During an official visit to the United States of the World, the President of Palestine Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen), expressed his appreciation for the “Totem for Peace” by sculptor Mario Molinari as well as the willingness of the entire Palestinian population to host this monumental work in a Ramallah, and inaugurate in the month of October.



The Tricolor Totem of Peace by Molinari to President Abū Māzen



Napoli | 28 April 2013

The President of Palestine Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen) received a gift from President Michele Capasso during his visit to the United States of the World. The copy of the “Tricolour Totem for Peace” by Mario Molinari, was specially made for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy.

A numerous Palestinian delegation attended the ceremony led by the Palestinian Ambassador to Italy, Sabri Ateyeh, the Head of

Palestinian Negotiations (former spokesman to Yasser Arafat) Saeb Erekat as well as ministers, diplomats and advisers to Abū Māzen.

Members of the United States of the World spoke at the ceremony together with delegations from various countries including diplomats and representatives from cultural, scientific, political, religious and military authorities from different countries as well as Mayors who support the “Totem for Peace” (author Mario Molinari).

President Abū Māzen in the “Euromedcafe Casatua for Peace” space: tasting Bread and Peace



Napoli | 28 April 2013

The President of Palestine Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen), in the “Euromedcafe, Casa Tua For Peace” space, symbolically ate the “Bread of Peace”, made using an ancient Palestinian recipe from the Forno di Bianchina, representing the symbol of peace and sharing: this ancient tradition can be traced back to the holy scriptures.

The President expressed his enthusiastic support for this initiative by the United States of the World. Members of the United

States of the World spoke at the ceremony, partners in the “Euromedcafe, Casa Tua For Peace” programme, together with delegations from various countries including diplomats and representatives

from cultural, scientific, political, religious and military authorities from different countries as well as Mayors who support the “Totem for Peace” (author Mario Molinari).



The Totem of Peace by Molinari, “Setaro pasta, to President Abū Māzen

Napoli | 28 April 2013

The President of Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen) received a gift from Michele Capasso during his visit to the United States of the World: the first ever packet of “Totem for Peace” pasta, made by the Pastificio Setaro in the framework of the “Euromedcafe, casa tua for peace” programme.

A numerous Palestinian delegation attended the ceremony led by the Palestinian Ambassador to Italy, Sabri Ateyeh, the Head of Palestinian Negotiations (former spokesman to Yasser Arafat) Saeb Erekat as well as ministers, diplomats and advisers to Abū Māzen.



The President Abū Māzen in the Churchill room with the Last Dinner

Naples | 28 April 2013

President Abu Mazen, accompanied by President Capasso, visited the room of the former Grand Hotel de Londres where Winston Churchill stayed for a long time in the months of August and October 1944.

On this occasion, the Palestinian president expressed his applause to the United States of the World and President Capasso for having put together in the same room original finds - donated by the architect Vittorio Di Pace, by the lawyer Gerardo Marotta, by the historian Martin Gilbert and by others - with the cardboard for frescoes of the "Last Dinner" donated by Yasser Arafat and the nomadic Mhirab donated by the king of Morocco.

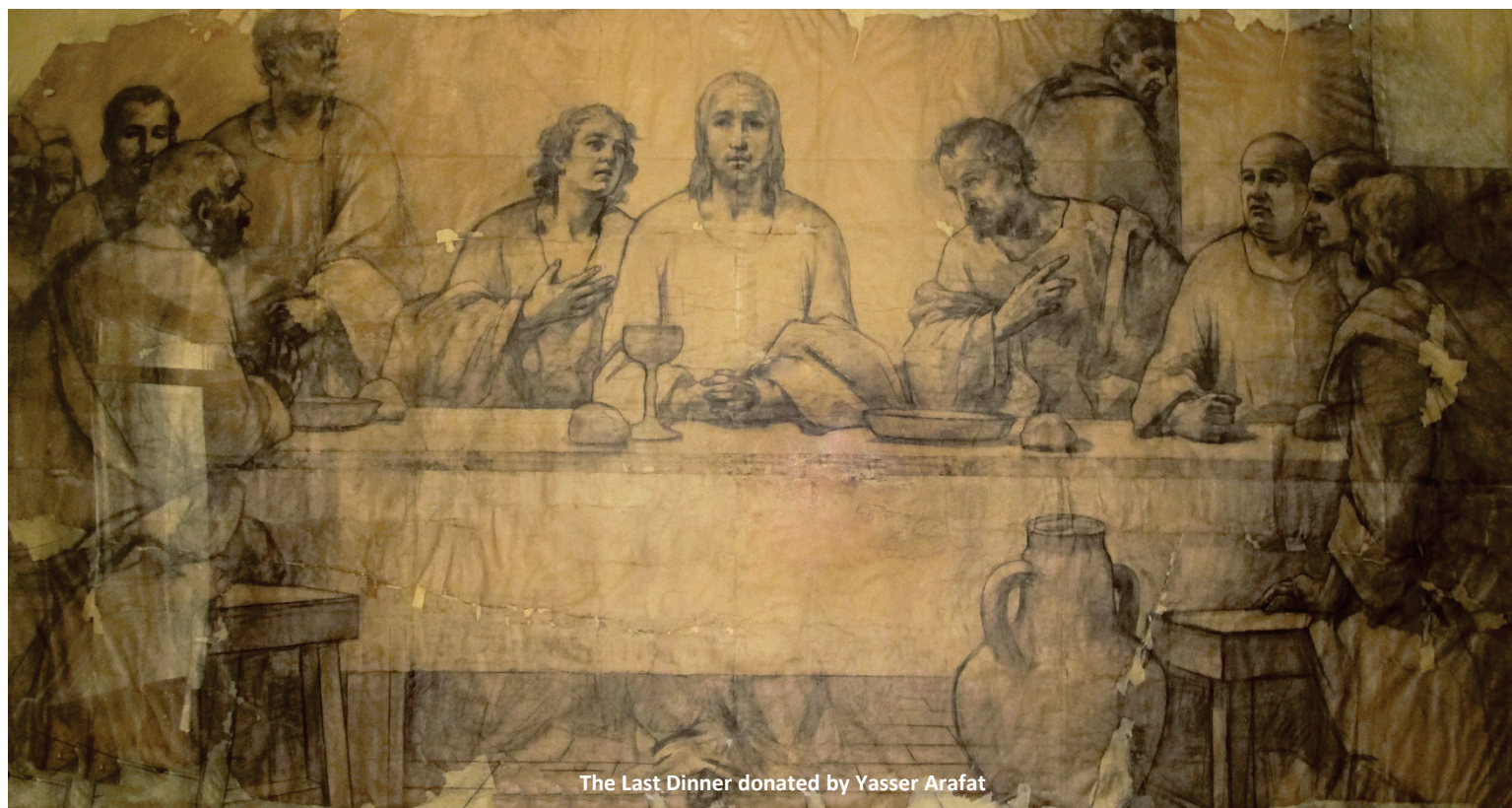
"In this way - underlined President Abu Mazen - the Fondazione has operated a historic pacification between Palestine, the Arab world and the disputed action of Churchill, especially during the period of the British mandate in Palestine. It was Winston Churchill - continues President Abu Mazen observing the "Last Supper" moved - under pressure from international Zionism and with a view to a pro-English Jewish colonization, who appointed Sir Samuel Herbert (Jewish, Zionist, liberal) the first high commissioner for Palestine.

The Zionists welcomed the appointment of a Jew as the head of Palestine as a messianic message. In 1922 the king of Jordan officially accepted the presence of the Zionists in Palestine".

President Capasso donated to President Abu Mazen a volume written together with Predrag Matvejevic on the indispensability of the Middle East peace process to support shared development and mutual respect. President Abu Mazen concludes his visit to the Churchill Hall by stating: "You can breathe history within these walls".



President Abu Mazen and President Capasso in front of the carone for the fresco of "The Last Supper" donated by President Yasser Arafat to the United States of the World and the subject of long conservative restoration work.



The Last Dinner donated by Yasser Arafat



Yasser Arafat



The Mhirab gift of the king of Morocco Mohammed VI



Meeting between Arafat, Michele Capasso and Sergio Marini



President Arafat announces the gift to the United States of the World



The Mediterranean Award for Institutions goes to Michel Vauzelle

Marsiglia | 05 April 2013

At a solemn ceremony, which took place in Marseille at the Regional Headquarters, President Michele Capasso presented the Mediterranean Award for Institutions to the President of the PACA Region Michele Vauzelle.

Those present at the ceremony included Minister Plenipotentiary Stefano Queirolo Palmas (Central Deputy Director of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Leila Shahid (Palestinian Ambassador to the European Union), Alik Moschis (Member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Consultative Committee), Lamia Radi (Cultural Director of Cooperation of MfA-Morocco and member of the Anna Lindh Foundaton Consultative Committee), Paolo Segala (ALF Italian Network), the Director General of the General Union for Cultural Centers of Gaza Yousri Darwish and representatives of national networks of the ALF.

“This acknowledgement – declared President Capasso – is in recognition of the Michel Vauzelle having dedicated his life to dialogue and cooperation in the Mediterranean. The founding of the “Villa Méditerranée” is further proof of his dedication to the common good, as well as his cultural, political and social commitment to promoting partnership among the two shores”.

President Vauselle was moved as he expressed his gratitude emphasizing the importance of the Award he had received, which



Michele Capasso, Michel Vauzelle and Leila Shahid



The participants at the ceremony

coincided with events – such as the Anna Lindh Forum, the meeting of young representatives

from cities and youth movements in the Mediterranean and the first Parliamentary Assembly of

the Union for the Mediterranean. These events crown the achievements of the PACA Region and

President Vauzelle’s own dedication to Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

The Mediterranean Award for “civil Society” goes to Gaza

Marsiglia | 05 April 2013



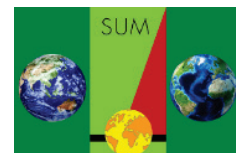
At a solemn ceremony, which took place in Marseille at the PACA Regional Headquarters, President Michele Capasso together with the President of the PACA Region Michele Vauzelle and Minister Plenipotentiary Stefano Queirolo Palmas (Central Deputy Director of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), awarded the “2013 Mediterranean award for Civil Society to General Union for Cultural Centers of Gaza represented by its Director General Yousri Darwish Those attending the ceremony included Leila Shahid (Palestinian Ambassador to the European Union), Alik Moschis (Member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Consultative Committee), Lamia Radi (Cultural Director of Cooperation of MfA-Morocco and member of the Anna Lindh Foundaton Consultative Committee), Paolo Segala (ALF Italian Network) and representatives of national networks of the ALF.

The Mediterranean Award for Culture goes to Antoine Nasri Messarra

Marsiglia | 05 April 2013

President Michele Capasso awarded Professor Antoine Nasri Messarra the “2013 Mediterranean Award for Culture” at a ceremony in Marseille together with representatives of the Consultative Committee from the Anna Lindh Foundation, among others, Alik Noschis and Lamia Radi, the Central Deputy Director for the Mediterranean and Middle East at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Stefano Queirolo Palma, the Deputy Secretary General for the Union for the Mediterranean Ambassador Sotiris Varouxakis, and representatives from 43 ALF national networks.





The President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz applauds the work of President Capasso



Marsiglia | 06 April 2013

At a meeting in Marseille, the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz publicly expressed his appreciation for the twenty years of work carried out by President Michele Capasso at the helm of the Fondazione Mediterraneo, which is documented abundantly in his recently published book “La Grande Méditerranée”.

President Schulz spoke of the twenty-year collaboration between the Fondazione and the European Parliament, marked by important Euro-Mediterranean partnership initiatives.

President Capasso meets European Commissioner Štefan Füle

Marsiglia | 06 April 2013

At a meeting with the European Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle, President Capasso donated a book on the Italian ALF Network and at the same time expressed his hope for greater involvement of Civil Society in European programmes. Accompanied by a civil servant from the European Commission Thomas Mc-Grath, Commissioner Štefan Füle spoke of his appreciation for the Fondazione Mediterraneo’s twenty years of activities – especially for its quality, transparency and results achieved in leading European projects - in addition to his personal acknowledgement of the commitment of its President Michele Capasso whose foresight and vision are amply testified to in his book “La Grande Méditerranée”.



President Vauzelle acknowledges the Fondazione Mediterraneo and President Capasso

Marsiglia | 05 April 2013



In a truly historical week in which members of parliaments, cities, young people and women, as well as civil society organizations to relaunch the Mediterranean partnership came together in Marseille, at a meeting in the Regional Headquarters, President Vauzelle paid tribute to the Fondazione Mediterraneo’s 20 year contribution towards building dialogue and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the “extraordinary” commitment of its President Michele Capasso.

“You cannot open a single door in the Mediterranean without hearing mention of Michele Capasso – a generous man with a vision, who beat us all off the mark in undertaking the steps necessary for building dialogue and cooperation among the peoples of Our Sea. This Sea has been enlarged to embrace the Gulf, the Balkans and the Black Sea countries – and he was there a decade before international initiatives took off in the area”.

Those attending the ceremony included Minister Plenipotentiary Stefano Queirolo Palmas (Central Deputy Director of MfA – Italy), Leila Shahid (Palestinian Ambassador to the European Union), Alik Moschis (Member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Consultative Committee), Lamia Radi (Cultural Director of Cooperation of MfA-Morocco and member of the Anna Lindh Foundaton Consultative Committee), Paolo Segala (ALF Italian Network), the Director General of the General Union for Cultural Centers of Gaza Yousri Darwish and representatives of national networks of the ALF.

The First Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean takes place



Marsiglia | 07 April 2013

The first summit of the Speakers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean took place at the new building of the PACA Region, the “Villa Méditerranée” in Marseille, which is formed by the Speakers from the Parliaments of 43 member countries meeting under the Presidency of the European Parliament led by its President Martin Schulz. The Italian delegation was led by the Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini who met with President Capasso.



Michele Capasso's book, “La Grande Méditerranée”, is presented

The book “La Grande Méditerranée” by Michele Capasso was presented at several events in Marseille. From the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz to the Commissioner for Enlargement Štefan Füle, from the Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini to the Secretary General of the UfM Fathallah Sijilmassi, from the President of the PACA Region Michel Vauzelle to the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean Sergio Piazzi to other representative of Euro-Mediterranean civil society organizations, the book was unanimously acclaimed and appreciated for the actions undertaken by its author President Michele Capasso, who is often cited as having foreseen the events and situations in the Mediterranean, as are widely confirmed by this book.



The Ufm Secretary General Fathallah Sijilmassi supports the Totem For Peace by Molinari

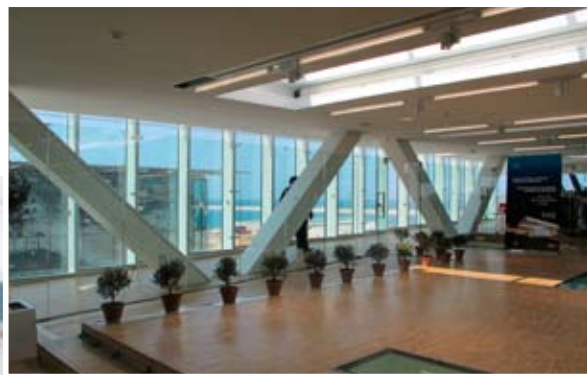
Marsiglia | 07 April 2013

The Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), Fathallah Sijilmassi, supports the “Totem for Peace” by Mario Molinari, which will be placed in the Headquarters of the UFM in Barcelona in the forthcoming months as a symbol of peace and dialogue for the region.



In pictures: the Secretary General UfM Fathallah Sijilmassi with President Michele Capasso

The President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz inaugurates Villa Mediterranee.



The Totem For Peace at the new headquarters



Il taglio del nastro

Marsiglia | 07 April 2013

Together with the Speakers of Parliaments from 43 member countries of the Un-

ion for the Mediterranean – holding their first Parliamentary Assembly – the President of the PACA Region, Michel Vauzelle and the President

of the European Parliament Marin Schulz inaugurated the headquarters of the VILLA MEDITERRANEE, designed by Italian architect Stefano

Boeri. President Michele Capasso, who attended the ceremony, announced the forthcoming installation of the “Totem for Peace” by Mario

Molinari at the new headquarters. A numerous Italian delegation attended led by the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini.

The Totem for Peace by Molinari, a symbol of union and hope



Marsiglia | 05 April 2013

From Father Paolo dell'Oglio to Aliko Mo- schis, from Tuomo Melasuo to Fathallah Si- jilmassi, from Martin Schulz to Leila Shahid: institutional representatives of civil society

organizations show their support to the “To- tem for Peace” by Mario Molinari, which the Fondazione Mediterraneo is disseminating throughout the world as a symbol of dialogue and cooperation among peoples.



Father Paolo dell'Oglio with Michele Capasso



The Deputy Secretary General of the UfM Cardarelli and Plenipotentiary Minister Queirolo Palmas

The Mediterranean Award for Institutions to the President of Uruguay José Mujica



Naples | 04 June 2013

The President of Uruguay José Mujica, accompanied by a delegation of Uruguayan government officials will make an official visit to the Fondazione Mediterraneo after an audience with Pope Francis I.

They will be welcomed by President Michele Capasso and other members of the Fondazi- one who together will inaugurate the “Uruguayan Room” which for political ethical reasons will be located in the “Euromedcafé Casa Tua For Peace”. On this oc-

casion, there will be a ceremony to present the “Mediterranean Award for Institutions”, awarded to President Mujica on the following grounds:

In a world that is increasingly invaded by personal interests, in which every social, political and religious space is used merely to pursue a miserable “Love of Power”, he has been able to shed light, give meaning and force to his “Power of Love”, which means living in modesty and demonstrating by your own deeds that power must not change people, but reveal your deepest true nature.

Press Review

Corriere del Mezzogiorno **Domenica 28 Aprile 2013**

Il leader palestinese cittadino onorario

Abu Mazen a Napoli

Il sindaco de Magistris: noi amici dei due popoli



Abu Mazen e de Magistris

NAPOLI — Il tempo inclemente, con una pioggia fitta e insistente, non ha restituito la Napoli solare che gli hanno descritto. Ma questo non ha impedito al presidente dell'Autorità palestinese, Abu Mazen di godere delle bellezze della città. Il fitto programma della visita napoletana è cominciata di buon ora con l'arrivo a Palazzo San Giacomo, dove è stato ricevuto dal sindaco Luigi de Magistris. Un primo momento privato tra i due, scambio di battute («Sono state messe in campo una serie di iniziative tra la città di Napoli e le città di Nablus, Gerico, Betlemme e Gerusalemme», ha detto il sindaco) e di doni: un acquarello d'epoca raffigurante la Riviera di Chiaia realizzato a mano nel 1783 per il leader mediorientale, mentre Abu Mazen ha regalato al sindaco un quadro in madreperla raffigurante «l'Ultima cena». E l'invito per una visita in Palestina, accettato da de Magistris. Poi la cerimonia ufficiale nell'Antisala dei Baroni. Presente tutta la giunta.

Tanti assenti, invece, tra le fila dei consiglieri comunali. Discorsi di rito e parole di amicizia reciproche, lettura della motivazione per il conferimento della cittadinanza, foto e strette di mano. Abu Mazen è ufficialmente cittadino napoletano. «Noi siamo fratelli e amici della comunità palestinese e della comunità ebraica», ha detto poi il sindaco al termine della cerimonia riferendosi anche alle polemiche dei giorni scorsi relative al riconoscimento. «La decisione - ha aggiunto - nasce perché la Palestina ha bisogno del riconoscimento che non ha, mentre Israele è già Stato. Con la comunità israeliana abbiamo un ottimo rapporto e sono tante le iniziative in corso». La giornata napoletana del leader palestinese è proseguita poi con una colazione di lavoro al Castel dell'Ovo. Nel pomeriggio, inoltre, ha incontrato il consigliere del governatore Caldoro alle Attività Produttive e allo Sviluppo economico, Fulvio Martusciello, che era accompagnato da una delegazione composta da Riccardo Monti, presidente dell'Ice, e dai presidenti di Confindustria Napoli e Caserta, Paolo Graziano, e Luciano Morelli, presidente Confindustria Caserta. In serata, poi, visita a cena di gala a Capodimonte con Caldoro. Oggi, invece, Abu Mazen sarà a Pompei, che come Napoli gli ha riconosciuto la cittadinanza. E ieri, il rettore dell'Università di Salerno, Raimondo Pasquino, che è anche presidente del Consiglio comunale di Napoli, gli conferirà una laurea honoris causa, che sarà consegnata nella sua prossima visita in Italia.

Ant. Sco.

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Press Review

La cittadinanza onoraria Il leader Anp: onorato di essere qui, amate la fratellanza

Abu Mazen spacca Napoli

Il rabbino capo: allibito. La sinistra: no, scelta giusta



De Magistris con Abu Mazen. A PAGINA 5 Benedetto

Le interviste

Giuseppe Crimalki
(Italia-Israele):
«De Magistris
è stato strabico»

Jamal Qaddorah
(comunità palestinese):
«Critiche sbagliate,
è un uomo di pace»

Corriere del Mezzogiorno Sabato 27 Aprile 2013

Primo Piano



La visita ufficiale

Il leader dell'Anp accolto all'aeroporto da Luigi de Magistris. Lettieri: schierare la città è dannoso. D'Angelo: no, non è un gesto di ostilità

Abu Mazen: «I napoletani amano la pace» E poi cena con sindaco, Bassolino e Marrelli

Oggi la cittadinanza onoraria. Il rabbino capo del Meridione: sono allibito

NAPOLI — «Lieto di essere qui. I napoletani amano la pace e la fratellanza. C'è armonia tra loro e il popolo palestinese. I nostri caratteri sono simili». Il presidente dell'Autorità nazionale palestinese Abu Mazen arriva in una città divisa dalle polemiche per la sua presenza e si dice «onorato» di essere a Napoli. Lo fa nel corso di una cena a Posillipo alla quale hanno partecipato il sindaco Luigi de Magistris, l'ex governatore Antonio Bassolino, il rettore della Federico II Massimo Marrelli, il presidente di Città della Scienza Vittorio Silvestrini e il deputato di Sel Gennaro Migliore.

La città, nel frattempo si spacca. Gesto di pace, atto di ostilità: la visita in Campania di Abu Mazen (Mahmud Abbas) suscita polemiche. Abu Mazen è giunto a Napoli ieri pomeriggio; ad accoglierlo a Capodichino, il sindaco Luigi de Magistris. Il presidente dell'Anp si tratterà fino a domani e la sua agenda è fitta di impegni: la cena di ieri; la visita al museo di Capodimonte in programma oggi dopo il ricevimento della cittadinanza onoraria a Palazzo San Giacomo; una visita agli scavi di Pompei, fissata per domani mattina dopo che il sindaco, Claudio D'Alessio, gli avrà consegnato le chiavi della città; per l'occasione, il centro di Pompei sarà chiuso al traffico. Ultima tappa napoletana sarà il ricevimento del premio Mediterraneo 2013, edizione speciale assegnatogli dalla Fondazione Mediterraneo; nella motivazione si legge che il politico «è stato l'artefice del dialogo nella costruzione del difficile processo di pace tra Israele e Palestina». Ciò che lascia perplessi molti è soprattutto la decisione da parte dei due Comuni di concedere al leader palestinese la cittadinanza onoraria: un gesto che appare gratuito e immotivato soprattutto alla comunità ebraica, ma anche a quanti, pur non essendo di religione ebraica, non condividono la politica dell'ex segretario generale dell'Olp. Prima a protestare è stata l'Associazione Italia-Israele di Napoli, che esprime «il proprio forte dissenso. Il Signor Abu Ma-

Chi è

Mahmud Abbas, meglio noto come Abu Mazen (letteralmente «Padre di Mazen», il suo primogenito morto per infarto), 78 anni, è il presidente dell'Autorità nazionale palestinese. È stato eletto il 9 gennaio del 2005, e ricopre la carica che prima era stata di Yaser Arafat e poi, ad interim, di Rawhi Fattuh. È il primo presidente palestinese nominato all'esito di elezioni: il suo mandato è scaduto nel 2009, ma Abu Mazen è tuttora in carica. Tra i fondatori di al-Fath, nel 1981 è divenuto membro dell'Olp. Ha partecipato ai colloqui di pace di Madrid e Oslo.



L'incontro Abu Mazen (il secondo da destra nella foto) accolto a Capodichino da Luigi de Magistris

Il precedente



Non è la prima volta che Abu Mazen incontra rappresentanti istituzionali di Napoli e della Campania. Il 7 ottobre 2009 il presidente dell'Autorità palestinese ebbe un colloquio privato a Roma con l'allora governatore Antonio Bassolino (nella foto sopra i due insieme), che già era stato più volte in visita da Arafat. Argomento della discussione? «Definire iniziative di cooperazione tra la Campania e la Palestina». Il 24 dicembre dello stesso anno, poi, Bassolino si recò a Betlemme, dove fu ospitato a pranzo e firmò un protocollo d'intesa con l'Anp

zen — si legge in una nota — si è disdetto per la diffusione di aberranti tesi gazzioniste formulate già a suo tempo nella dissertazione di laurea, nella quale asseriva che la Shoah avrebbe con un numero esiguo di vittime e che ogni caso sarebbe stata il frutto di macchinazione delle organizzazioni sioniste. Oltre a ciò ricordiamo come Abu Mazen abbia ripetutamente incoraggiato il ricorso al terrorismo. Giustifica per di più gli attentatori di Mon (1972), il rapimento del soldato G Shalit (2006) e molti altri crimini effetti». Il rabbino capo di Napoli e dell'Italia meridionale, Scial Bahbout, si dice «allibito», perché «quando decide di dare una onorificenza bisognerebbe formarsi sulla persona la quale si decide di conferirla. Ci sono persone benemerite a cui si può conferire una onorificenza e non siamo contrari al conferimento della cittadinanza onoraria ad un palestinese. Ma ad un leader del terrorismo no».

Da gli atti di terrorismo verso i civili non ha mai preso le distanze e non ha mai dimostrato la volontà di arrivare ad un accordo con Israele». È perplesso che Gianni Lettieri, capo dell'opposizione in consiglio comunale: «La decisione di de Magistris di conferire al solo leader dell'Anp la cittadinanza onoraria a Napoli è decisamente inopportuna. Quella mediorientale è questione delicata; schierare ufficialmente la città su posizioni ideologiche è dannoso e non aiuta la distensione dei rapporti tra le comunità israeliana e palestinese residenti a Napoli». Getta acqua sul fuoco Cielm, il Coordinamento internazionale delle autorità Locali del Mediterraneo per il quale la cittadinanza onoraria a Abu Mazen non è un gesto di ostilità verso il popolo israeliano. «Napoli esprime sentimenti di amicizia e solidarietà agli amici palestinesi e israeliani», dichiara Sergio D'Angelo. Decisamente favorevoli alla concessione della cittadinanza sono Arturo Scotto, deputato Sel, secondo il quale i napoletani sempre provano simpatia per il popolo palestinese ed Andrea Cozzolino, vice delegazione del Pd al parlamento europeo, per il quale «la cittadinanza onoraria rinsalda la storica amicizia tra la nostra città e il popolo palestinese».

Titti Benedetti

Dal 1905 a Napoli
RAFFAELE CAPASSO
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Press Review

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Abū Māzen: appello ad Israele

Storico discorso nella Sala Palestina della Fondazione Mediterraneo



NAPOLI - Appello del presidente Abū Māzen a Israele: "Sappiamo che l'Italia spinge per il processo di pace e che anche gli Usa sono determinati. Israele colga questa occasione ghiotta, in futuro potrebbero non esserci occasioni simili. Noi lavoriamo per questo, per una pace reale, e perché anche Israele possa vivere in pace e sicurezza. Riconosciamo Israele, è ora che Israele riconosca la Palestina. Due Popoli in Pace in due Stai Fratelli: noi non abbiamo fretta e siamo pronti al dialogo, al dialogo, al dialogo. Per una pace duratura".

GRATO ALLA FONDAZIONE, CAPASSO UOMO DI PACE

"Sono onorato di essere nella sede di questa istituzione così importante - ha esordito Abū Māzen - che da vent'anni sostiene, grazie all'impegno inesauribile del presidente Michele Capasso, la causa palestinese ed il processo di pace. In questa "Sala Palestina", che abbiamo ora inaugurato, nella quale sono state scritte pagine di storia, desidero aggiungere un altro pezzo di questo percorso di pace, riconoscendo Israele e la via del dialogo: l'unica percorribile, l'unica che può portarci ad una risoluzione del conflitto.

Poco fa ho visitato la "Sala Churchill" dove, sapientemente, sono stati riuniti i reperti della stanza in cui nel 1944 soggiornò lo statista inglese con i simboli della Palestina e del mondo arabo: una sorta di "pacificazione storica" resa possibile grazie alla Fondazione Mediterraneo".

GRATI A ITALIA, NAPOLITANO 'AMICO CHE STIMO'

"Il popolo palestinese non potrà mai dimenticare il sostegno ricevuto dallo Stato italiano nel corso degli anni. Da ultimo per il voto favorevole dell'Italia in sede Onu per l'innalzamento dello Stato della Palestina. E' un debito, questo, che non potremo mai dimenticare". Lo ha detto il presidente dell'Anp, Abū Māzen, parlando a Napoli nella sede della Fondazione Mediterraneo. Il leader palestinese ha rivolto un saluto al Capo dello Stato: "il mio amico Giorgio Napolitano cui va la mia stima e un saluto dalla sua città natale Napoli".

Press Review

fondazionemediterraneo.org

Napoli | 28 aprile 2013

Ad Abū Māzen il “Premio Mediterraneo”

Il presidente della *Fondazione Mediterraneo*, **Michele Capasso**, con **Caterina Arcidiacono**, vicepresidente, ed altri membri dell'istituzione ha accolto nella sede di Napoli della Fondazione Mediterraneo il presidente dello Stato della Palestina Mahmūd Abbās (Abū Māzen) consegnandogli il “**Premio Mediterraneo Edizione Speciale 2013**” “per la sua azione - si legge nella motivazione - in favore del dialogo nella costruzione del difficile processo di Pace tra Israele e Palestina”.

Presente alla cerimonia una folta delegazione palestinese guidata dall'Ambasciatore in Italia **Sabri Ateyeh** e dal Capo delle Negoziazioni Palestinesi (già portavoce di **Yasser Arafat**) **Saeb Erekat** e composta da ministri, diplomatici e consiglieri del presidente Abū Māzen.

Sono intervenuti membri della Fondazione Mediterraneo, delegazioni di vari Paesi, diplomatici, esponenti del mondo culturale, scientifico, politico, religioso e militare di vari Paesi, i Sindaci che sostengono e promuovono il “Totem della Pace” (autore Mario Molinari).

Nel suo intervento di rilevante importanza politico-istituzionale, il presidente Abū Māzen ha sottolineato l'importanza del processo di pace: “*Abbiamo intrapreso la strada del negoziato, solo del negoziato, per arrivare alla pace con Israele. Non c'è altra via. In questo edificio storico nel quale sono state scritte pagine di storia per la pace, grazie alla passione ed all'impegno del presidente Michele Capasso, spero un giorno si possa aggiungere la pagina felice della pace duratura tra Israele e Palestina. Sono onorato di ricevere questo riconoscimento dalla Fondazione Mediterraneo, da vent'anni riferimento per la pace e la cooperazione tra i popoli*”.

Il presidente Abū Māzen ha offerto in dono un'opera artigianale di Betlemme raffigurante la “Madonna con Bambino”, inaugurato la “Sala Palestina” della Maison de la Méditerranée e partecipato alla solenne cerimonia dell'alzabandiera dinanzi al “Totem della Pace” di Mario Molinari: “*Questo simbolo universale di Pace – ha affermato il Presidente Abū Māzen – sarà presto realizzato a Ramallah e vorrei avere tutti voi quel giorno nel nostro Paese per celebrare quest'opera e la Pace*”.



Press Review



Press Review

Mesapress, 29.4.2013

Abū Māzen Rilancia Il Processo Di Pace

A Napoli, nella sede della Fondazione Mediterraneo, dove sono state scritte “pagine di storia per la Pace”, il presidente palestinese Abū Māzen non ha voluto deludere, riconoscendo il ruolo di Israele e l’ineluttabilità del dialogo per la pace: lo ha fatto dopo aver visitato la “Sala Churchill” definendola “luogo di riconciliazione con la storia”.

Un percorso iniziato a Washington con Obama alcuni anni fa e rafforzatosi nella recente visita del presidente americano a Ramallah, proseguito in Vaticano con Papa Benedetto XVI e forse conclu-sosi a Napoli nella “Sala Palestina” della Fondazione Mediterraneo, inaugurata con il presidente Michele Capasso, “Uomo di Pace”, proprio in questa occasione.

“Siamo disponibili ad aspettare – ha affermato Abū Māzen – consapevoli che il risultato della pace può arrivare in un tempo non breve. Ma questa è l’unica via possibile: il dialogo, il dialogo, il dialogo”.

