

THREE FAITHS FORUM



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Statement by Sir Sigmund on the Passing of Sheikh Dr Zaki Badawi

Sir Sigmund Sternberg in a statement from Davos said:

Islam has lost a dedicated leader and spokesman, the world of interfaith endeavour has lost a prime advocate of respectful and purposeful dialogue and I am bereft of a friend and colleague of many years, one who can never be replaced.

We were associated in many fields especially that of inter-religious dialogue, many years before we established the Three Faiths Forum in 1997, together with the Rev. Marcus Braybrooke. The Forum itself was our response to the refusal of the then leadership of the Council of Christians and Jews to contemplate the establishment of a Muslim component of that Council.

It is a bitter irony that the establishment of a Christian-Muslim Forum in this country was celebrated on the very day of Zaki Badawi's passing from our midst.

Our co-operation in interfaith endeavour stretched across many continents and we travelled together in its furtherance to many cities in Europe. The global aspect of his commitment to dialogue was seen in his chairmanship of the Abrahamic Forum of the International Council of Christians and Jews, the umbrella organisation for 36 affiliates on every continent. The steadfast support of his wife, Maryam, was an essential source of his enduring strength.

His loss was deeply felt among the religious leaders gathered here at Davos for the World Economic Forum. A commemorative service is being led during the WEF meeting by Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury.

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