

NEWS REVIEW



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Sydney, 2 August

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Where Antisemitism is mainstream

Richard Cohen | The Washington Post | 16 June

To far more people than we would like to admit, the mystery of James W. von Brunn, the alleged shooter at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, is not that he held such weird and depraved views about Jews and the Holocaust, but that those views are considered weird and depraved. In vast parts of the Islamic world, too many people not only deny the Holocaust but embrace the thinking that made it possible.

In his remarkable speech at Cairo University, President Obama only inferentially mentioned this aspect of what has become an ugly part of the Middle East: a tolerance for and advocacy of old-style anti-Semitism. There is, in fact, nothing that von Brunn professed that is not commonly heard or published in the Middle East. Do Jews control world finance, media, international organizations and the United States itself? Of course. Are they capable of the most foul deeds, including the infamous "blood libel," which means using the blood of non-Jewish children in the preparation of traditional foods? Again, of course. [Read More](#)

Iran's clarifying election

Amir Taheri | The Wall Street Journal | 16 June

No longer can anyone pretend theocracy and democracy are compatible.

Ahmadinejad's victory should kill the illusion that the Khomeinist regime is capable of internal evolution towards moderation. Ahmadinejad sees Iran as a vehicle for a messianic global revolution. The election eliminates the elements within the regime - such as unsuccessful candidates Mousavi and Karrubi - who have pursued the idea of keeping the theocracy intact while giving it a veneer of democratic practice.

Believing that he has already defeated the U.S., Ahmadinejad will be in no mood for compromise. Moments after his victory he described the U.S. as a "crippled creature" and invited President Obama to a debate at the UN, ostensibly to examine "the injustice done by world arrogance to Muslim nations." [Read More](#)

The Middle Eastern Cold War

Daniel Pipes | Front Page Magazine | June 16

A cold war is "the key to understanding the Middle East in the 21st century." So argue Yigal Carmon and three of his colleagues at the Middle East Media and Research Institute (MEMRI) in a recent study, "[An Escalating Regional Cold War.](#)"

They have identified a major confrontation that the media has somehow missed – and which is the more important for Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's just having been re-designated as president of Iran. [Read More](#)

Address by PM Netanyahu at Bar-Ilan University

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem | 15 June



In my vision of peace, two peoples live freely, side-by-side, in amity and mutual respect. Each will have its own flag, its own national anthem, its own government.

[Read More](#)

Why was PA reaction to Netanyahu's speech so harsh?

Khaled Abu Toameh | The Jerusalem Post | 16 June

The Palestinian Authority leadership's hysterical, hasty and clearly miscalculated response to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's speech at Bar-Ilan University on Sunday night is likely to boomerang because it makes the Palestinians appear as "peace rejectionists."

The PA, perhaps, has every right to be angry with Netanyahu's statements. However, its leaders should have been more careful in choosing the right words to express their sentiments.

Had the PA leadership responded positively to any of Netanyahu's offers, or at least used a less harsh tone in rejecting the entire speech, it's highly likely that they would have triggered a political crisis in Israel - one that would have even threatened the prime minister's coalition. PA leaders and officials should have taken into account the fact that a majority of Israelis - according to recent public opinion polls - favour the two-state solution, regardless of Netanyahu's stance on the issue.

[Read More](#)

Give peace a chance

Editorial | The Australian | 16 June

Denying Israel's right to exist is no basis for a settlement

Not everybody got the message in Barack Obama's Cairo speech, that Middle East peace requires compromise. The Israelis did, demonstrated by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech on Sunday proposing a new peace process. In return for accepting Israel as a Jewish nation he offered the Palestinians a two-state solution. The Palestinian Authority says Mr Netanyahu's speech "torpedoed" peace initiatives. Including people in Australia who abhor The Australian's commitment to the survival of the state of Israel.

On Saturday this newspaper published an editorial supporting Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard's plan to visit Israel as an opportunity to express Australia's support for a two-state solution. The sheer venom of Israel's enemies this reflects demonstrates how hard it will be for President Obama to broker a deal. Israel wants peace, albeit not at any price. In rejecting Mr Netanyahu's proposal, the Palestinian leadership is betraying its people who need a permanent peace and functioning economy. [Read More](#)

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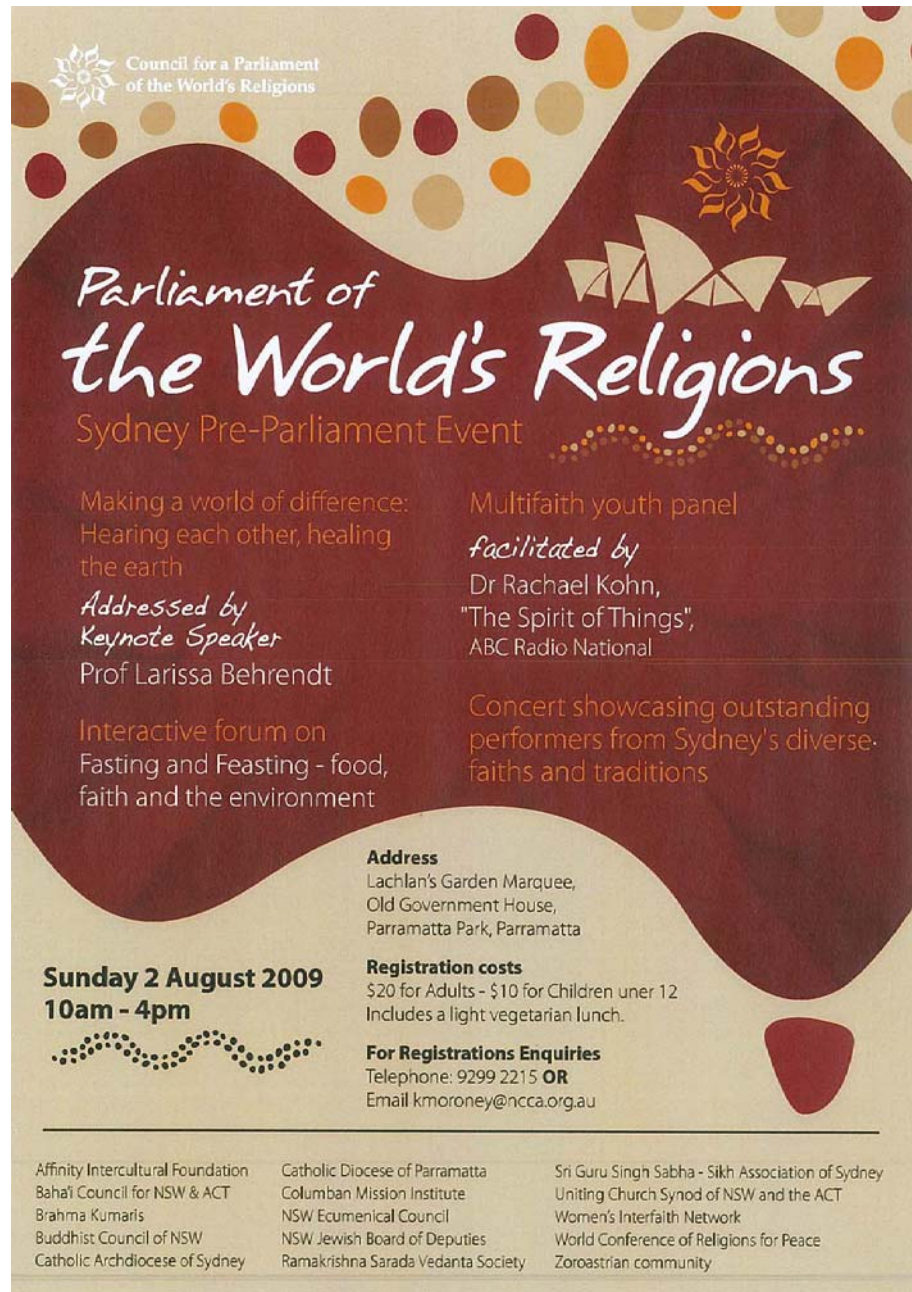
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The poster features a dark red background with a large, stylized white mountain shape. The top left corner has the logo of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, which is a sunburst-like symbol. The main title 'Parliament of the World's Religions' is written in a large, white, serif font, with 'Sydney Pre-Parliament Event' in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font below it. The event details are listed in two columns, with some text in orange and some in white. The bottom section contains contact information and a list of participating organizations.

Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions

Parliament of the World's Religions

Sydney Pre-Parliament Event

Making a world of difference:
Hearing each other, healing the earth
*Addressed by
Keynote Speaker*
Prof Larissa Behrendt

Multifaith youth panel
facilitated by
Dr Rachael Kohn,
"The Spirit of Things",
ABC Radio National

Interactive forum on
Fasting and Feasting - food,
faith and the environment

Concert showcasing outstanding
performers from Sydney's diverse
faiths and traditions

Address
Lachlan's Garden Marquee,
Old Government House,
Parramatta Park, Parramatta

Sunday 2 August 2009
10am - 4pm

Registration costs
\$20 for Adults - \$10 for Children under 12
Includes a light vegetarian lunch.

For Registrations Enquiries
Telephone: 9299 2215 **OR**
Email kmoroney@ncca.org.au

Affinity Intercultural Foundation
Bahá'í Council for NSW & ACT
Brahma Kumaris
Buddhist Council of NSW
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta
Columban Mission Institute
NSW Ecumenical Council
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies
Ramakrishna Sarada Vedanta Society

Sri Guru Singh Sabha - Sikh Association of Sydney
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT
Women's Interfaith Network
World Conference of Religions for Peace
Zoroastrian community