

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCHOLAR AND ACTIVIST **HATEM BAZIAN** TO SPEAK ON PALESTINE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIM THEOLOGY OF LIBERATION FRIDAY, APRIL 4 IN PORTLAND

Scholar and activist Dr. Hatem Bazian will speak on "Palestine and the Development of Muslim Theology of Liberation" Friday, April 4 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland, Oregon.

According to Bazian, Islam's calling is an ethical and moral one -- not a search for codifying permanent power for Muslims. He posits that Islam in the modern state should uphold the dignity and freedom of all persons, while providing a just and fair economics, preserving the environment, celebrating human religious, ethnic, racial, cultural, gender and linguistic diversity and viewing them as signs of God in the world.

Dr. Bazian is a senior lecturer in the Departments of Near Eastern and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He teaches courses on Islamic Law and Society, Islam in America, Deconstructing Islamophobia, Religious Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies. He founded the Center for the Study and Documentation of Islamophobia at UC Berkeley.

Additionally, Dr. Bazian is a co-founder, trustee and faculty member at Zaytuna College. He also serves as chair of the Northern California Islamic Council, co-founder and chair of American Muslims for Palestine, and board member of the Islamic Scholarship Fund and the Muslim Legal Fund of America.

Dr. Bazian is known for being an "organic intellectual," a term used for academics directly connecting their research to the people, rather than looking down from the ivory tower. Bazian's published book, *Jerusalem in Islamic Consciousness*, is a reflection of his desire to contribute to a better understanding of Muslim attachment and political attitudes toward the Sacred City and Palestine in general.

Currently he is working on two books, *Silicon Rush: Documenting Muslim Communities in Silicon Valley*; and *Virtual Internment: Muslims and the War on Terrorism*

Recently he was named in the category for Social Justice as one of The Muslim 500: The World's Most Influential Muslims by The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center. He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy and Islamic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

As an activist, Dr. Bazian has played a significant role almost in every human and civil rights movement in the Bay Area.

Dr. Bazian's lecture will be presented at the SEEDS OF JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US conference hosted by the Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel – North America. Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians.

Schedule and tickets available at <http://sabeel-pdx.brownpapertickets.com/>

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Advance interviews with Hatem Bazian and other speakers on Israel-Palestine issues may be arranged by contacting: sabeel.pdx.2014@mid-eastpeace.net Rev. Richard Toll (503) 201-7158 or Mark Eichinger-Wiese (206) 922-9026