

Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum
US-Iran Inter-Religious Dialogue – the Ethics of Friendship
April 08th, 2008

Moderator: **William Green Miller**

Panelists: **Bishop John Bryson Chane and Dr. Ahmad Iravani**

This off-the-record forum focused on US-Iran track-two inter-religious dialogue. The panelists discussed religious values in the US and Iran, examining the role of religion in building a peaceful relationship between the two countries.

WILLIAM GREEN MILLER, Ambassador (ret.) – Moderator

Ambassador Miller has been the Senior Advisor to the US-Iran Program at Search for Common Ground since 1998. He was US Ambassador to Ukraine (1993-1998), and served six years in Iran as a US Foreign Service Officer. With 14 years on Capitol Hill, he acted as staff director for three Senate committees, including the Select Committee on Intelligence, and he was Foreign Affairs and Defense Aide for Senator John Cooper. Ambassador Miller is a former Associate Dean and Professor of International Politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and has taught at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He is currently a Senior Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

BISHOP JOHN BRYSON CHANE, Eighth Bishop of Washington – Panelist

The Reverend John Bryson Chane, D.D. was consecrated as the Eighth Bishop of Washington on June 1, 2002. As Bishop of Washington, Bishop Chane serves 93 congregations and 45,000 members in the District of Columbia, and in the Counties of Prince George's, Montgomery, Charles and Saint Mary's in Maryland. Bishop Chane was named by the Washingtonian Magazine as one of the 150 most influential leaders in the District of Columbia. He has traveled to Iran on two occasions at the invitation of former Iranian President Khatami. He has spoken with numerous religious leaders and at numerous cultural events, as well as at seminaries and universities in the cities of Tehran and Qom.

AHMAD IRAVANI, The Catholic University of America – Panelist

Dr. Iravani received the highest possible degree in Islamic Studies (Ijtehad) in 1997 from the Islamic University in Qom, Iran. Since September 2000, Dr Iravani's research and professional experience have included: conducting research on Human Rights in Islam; co-organizing the international conference on "Islam and Political order" at the Catholic University of America in June 2005; assisting at the International Conference on Human rights in Islam, Tehran, Iran, in May 2001; conducting research in comparative issues between Islam and Christianity; and researching the clashes of civilizations in Washington, DC. He is an adviser to the Muslim Committee of US Institute of Peace in Washington D.C., senior advisor to the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy in Washington, DC, and member of the Center for the Study of Cultures and Values.