

January 23, 2017

Media Coverage

Audience between President Abbas and Pope Francis

Opening of the Embassy of Palestine to the Holy See

Ambassador Issa Kassissieh requested the assistance of adviser Xavier Abu Eid for the coordination of messages and distribution of information to the international media regarding the audience of President Abbas with Pope Francis and the opening of the embassy of the State of Palestine to the Holy See.

The main themes suggested were:

- 1) Opening the Embassy/recognition of Palestine is a sign of hope and message of peace.
- 2) Jerusalem must be an open city / East Jerusalem the sovereign capital of Palestine.
- 3) Need for full implementation of Holy See/Palestine agreement.
- 4) Need to eradicate the use of religion for political purposes (i.e Jewish State, Temple Mount, etc).

From the 4 themes we could fairly estimate that the first three were achieved. Unfortunately the fourth point was never mentioned in public either by President Abbas or any other Palestinian official.

Tools used:

- 1) Phone briefings with international media.
- 2) Whatsapp list with instant messages to journalists.
- 3) Distribution of videos and pictures.
- 4) Twitter (@nadplo)
- 5) Press conference.
- 6) Email – Distributing written statement by President Abbas.

Media coverage:

The activity was widely covered by international media. The context of the meeting (one day before the Paris Conference, a Saturday/less news, and the access given to international media) could be considered to be the main reason behind the media success. We facilitated the process.

- 1) Providing journalists with a media advisory specifying times and contact people.
- 2) Answering to all media requests.

- 3) Providing up to date information, including background on Holy See – Palestine relations, during the days prior to the meeting.

A simple google search with the words “Palestine”, “Vatican” and “Abbas” led to thousands of sites during the past week.

Examples of coverage:

TV:

All major TV stations covered the news. Here are some examples:

Euronews: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4yNppcCfxI>

Turkish TV TRT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHihdCYrZ10>

AFP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnhGYSoJKOY>

AP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CDaVuzvrUU>

Al Jazeera English: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/mahmoud-abbas-vatican-embassy-place-pride-170114142543027.html>

Russia Today: <https://www.rt.com/news/373699-abbas-palestine-embassy-vatican/>

NBC News: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/pope-francis-meets-mahmoud-abbas-head-palestinian-authority-ahead-talks-n706891>

Telesur: <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/The-Pope-Says-Yes-to-Palestine-Embassy-Opens-in-Vatican-20170114-0003.html>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-38621527>

CNN: <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/14/world/vatican-palestine-embassy/>

Print

New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2017/01/14/world/europe/ap-eu-rel-vatican-palestinians.html?_r=0

Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pope-meets-palestinian-leader-in-the-vatican/2017/01/14/7b90c75e-da92-11e6-9a36-1d296534b31e_story.html?utm_term=.99e8bd088440

The Independent: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-francis-palestinian-president-mahmoud-abbas-vatican-paris-peace-talks-a7524501.html>

Daily Herald: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20170114/news/301149985>

Clarín: Argentina http://www.clarin.com/mundo/papa-recibio-presidente-palestino-inauguro-embajada-vaticano_0_H1vLApIlg.html

AFP: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/abbas-opens-vatican-mission-warns-over-us-embassy-140939301.html>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-abbas-pope-idUSKBN14Y0FM>

L'express: http://www.lexpress.fr/actualites/1/monde/le-pape-recoit-abbas-qui-inaugure-l-ambassade-palestinienne-au-vatican_1869010.html

Politico: <http://www.politico.eu/article/palestinian-leader-meets-the-pope-and-opens-vatican-embassy/>

Catholic News Agency: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/middle-east-peace-center-of-meeting-between-francis-abbas-25120/>

EFE: <http://www.efe.com/efe/english/portada/abbas-trump-moving-us-embassy-to-jerusalem-won-t-help-peace/50000260-3148748>

Daily Mail: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4119990/Abbas-opens-Vatican-mission-warns-US-embassy-move.html>

Boston Herald:

http://www.bostonherald.com/news/international/2017/01/pope_meets_palestinian_leader_vatican_calls_jerusalem_holy

Sputnik: <https://sputniknews.com/politics/201701141049600789-abbas-pope-francis-loves-palestine/>

ABC Australia: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-15/palestinian-leader-abbas-says-us-embassy-move-would-hurt-peace/8183038>

Chicago Tribune: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-mahmoud-abbas-pope-francis-20170114-story.html>

Daily Star (Lebanon): <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2017/Jan-14/389319-palestinian-leader-meets-with-pope-ahead-of-paris-summit.ashx>

El Periodico: <http://www.elperiodico.com/es/noticias/internacional/palestina-abre-embajada-vaticano-5743033>

El Mundo: <http://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2017/01/14/587a1026e2704e94688b459a.html>

EFE (Spanish): <http://www.efe.com/efe/espana/mundo/abas-pide-que-otros-estados-sigan-ejemplo-del-vaticano-y-reconozcan-palestina/10001-3148730>

La Nación: <http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1975979-los-palestinos-con-embajada-en-el-vaticano>

