

## Sovereign rights of the Royal House of Ghassan recognised by Muslim leaders

As President of the Royal Ghassanid Academy of Arts and Sciences I am pleased to report on the recognition of the **Ghassanid Royal House** by the world's largest non-governmental body of Muslim leaders.



Elders of the Royal House of Ghassan honor the head of the Albanian Orthodox Church 2017 in Tirana, left next to Archbishop Anastasios HRH Prince Gharios, right Thomas Schirmmacher © BQ/Martin Warnecke

Only a few people today are aware that the Middle East once had a long ruling Christian dynasty. The Ghassanid Kings, emperors and princes ruled several Middle Eastern regions, from 220 CE until the mid 18th century, a duration of over 1500 years. The Sovereign Imperial and Royal House of Ghassan is the oldest active Christian Royal House in the world. The sovereigns ruled over the largest territory for the longest period of all Arab Dynasties.

The Royal House and its international sovereign head, **HRH Prince Gharios El Chemor of Ghassan Al-Nu'man VIII**, have received a lot of international recognition in recent years.

Some of the noteworthy recognitions:

- **Holy See / Vatican** (Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem)
- **United Nations**
- **Government of the Lebanese Republic**
- **World's leading scholar in Middle Eastern Royal Succession**
- **Top Lebanese Maronite historian**

During the commemorations of the dynasty's eighteen centuries anniversary, another significant recognition was achieved, the world's largest non-governmental body of Muslim leaders – the only one in the globe composed by leaders from both Sunni and Shia traditions – has recognized the sovereignty of the Royal House of Ghassan and its Dynastic head.

The **Global Imams Council** is the world's largest international non-governmental body of Muslim religious Leaders from all Islamic Denominations and Schools of thought with a rapidly growing number of over 1,000 leaders all around the world. This council of Imams advocates for peaceful coexistence, tolerance, mutual respect, and the building of bridges with all religious communities, along with tackling extremist ideologies and militant Islam (Islamism). The council is the first Imams Council to provide females with administrative leadership roles.



The **solemn decree** issued by the eminent council recognizes the sovereignty of the Ghassanid kingdom and all its realms and titles under the global leadership of HRH Prince Gharios El Chemor of Ghassan, *de jure* Al-Numan VIII.

In addition to the decree issued by the council, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Royal House of Ghassan and the Global Imams Council. The Council pledges full support and especially to protect Christians on Muslim lands and the Royal House of Ghassan commits equal support and the protection of Muslims on Christian lands.

Last year, the Royal House of Ghassan has released “**The Christian Kings of the Middle East**” a feature length documentary presenting the history of the dynasty with the Special participation of the world's leading scholar on Middle Eastern Royal Succession, Prof. Joseph Kechichian, PhD, His Most Reverend Paul Matar, the Maronite Archbishop of Beirut amongst others.

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## STATEMENT

### **THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GHASSANID KINGDOM**

The Global Imams Council takes this opportunity to acknowledge the sovereignty of The Ghassanid Kingdom, and pay its utmost respect, to its current patriarch and sovereign Prince, His Imperial and Royal Highness Prince Gharios El Chemor of Ghassan Al-Nu'man VIII.

The Ghassanid Kingdom is the Oldest Arab Dynasty in the Middle East and the defender of the Holy Land. Its sovereign Prince, HRH Prince Gharios, is the only Middle Eastern Christian secular leader with millennial historical legitimacy to represent the Christians of the Middle East. The Kingdom's contribution to civilization, literature, faith, and the overall development of the region is worthy of much praise and universal recognition.

Our Council recognizes all titles and statuses of the House of Ghassan, including those recognized by the Byzantine Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Lebanese Republic, The Maronite Church, The Holy See (Vatican), The Pope(s) and all prominent faith and political leaders.

Additionally, we join the Honorable Brazilian Jurists (one Chief judge and two presiding judges) in recognizing the legality of Prince Gharios' rights and titles and the International Arbitration award (number 0413/2011), which has the legal equivalency of a Federal Court Verdict.

We applaud the efforts of The Prince Gharios Foundation for its support of noble causes and defense of persecuted Christians and war orphans. We cherish the opportunity to be collaborating with His Imperial and Royal Highness Prince Gharios on our mutual objectives and peacebuilding efforts.




Imam Mohammad Baqir al-Budairi  
**President**