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Tanenbaum Names Yemeni *Peacemaker in Action*

Unknown Peace Actor Who Risks Everything is Recognized

New York, New York – Tanenbaum today announces its 2015 *Peacemakers in Action* Award recipient, Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Marwani, a Sufi Muslim from Yemen. Amid the humanitarian chaos in Yemen, Sheikh Al-Marwani is working for peace, traveling across the country even though 15 members of his organization, Dar Al-Salaam Organisation (DASO), have already been killed during reconciliation negotiations to stop violent conflicts among conflicting tribes in Yemen.

“Sheikh Al-Marwani is doing the hard, dirty, grassroots work that tackles violence head on,” says Joyce Dubensky, Tanenbaum CEO. “But most people have never heard of him. In these times of escalating violence and extremism, we are proud to recognize and support his quiet heroism. He gives me hope that the current humanitarian crisis in Yemen is not the final story for that historic land. Lasting peace can be pursued, one step at a time.”

Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Marwani’s efforts to reduce regional conflicts began long before the current crisis. He founded Dar Al-Salaam Organisation (DASO), a Yemeni NGO in the capital city of Sana’a, in 1997. DASO works in conflict resolution, micro-disarmament and countering violent extremism with tribal and religious leaders. Fiercely driven by his devout Sufi beliefs, Sheikh Al-Marwani travels throughout Yemen to mediate seemingly intractable conflicts and, now, to counter the extremism and violence affecting his nation.

Underlying the conflict between the Houthis and allies of the Hadi government is where Al-Marwani and DASO work. Though he could not prevent the current violence, he persists so the future of his country will not be defined by the violence and starvation now facing his fellow Yemenis.

“Rather than give up hope, we want to emphasize Sheikh Al-Marwani’s successes over the years and honor him for his persistence in the face of escalating horror,” says Dubensky. “Let’s remember that he has resolved more than 1000 tribal, family and personal conflicts and kidnappings, and works with a network of 250 grassroots Peace Committees that include 4000 tribal, religious, youth and other community leaders. Through this network, Sheikh Al-Marwani still works to mediate continuing tribal conflicts, prevent revenge killings (a prevalent practice in



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Yemen’s tribal society), resolve disputes among Yemeni minorities (including Jewish and Somali communities) and to counter violent extremism.ⁱ We need to acknowledge such bravery and talk about it. Sheikh Al-Marwani gives hope, and the people of Yemen need hope during these dark days.”

Known as “The Peacemaker” and now a Tanenbaum *Peacemaker in Action*, Sheikh Al-Marwani and his fellow awardee Ms. Giguinto of the Philippines join 28 other [Peacemakers](#) in 22 conflict zones who form the unique *Peacemakers in Action Network*. Through the *Network*, facilitated by Tanenbaum, these peacebuilders inspire each other and share expertise.

“Sheikh Al-Marwani is an outstanding new member of our *Peacemakers in Action Network*,” Dubensky said. “He has tremendous experience and spirit. Working with him, and learning from his efforts, I know that our *Peacemakers Network* will be stronger and more adaptable as it confronts the violent extremism that threatens so many areas of the world.”

To be named a *Peacemaker in Action*, nominees must meet five criteria: be religiously-motivated, have worked in an area of armed conflict, have risked their lives or freedom, include locally based work in their efforts, and be relatively unknown.

To learn more about this year’s *Peacemakers* visit: <https://tanenbaum.org/peacemakers-in-action-network/2015-awardees-finalists/>

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Tanenbaum is a secular, non-sectarian not-for-profit committed to combatting religious strife in conflict and post-conflict zones. Supported by Tanenbaum, faith-driven peace activists from around the world reduce violence and build cultures that reject extremism. As a result of Tanenbaum and its peace builders, peace interventions have taken place in Syria, Sri Lanka and other stressed regions.

ⁱ “[Sheikh Abdurrahman Al-Marwani speaks to the Yemen Times](#).” Yemen Times.” April 1, 2013. Accessed September 21, 2015.