

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tanenbaum Announces New *Peacemakers in Action* Unknown Peace Actors—Who Risk Everything

New York, NY, April 25, 2018: Tanenbaum today announces the 2017 winners of its prestigious *Peacemakers in Action* Award, which recognizes religiously-driven women and men, who are risking their lives for peace in some of the world's worst conflicts. This year's winners are Dr. Sarah AK Ahmed, a Muslim from Iraq, and Mr. James Lual Atak, a Christian from South Sudan.

"I'm very proud to welcome both Dr. Sarah Ahmed and James Lual Atak to the *Peacemakers in Action Network*. Their courage and commitment are inspiring," Tanenbaum CEO Joyce S. Dubensky said. "From very different conflicts, but in similar ways, both remind us how faith can be a force for good, helping to save lives and rebuild communities amid devastating conflicts."

A Muslim woman, Dr. Ahmed provides for religious minority refugees, predominantly Christians, fleeing the brutality of ISIS in the North of Iraq. Despite the danger, she travels extensively around the region ensuring that the refugees know they are not forgotten while seeing to their daily needs.

Once a "Lost Boy" of Sudan, Mr. Atak now provides a home and educational opportunities for South Sudan's orphans. As a Christian, he welcomes all in need, regardless of their religion or ethnicity.

Noted Dubensky, "Both Sarah and James are always in harm's way. But they remain undaunted, deeply motivated by their faith. As I see it, they are pursuing a vision of a lived peace."

As Tanenbaum *Peacemakers*, Dr. Ahmed and Mr. Atak join 30 other courageous individuals, from 24 conflict zones, who form the unique *Peacemakers in Action Network*. Through this *Network*, facilitated by Tanenbaum, these fearless peacebuilders collaborate to address global conflicts, share expertise and develop ways to increase their collective impact.

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, visit: Tanenbaum.org

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Tanenbaum is a secular, non-sectarian nonprofit that systematically dismantles religious violence and hatred through Peacemakers in armed conflicts and by tackling religious bullying of students, harassment in workplaces and disparate health treatment for people based on their beliefs.

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