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**Rabbi Yosef Messas: Halacha, Thought and History**

Monday January 3 – Tuesday, January 4, 2022 (1st – 2nd of Shevat 5782)

Jerusalem

**Monday, January 3, 2022 (1st of Shevat 5782)**

Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi Institute, 14 Ibn Gabirol Street, Jerusalem

17:00 – 17:30 Reception

17:30 – 19:30 Greetings and opening session

* Video about Rabbi Yosef Messas, created by Rafael Balulu
* Mr. Yitzhak Herzog, President of the State of Israel (video recorded greetings)
* Mr. Hili Tropper, Minister of Culture and Sports
* Prof. Tova Hartman, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ono Academic College
* Prof. Miriam Frenkel, Head of the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East
* Mr. Yaniv Yitzhak, CEO of Kulna

**Session 1: Research Perspectives on Rabbi Yosef Messas**

* Chair: Prof. Haviva Pedaya, Head of the Elyachar Center, Ben-Gurion University
* Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher, president of the Hebrew Language Academy, The Hebrew University
* Rabbi Prof. Moshe Amar, Bar-Ilan University and Ashkelon Academic College
* Prof. Noam Stillman, University of Oklahoma, The Hebrew University and Editor-in-Chief of the *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*
* Prof. Zvi Zohar, Bar-Ilan University and the Hartman Institute

19:30 – 22:00 *Hilula* (Memorial celebration)

Dinner break – Culinary delicacies of Morocco

**Session 2: *“Dovev Siftei Yishenim”*(“Making the Lips of the Sleeping Speak”): Rabbinical Discourse on Rabbi Yosef Messas**

* Chair: Chakham Dr. Hezi Cohen, Editor of Chakima, Bar-Ilan University and Yeshivat Ma'ale Gilboa
* Rabbi Haim Amsalem, chairman of the Am Shalem movement and head of a conversion court
* Rabbanit Shira Marili-Mirvis, the Shirat Hatamar community
* Rabbi Hagit Sabag-Israel, Ono Academic College and Arevot: Women Weaving Tradition

Musical performance: From Meknes to Jerusalem - The Piyyut Ensemble with Yagel Harush and friends from Kulna

**Tuesday, January 4, 2022 (2nd of Shevat 5782)**

Ono Academic College, Malcha Technology Park, Jerusalem

Ela Building (4), 3rd floor, Hall 2 (Parking available at the Malcha Train Station and the Malcha Mall)

9:30 – 10:00 Reception

10:00 – 10:30 Opening lecture

Prof. Driss Bouyahya, Moulay Ismail University, Meknes, Morocco

*The Response of Moroccan Society to Modernity and Western Colonialism: Meknes as a Case Study*

10:30 – 12:00

**Session 3: 'Law, Intellect and Time': Modernity, Colonialism and Halacha**

* Chair: Dr. Ronit Irshai, Head of the Gender Studies Program at Bar-Ilan University and Research Fellow at the Hartman Institute
* Dr. Levi Yitzhak Cooper, Pardes Institute of Jewish Education and Tel Aviv University

*“Gas and Electric Lights Have Been Invented in Our Times”: Rabbi Joseph Messas and the Possibility of Halakhic Change*

* Rabbi Haim David Mimran, Bar-Ilan University

*Rabbi Yosef Messas on the Rabbinical Court for the Regulation of the Community*

* Gabriel Abensour, The Hebrew University

*“Who will revive the cliffs of Algiers?” Rabbi Messas's Halakhic Writings in the Face of the Colonial Situation in Algeria (1924-1940)*

12:15 – 14:00

**Session 4: Studies in the Thought of Rabbi Yosef Messas**

* Chair: Prof. Avinoam Rosenak, Department of Jewish Thought and Jewish Education, Seymour Fox School of Education, The Hebrew University and the Van Leer Institute
* Dr. Almog Behar, Tel Aviv University

*Studies in the Poetry of Rabbi Yosef Messas*

* Dr. Moshe Ovadia, Academic College at Wingate and Jezreel Valley Academic College

*“Exile burden”: Two Sermons as a Historical Source of Rabbi Yosef Messas’s approach to the Exile of Israel and Colonial France*

* Mr. Chaim Grafstein, University of Toronto

*The Role of Maasiyot in the Teaching Philosophy of Rabbi Yosef Messas’s 'Nahalat Avot'*

* Mr. Jonnie Schnytzer, Bar-Ilan University

*The Ambivalent Encounter With Kabbalah in Early 20th Century Maghreb: The Writings of R. Joseph Messas As a Case Study*

14:00 – 15:00 Afternoon break

15:00 – 16:30

**Session 5: Rabbi Yosef Messas on the Modern Encounter Between Religions and Cultures**

* Chair: Prof. Meir Bar-Asher, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, The Hebrew University
* Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, The Elijah Interfaith Institute

*How to Evaluate Another Religion: Rabbi Messas as an Agenda-Setter*

* Dr. David Moshe Bitton, Head of the Jewish Studies Program, Ono Academic College and Chairman of Kulna

*Rabbi Yosef Messas as a Mediterranean Thinker*

* Dr. Samir Ben-Layashi, Ono Academic College, Sapir Academic College, Tel Aviv University

*The Concept of Body and Medicine Among Jews and Muslims in Colonial Morocco*

16:45 – 17:30

**Session 6: Rabbi Yosef Messas: Chronicler, Documentarian and Ethnographer**

* Chair: Dr. David Guedj, The Hebrew University
* Dr. Michal Aziza Ohana, Kiryat Ono Academic College

*“Because at That Time They Did Not Know the Value of Historical Details”: Knowledge of the Past and Historiography in the Writings of Rabbi Yosef Messas*

* Dr. Michal Ben Ya’akov, Spiegel Fellow at the Institute for Holocaust Studies, Bar-Ilan University and Efrata College

*Aliyah to Eretz-Yisrael: Leaving Meknes and Traveling to The Landin the Writings of Rabbi Joseph Messas*

* Yael Barouch, The Hebrew University

*“I am the writer”–Rabbi Yosef Messas’s Transition from Muallaq Script to Hebrew Modern Script in Israel*

* Dr. Yossef Charvit, Bar-Ilan University and Efrata College

*The Holocaust and the Birth of Israel: the Testimony of Rabbi Yosef Messas and a Historiographical Insight*