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Crossroads of Faith, Learning and Dialogue

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Contact: Rev. Larry Golemon, Ph.D.

Phone: (202) 832-2675

Email: lgolemon@washtheocon.org

Washington Theological Consortium to Host Interfaith Conversation on Impacts of Global Religious Nationalism

Free public event features international expert from University of California

[Washington, October 17, 2024] – The Washington Theological Consortium (WTC) announces that its premier annual interfaith engagement, the Tachmindji Event for Interfaith Dialogue, will feature a presentation entitled “Global Dimensions of Religious Nationalism and the Case of the United States.” The free event will feature Dr. Mark Juergensmeyer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Global Studies, Sociology and affiliate of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The lecture and discussion, which is open to the public, will take place on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at the School of International Service on the campus of American University in Washington, D.C., beginning at 4 p.m. with a reception following. Space at the venue is limited, so advance registration is required for participants at washtheocon.org/religiousnationalism.

“Taking place a week before the 2024 U.S. Presidential election, which comes after a multi-year period of growing violent Christian nationalist influence within national political discourse, Dr. Juergensmeyer’s presentation is timely, troubling and essential,” noted Dr. Larry Golemon, Executive Director of the WTC. “He will offer us an in-depth analysis of the social and political dimensions of religious nationalist movements among Muslim, Jewish and Christian groups, and he will place them within global and U.S. contexts.”

The event is made possible by a generous Endowment to the WTC from Mrs. Diane Tachmindji, for the promotion of interfaith dialogue and peace-building.

Dr. Juergensmeyer was the founding director of the Global and International Studies Program and the Orfaea Center for Global and International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is an expert on religious violence, conflict resolution and South Asian religion and politics, and has published more than 300 articles and 30 books, including *When God Stops Fighting: How Religious Violence Ends* (University of California Press, 2022), *God at War: A Meditation on Religion and Warfare* (Oxford, 2021), and the widely read *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* (University of California Press, fourth edition in 2017). The latter is based on

interviews with religious activists around the world, including Jihadi activists, ISIS supporters, leaders of Hamas, and abortion clinic bombers in the United States and was previously listed by *The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times* as one of the best nonfiction books of the year. He has also authored a book on Gandhian conflict resolution: *Gandhi's Way* (University of California Press, Updated Edition, 2005).

Recipient of the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for contributions to the study of religion, Dr. Juergensmeyer was awarded the Silver Award of the Queen Sofia Center for the Study of Violence in Spain. He serves as the general editor of the Oxford University Press handbooks of religion online, and his commentary on contemporary issues of global religion and politics appear in *The Huffington Post* as well as on BBC, CNN, and NPR news media.

Members of the media are encouraged to participate in the October 27 event, and interviews with Drs. Golemon and Juergensmeyer are available upon request.

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About the Washington Theological Consortium

Founded over 50 years ago, the Washington Theological Consortium is a community of theological schools and partners from diverse traditions that pursue ecumenical dialogue, interfaith understanding, and educational collaboration to better equip clergy and laity for the ministry of the Church in a diverse society.

For more information, please contact Rev. Larry Golemon, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Washington Theological Consortium, at (202) 832-2675 or lgolemon@washtheocon.org.