



July 8, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Dear Sir/Madam,

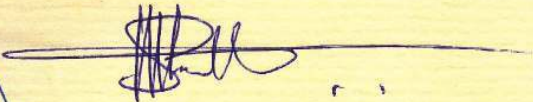
I write this letter following a request by Dr. Cornelius Hulsman to write about his contacts with Dar Comboni since the 1980s when he was a student of Arabic in Egypt. Dr. Hulsman is the director of The Arab-West Report. He was a personal friend of the late Bishop Camillo Ballin and has been a friend of Father Dr. Giuseppe Scattolin. Both Bishop Camillo Ballin and Fr. Giuseppe Scattolin welcomed and contributed to the start of the Religious News Service from the Arab World in 1997. Dar Comboni financially supported this work, along with other organizations in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The name of the Religious News Service was changed in 2003 to Arab-West Report. Dr. Cornelius Hulsman wrote in 2013 the report "Signs of hope; Muslims and Christian scholars working towards dialogue," in which he highlighted the importance of the work of Fr. Dr. Giuseppe Scattolin *mccj* and Fr. Dr. Christiaan van Nispen *sj*. Cornelius Hulsman has given courses and seminars at Dar Comboni in the past. Details of this can be found in the archives of The Arab-West Report.

Dar Comboni has facilitated student meetings on dialogue, including interns from the Center for Arab-West Understanding. Mr. Hulsman and the interns have been active participants in Inter-religious dialogue meetings organized by Dar Comboni under the title "Zamalek Meetings". The Arab-West Understanding Center has also been very active in other Inter-Religious initiatives in Egypt and in the Middle East.

Dr. Hulsman's work has been possible thanks to the core-funding Missio has given since 2005. Core funding means that Missio co-funded the salary of Cornelis Hulsman and his office but that Hulsman had to approach other organizations for project support. Of late, Mr. Hulsman has expressed to me that he has found difficulties in securing funds for his project. I have known about Mr. Cornelius and the Arab-West Understanding Center for nearly 10 years. Their work contributes to understanding and dialogue between Christians and Muslims, between the Arab World and the West.

I would therefore recommend him to whoever would be in a position to help him secure the necessary funds in order to continue with his project.



  
Fr. Simon Mbuthia  
Director Dar Comboni