

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO posthumously honors Dr. Nohad Toulan and Dirce Angelina Moroni Toulan with “Two Pauls Award”

Dr. Nohad Toulan and Dirce Angelina Moroni Toulan will be posthumously honored with the “Two Pauls Award” at *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Annual Community Awards & 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner* on May 14, 2014. Presented in recognition of outstanding work in the interfaith spirit of community service, dialogue and relationship building, the “Two Pauls Award” was established in 1994 to honor two significant Oregon clergy members, The Rev. Dr. Paul Wright and The Most Rev. Paul Waldschmidt.

Dr. Nohad Toulan and Dirce Angelina Moroni Toulan passed away in a tragic accident last October. Dr. Toulan was a distinguished professor and dean emeritus of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University (PSU). A native of Egypt, he has been an adviser to the U.N. Development Program and to local and foreign governments on development issues. He was a member of the Columbia Region Association of Governments committee that drafted the Portland Urban Growth Boundary. Dr. Toulan, a Muslim, was one of the founders of the Muslim Education Trust. Dirce Toulan, a Roman Catholic from Argentina, was an architect, planner and former Fulbright Scholar. She led the effort to support PSU’s College of Urban and Public Affairs Library, now named the Dirce Moroni Toulan Library.

Dr. Toulan was a bridge builder who worked to build connections between Muslims and people of other faiths. Together, Nohad and Dirce modeled the best in interfaith relations and were champions of the universal value of the inherent worth and dignity of all peoples and faiths.

“Dirce and Nohad Toulan in their respective ways taught us to bridge religious, cultural and ethnic divides,” wrote Sho Dozono in *The Oregonian*. “Yes, Dr. Toulan has been credited with transforming our city and the state through urban design and planning, but Dirce and Nohad also showed us how to live with each other in harmony and peace.”

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon annual celebration has become the premier ecumenical event in Oregon, bringing together diverse communities of faith and community partners in celebration of ecumenism and the spirit of hope across Oregon. This year’s event also marks the 40th anniversary of EMO and will include a celebration of the growth of the ecumenical movement in Oregon since EMO’s founding in 1974, following the merger of the Oregon Council of Churches and Portland Council of Churches.

The *EMO Annual Community Awards & 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner* on May 14 will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO's ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are available at www.emoregon.org for \$75 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$750. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.