

# *Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia*

*FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS*



**Akram R. Elias,**  
*Grand Master*

November 17, 2008

To All Grand Lodges

Dear Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Sirs:

We bring to you and through you to the Brethren of your Grand Lodge the warm fraternal greetings of our Grand Lodge. Today I write to update you regarding the situation between the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Grand Lodge of New York since my last letter to you.

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia maintains that it acted fully within its legitimate rights to create a new lodge in Lebanon and the Grand Lodge of New York has no right of exclusive jurisdiction in that sovereign nation. Furthermore, we recognize that the Grand Lodge of New York effectively shut down the possibility of constructive communication which may have helped to avoid the current disharmony between our two Grand Lodges.

At our initiative, we requested from the Grand Master of Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia, on the occasion of the annual communication of his Grand Lodge, an opportunity to meet face to face with the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York. With thanks to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, this first face to face meeting with the Grand Lodge of New York took place on November 7, 2008 and we were able to listen to the concerns of our New York Brethren. For the sake of the Fraternity and in an earnest effort to restore amity, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, on November 10, 2008, sent to the Grand Lodge of New York the following proposal outlining a series of actions to be taken simultaneously by each Grand Lodge with the goal of putting this matter behind us:

1. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia will apologize to the Grand Lodge of New York for not having engaged the Grand Lodge of New York in discussions and consultations regarding its plans and intentions in the Republic of Lebanon prior to execution. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia further regrets that notification of its plans did not occur earlier.
2. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia will suspend, temporarily, the charter of Ahrim Lodge No. 1000, F.A.A.M., under its jurisdiction.

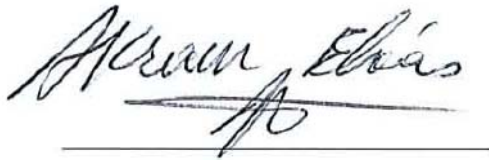
3. The Grand Lodge of New York will rescind its resolution withdrawing recognition of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, restoring amity with their brethren in the nation's capital, and will remove the basis for the resolution by nullifying its own decision to suspend the Brethren referred to in said resolution.
4. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia will lift the suspension of the charter of Ahirom Lodge No. 1000, F.A.A.M., under its jurisdiction.

While our Grand Lodge has acted well within its rights, for the sake of restoring harmony we have extended this offer to the Grand Lodge of New York and requested its concurrence and final commitment to resolve our differences in the fraternal manner expected of Brother Masons.

At our request, the Grand Lodge of Maryland graciously extended to us its good offices on November 14<sup>th</sup> and facilitated a face to face meeting with the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of New York on the occasion of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Unfortunately, the Grand Lodge of New York rejected our offer. In spite of this turn of events, we will persevere in our effort to negotiate an amicable agreement.

We thank you for affording the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Grand Lodge of New York the opportunity to work out this disagreement by themselves. We hope and pray for an early resolution so that we and the whole Fraternity may return its focus on making Masons and enlightening the world.

Fraternally,



Akram R. Elias  
Grand Master of Masons  
Washington, D.C

Attest:



Mansour Hatefi, P.G.M.  
Grand Secretary  
Washington, D.C.