

Publication: The Times of Israel (online)  
Date: 31.03.19  
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# THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

## King Felipe VI of Spain laureate of the Shalom Prize

The Ibero-American Jewish Congress awarded the prize to the monarch at a ceremony in Buenos Aires

By TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF

31 Mar 2019, 15:50 | 0 |



King Felipe VI of Spain during a tribute ceremony to the Sephardic Jews, expelled from Spain in 1492 by the Catholic Kings, to the Royal Palace of Madrid, on November 30, 2015. (Pierre-Philippe Marcou / AFP)

Last Tuesday, in Buenos Aires, King Felipe VI of Spain was awarded the Shalom Prize by the Congreso Judio Latinoamericano (Ibero-American Jewish Congress), according to the [Facebook page](#) of the organization.

"Restoring the ancestral bond with the Spanish Jews is tantamount to restoring some of the soul of Spain," said the king during the ceremony at



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the Four Seasons Hotel in the Argentine capital. His prize was awarded to him as a result of Spain's efforts to restore their civil rights to the descendants of the Sephardic Jews expelled during the Inquisition.

The prize aims to promote peace and build peaceful relations between peoples.

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In 2015, Spain passed an unprecedented law granting nationality to the descendants of the hundreds of thousands of Jews who fled Spain after 1492, when the Catholic Church and the country's royal court instituted a campaign of persecution, forced conversions to Christianity and dispossession against the Jews, the Spanish Inquisition.

In 2016, King Felipe VI had already been awarded the [Lord Jakobovits Prize](#) of the European Jewish Community for his "extraordinary" efforts to correct past mistakes.

Awarded by the European Orthodox rabbinic institution, it also rewarded the country's recent efforts to restore their rights to its Jewish communities.



King Felipe VI of Spain, (right), and the President of the Conference of European Rabbis, Pinchas Goldschmidt, at the Royal Palace El Pardo in Madrid on December 13, 2016. (Credit: World Jewish Congress)

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