

Ambassador Zahedi honoured by the Sovereign Order of Malta

Praised for a life-long devotion to charity and humanitarian services

The annual ball of the Swiss Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta was held on January 23rd in Bern and in presence of some 400 European and Swiss personalities. President Dr Gilles de Weck welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Braganca, Ambassadors from many different countries and expressed his special gratitude to Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi for years of loyal presence and generous support of the activities of the Order.

The president said that among the works of order pursued in Switzerland are hospital care, charitable giving, humanitarian interventions, organisation of social services most particularly to the refugees and victims of wars, pilgrims and those deprived of social justice - in general the people in need.

He added that since 2015, a new foundation has been created to fight against leprosy in association with the World Health Organisation. In the same year the Association rushed to help the victims of the earthquake in Chile including hundreds of beds and desks and several containers of medical aid thanks to the donations of the generous members.

Dr Weck ended his speech by thanking His Excellency Ardeshir Zahedi *“for his dedication to invite year after year many distinguished people to attend his table at the charity ball in Bern.”* He added: *“Ambassador Zahedi has been the longest and the most loyal head of table, present since the beginning of the history of the Ball. During the earthquake of Chile, Ambassador Zahedi generously contributed to the provision of medical equipment and supplies to the hospitals of Chile.”*

His Excellency, Carlos Schaerer Jiménez, the Ambassador of Chile to Switzerland expressed his country's gratitude and continued to say:

"Ambassador Zahedi beyond being a bright and charming person is just as well one of the world's best diplomats in the last century. He is a very generous man, who has been collaborating with many charities in Switzerland and other countries in the world. Lately Ambassador Zahedi has extended his wonderful Philanthropic efforts to Chile, a country which has been permanently affected by earthquakes and tsunamis. His invaluable engagement made possible, among others, the provision of medical equipment and supplies to hospitals in the Northern Regions of Lquique and Coquimbo. These two regions were affected by avalanches and earthquakes two years ago. Retirement homes, homes for the abandoned and abused children located in the Southern Regions of Cauquenes, Parral and Retiro have been also recipients of donated goods, such as nursing beds, wheelchairs, rolling walkers and furniture, which could be shipped to Chile thanks to Ambassador Zahedi's financial support. Likewise, he sponsored the reconstruction of a sports hall of José Kenntenich School which was attended by 1.100 children coming from high social risk families in Santiago de Chile."

Ambassador Zahedi surprised the guests by remembering and announcing the birthdays of the wife of the Ambassador of Chile, Lady Jiménez, and offering her a beautiful silver plate on that occasion.















