



Sliman Mansour, Palestinian artist

July 27, 1947 - August 24, 2026

The *Esperanza Peace and Justice Center* staff, board and Buena gente join in mourning the passing of a great international artist Sliman Mansour who was a Palestinian painter, sculptor, author and cartoonist whose art reflected the Palestinian way of life and struggle using iconographic symbols and colors to validate the existence and culture of the Palestinian people. He developed a realist style of painting that depicted the daily life of those living and rooted in Palestine. His sole aim was to uplift and maintain Palestinian life as worthy of being seen and as such depicted men, women and children in Palestinian dress in landscapes reflecting their actual homeland. His landmark painting *Camel of Hardship* that showed an elder Palestinian porter



source: soignemiddleeast.com

carrying the city of Jerusalem on his back has become an emblem of Palestinian identity. Mansour's many posters have inspired many other artists to take up the cause of the Palestinians. In an Instagram post, his family stated, "To the world, he leaves behind a life filled with beauty, memory and a legacy that will continue to live through all those he touched, but to us, we lost a father, our source of love, strength and home. Mansour stressed that "Our

work not only as painters but as intellectuals—in culture, in everything—is to express that we are here." May he rest in power and his memory and images be eternal."



Texas Pastors

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Public officials must protect church-state separation

Americans United San Antonio Chapter calls on public officials at every level—school boards, city councils, county governments and state agencies as well as federal offices—to continue enforcing constitutional boundaries between religion and government. Patrick's remarks should not deter them from:

- **Identifying and addressing violations of the *Establishment Clause*;**
- **Protecting students and families** from religious coercion in public schools;
- **Ensuring government programs** do not discriminate or impose religious requirements;
- **Upholding the rights of conscience** for people of all faiths and none.

As *AU's* Vice President for Public Policy Alessandro Terenzoni noted on the blog last week, the *Religious Liberty Commission's* draft report has a myriad of deficiencies, includ-

ing its lack of ideological diversity and its alignment with narrow *Christian Nationalist* policy goals. Patrick's remarks underscore the urgency of monitoring the commission's work and ensuring that "religious liberty" is not weaponized to undermine the very constitutional protections it claims to defend.

Meanwhile, the *Americans United's San Antonio Chapter* will continue to:

- **Educate our communities about constitutional religious freedom;**
- **Expose efforts** to distort or dismantle church-state separation.

Dan Patrick's comments are not merely rhetorical—they are part of a coordinated strategy to erode federal and state constitutional safeguards and pressure public officials into abandoning their duties. *Americans United San Antonio* rejects this attempt to rewrite history and will continue defending the separation of church and state as the essential condition for genuine religious freedom.

BIO: The Rev. Charles A. Fredrickson is a pastor in the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)* and a board member of *AU's San Antonio Chapter*. See www.au.org