

Israel's Chief Rabbi Praises Pope, Wishes Him Good Health

Israeli chief rabbi **Yona Metzger** on Monday praised **Pope Benedict's** inter-religious outreach and said relations between Israel and the **Vatican** had never been better.

"During his period (as pope) there were the best relations ever between the church and the chief rabbinate and we hope that this trend will continue," a spokesman quoted Metzger as saying after the **pope** announced he would **resign**. "I think he deserves a lot of credit for advancing inter-religious links the world over between **Judaism, Christianity** and **Islam**."

Metzger wished the pope "good health and long days", the spokesman said.

Reporting by Allyn Fisher-Ilan, editing by Jeffrey Heller.

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