

## Exhibition promotes tolerance, dialogue



VILNIUS — The Sultanate's touring exhibition with the message of "Religious Tolerance: Islam in the Sultanate of Oman" reached Vilnius, the capital of the Baltic Republic of Lithuania, on Thursday.

The opening ceremony was attended by members of the Lithuania parliament and representatives of various ethnic

communities, and the general public.

In his opening remarks, Dr Mohammed al Mamari, on behalf of the Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, told the crowd that "It is my honour to be here in Lithuania to deliver Oman's message of religious tolerance and acceptance. Vilnius, with its various

ethnic groups and historic traditions, is very much a centre of spiritual life and science. ... It is our strong belief that peace and stability only can be realised today in any society through dialogue and mutual understanding. Vilnius is and always has been multi-faceted and multi-lingual, and as a result, is a city of dialogue."

The patron of the exhibition, Romas Jakubauskas, Mufti of the religious centre in Lithuania, thanked the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, and said Lithuania is a country with different religions living peacefully side by side.

The difference is that Muslims are in the majority in

Oman, with the religious minorities protected and supported by the state. In Lithuania it is the reverse, with Muslims in the minority. "This exhibition presents a good opportunity for the people of Lithuania to learn about Islam," he said.

The exhibition on religious tolerance is part of an initiative of the Ministry of Awqaf and

Religious Affairs, promoting international dialogue, peaceful coexistence and inter-religious dialogue.

The exhibition will be on display in the Vilnius City Hall until March 27.

The next opening will be on April 8th at the Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island.