

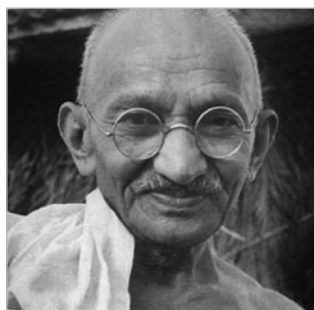
INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN



World without Wars and Violence, International Humanist Organization

Issue 1, September 2010

October 2nd: the International Day of Nonviolence



In June 2007 the UN General Assembly decided to observe the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE on October the 2nd each year. The day was chosen in memory of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian leader who helped India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. As Gandhi said, *“Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man”*.

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence

Since the designation of October the 2nd as the International Day of Nonviolence, World without Wars and other humanist organizations have carried out activities all over the world. In 2009 the day marked the start of a historic journey all around the globe to press world leaders to immediately eliminate nuclear weapons and progressively reduce conventional weapons.

The first anniversary of the start of the WORLD MARCH FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE will be remembered this October the 2nd by many activities organized by WwW, including the launch of the official World March book, which graphically depicts the 94 days of this extraordinary adventure.

The importance of Nonviolence in the present world

As Silo, founder of the Humanist Movement and inspiration for the World March, said during the Nobel Peace Laureates Summit held in Berlin on November 11th, 2009, *“It is necessary to awaken a consciousness of Active Nonviolence, which allows us to reject not only physical violence, but all forms of economic, racial, psychological, and gender violence. Of course, we hope that this new sensibility can take root in and inspire social structures, opening a path to the future Universal Human Nation. For our part, we will make every effort to install in the social environment the validity of the themes of Peace and Nonviolence, and it is clear that the time will come when both individual and mass reactions will be produced. That will be the moment of a radical change in our world.”*



For more information about the events that will be organized on October 2nd, here is a list of WwW websites in different countries:



Argentina	www.mundosinguerras.net
Belgium	www.mondesansguerre.be
Bolivia	www.msgbolivia.org
Canada	www.worldwithoutwars.ca
Chile	www.mundosinguerras.cl
Czech Republic	www.svetbezvalem.cz
Ecuador	www.mundosinguerras.ec
France	www.mondesansguerres.org
Germany	www.mundosinguerrasmtp.org.ar
Greece	www.kosmosxorispolemous.gr
Hungary	www.haborunelkulivilag.hu
India	www.worldwithoutwars.in
Italy	www.mondosenzaguerre.org
Russia	www.humanismo.narod.ru
Spain	www.mundosinguerras.es
Switzerland	www.weltohnekrieg.ch

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6th of August, the 65th anniversary of the atomic bomb

Argentina



One thousand cranes for peace

Tucumán | On Friday the 6th of August, we paid a tribute to the victims of Hiroshima, Japan commemorating another anniversary of the launch of the atomic bomb and hung a thousand paper cranes and Haikus made by renowned Japanese authors in Independence Square.



A folk ballet with typical Argentinean dances was performed, a group of children painted and hung their works and origami was taught to those interested.

A wreath was offered by the President of the Italian community of Lazio, Noemi Conde a Young Tucuman folklorist.

Maria Belen Aguirre told the story of the "Thousand Cranes" by Elsa Bornemann. Norma Gomez and Maria Teresa Porcel hosted the event and Moses Zelaya gave a detailed talk about war situations today.



At the end, attendees participated in an emotional "Peace Ceremony" with candles where people expressed their deepest wishes which was organized by Silvia Soria, a member of Silo's Message.

Photos by Daniel Burgos.

Italy



Sounds on Earth without war

Rome – 23rd July | Musical event organized by World without Wars and Violence in collaboration with Eufonica and Circolo degli Artisti for the national campaign "Let's eliminate the nuclear threat," with video projections, information stands and collection of signatures for the petition.

During the event five musical groups and a theatre group gave a concert.

1,000 people participated, 100 signatures were collected along with 600 Euros to fund the campaign.

Lanterns of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Ceremony

Milan – 5th August | To commemorate the victims of the atomic bombs of 1945 the traditional ceremony of Lanterns, deeply felt and shared, was held in Milan.

Postcards from Chernobyl

Salò, Brescia | Testimony-show organized in July in collaboration with Greenpeace, the Associated Press and the magazine publisher Airone-Cairo: 24 years after the nuclear disaster we tried to discover what happened to the people living there.

"Nuclear or non-nuclear" meeting

Brescia - 15th June | Gianni Lannes (investigative journalist who is investigating the trafficking of toxic waste in the Mediterranean region) and Piero P. Giorgi (biologist, founder of the course on Peace at the University of Queensland, Australia) made a speech.

More information: www.mondosenzaguerre.org

Portugal



The year of origami for peace

Santo Amaro – Lagos/Algarve | As the final part of a year of origami workshops, a collaborator decided to join the activities of August the 6th and launch one thousand little cranes attached to small balloons.

During the year the children learned the history of cranes and their meaning, learned to make them and decided to mark the 65th anniversary of the bomb on Hiroshima by launching a common request for Peace in the world, solidarity, love, friendship, happiness and health into a clear blue sky.



Building bridges for peace

Porto | We marked the date of August the 6th and at the same time to built bridges with people. We requested the collaboration of different shops, restaurants, cafes and libraries to offer their customers/users a crane with the date of August the 6th and a request for help, so that what happened that day will never occur again. We put the e-mail of World without Wars in Portugal, so that interested people could contact us.



Corfu: Holidays and meetings, a good combination!

Mozambique



During four days members of World without Wars in Mozambique went public with a delicate issue in Mozambican society: the national flag which is the only flag in the world that depicts a modern rifle on it. The initiative took place during the weekend just before August 6th so that people were at the same time informed about the 65th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombings.



The weapon on the flag is a Russian AK-47 and is widely used in Mozambique both by national police and by all kind of criminals, so the activity wanted to approach the common citizen to know what they think about it being on the flag.



A quick inquiry revealed that the great majority of the people know that the weapon represents the struggle for National Independence and think it's good to be represented on the flag. The results of the 3 day street enquiry were evaluated and discussed by the members at their monthly day of Personal Work, and some plans were laid out about how to continue with the activity.

The unusual combination of an issue of national interest with the information about a sometimes "distant" problem of nuclear weapons was very well received by the people interviewed, and many registered to find out more about World without Wars.

Read the ideological position of WwW on Armed Forces, in the official material: Silo, 8th Letter to My Friends, Collected Works. Vol. I.

Over 20 days in August plenty of humanist friends mostly from Italy, Greece and Spain made their way to the beautiful island of Corfu where they had the chance to combine vacations and interesting activities of WwW. The humanist camping was organized in Roda village by the Greek members of WwW. The main events were concentrated mostly on the 3 days of the 18th to the 20th of August. The idea was to take the opportunity to install base groups of our organisation in Corfu and at the same time to create an interesting table of interchange among the activists around the Mediterranean.

And so it was; the first day we organized a press conference with the participation of all the local media regarding today's situation and the propositions of WwW. The participation on the panel of Rafael de la Rubia increased the interest of the journalists and this led later that day to a 15 minutes interview on air in the biggest TV station of Corfu.



The second day was devoted to a presentation to the local community, which was concluded by the formation of the first base team in Corfu orientated mostly on topics of education and nonviolence. It is important to mention that this presentation was named "Another World is Possible" and was co-organized with the local municipality.



Lastly, on the 20th of August an interesting exchange of views was held among different members of WwW with the participation of the new born local base team. Apart from sharing experiences of different kinds of activities around the Mediterranean region we emphasized the idea of working closely to give strength to local and national activities, in order to be able to launch a regional campaign sometime soon. This comes from the necessity to work to create awareness in the Mediterranean region. The idea of making efforts to create base groups of WwW in Mediterranean countries where they are not yet installed was also discussed and seriously considered.

Education for Nonviolence



What is education for nonviolence?

Where are we going? How do we want to live? Is it possible to act without violence and eliminate social and economic injustice? These are questions explored in the education for nonviolence workshops and programme.

Education for nonviolence studies the factors that maintain personal, interpersonal and global violence in the world. Education for nonviolence helps young people understand how their personal and interpersonal violence is linked to global violence and vice versa. It gives young people the opportunity to discover nonviolent methods to solve problems and conflicts. The workshops introduce some characters from the history of nonviolence, and tools for reflection and relaxation. Finally, education for nonviolence presents different models of actions allowing nonviolent changes in social, economic and racial conditions.

If you wish your school, college or university to take part in the network for nonviolence launched by World without Wars and Violence, please write to us at: info@educationnonviolence.ca

The nonviolent planetary consciousness is being born!

At the end of the 20th century, several specialists in sociology, anthropology and philosophy showed that globalization would push forward in a process of destructuring of the social, cultural and mental fabric. They spoke of confrontations between nations, cultures and religions that would become inevitable in the 21st century.

We are currently in a period of generalized confrontation. Confrontations and other problems do not only occur between nations, cultures and religions. They occur between individuals; in their heads and in their hearts. In “developed countries”, several hundred million people consume all kinds of psychotropic substances every day which affect their behaviour and their spirit thus making it possible for them to continue functioning in an inhuman system.

Meanwhile in “developing regions,” violence is organized by the forces of an inhuman system that supports wars, poverty, unemployment, corruption, discrimination and terrorism. This violence affects more and more human beings every day. Billions of people have to live in constant insecurity. Moreover, these populations also live with catastrophic climate changes and their consequences: floods, huge forest fires extreme weather conditions, etc.

Obviously the current moment is very difficult. It seems that the possibilities that one day people will live in peace and nonviolence are very doubtful. But the current moment is not completely bleak. During the World March for Peace and Nonviolence we observed that in several cultures and areas of the planet minds are already changing, we felt a big change is on the way. We all saw the contagious enthusiasm of the hundreds of thousands of people in all latitudes working for the creation of a nonviolent worldwide consciousness during the rallies organized.

Throughout the course of the World March we saw and heard the passionate new generations for peace and nonviolence. While passing through Asia, we saw the students in the Philippines making the biggest peace symbol ever made in the world; we were inspired by the hundreds of workshops for nonviolence offered in schools throughout the world. We were astonished by the great marches in Turkey, the Balkans and South America, by the concerts, the paintings, the songs and the dances of young people as well as by the many peace and nonviolence symbols made by thousands of young Canadians and Latin Americans. We felt the need for peaceful and nonviolent changes from the youth of Africa. More than ever we observed that the new generations grow and develop in a globalized social and cultural landscape. They have a strong inclination towards global issues such as the environment, nonviolence and peace. They share a common sensitivity towards global issues in the world.

In other words, a young 15 year old Pakistani develops an image of the world and codes of conduct which are very similar to those of a young American, Filipino or Haitian. Thus the cultural distance which separates these young people from their grandparents is often larger than the cultural distance among them.

To give a response to the passion of the young towards nonviolence, the World Coordination Team of World without Wars and Violence has launched a commission on Youth and Nonviolence. The first task of the commission is to launch the campaign “Act with Nonviolence” in schools across the world on October the 2nd, 2010. In the coming months the commission will also launch a network for nonviolence for schools, teachers and students. The commission is aiming to get the support of 200 educational establishments from a hundred different countries on October the 2nd, 2010. The commission will give more information on the development of this network in the next few weeks.

Bulletin of the World without Wars and Violence, International Humanist Organization.

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