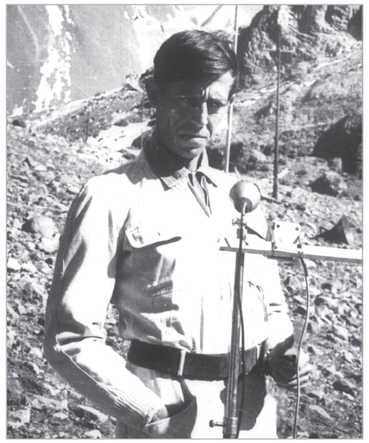

Mario Rodriguez Cobos, Silo, born 6th of January 1938, died 16th of September 2010 aged 72. He is survived by his wife Ana Luisa and their two sons Alejandro and Federico. Author of several books including, *Humanise the Earth*, *Silo Speaks*, *Letters to my Friends*, *Silo's Message* and *Contributions to Thought* among others, founder of the Humanist Movement and the Parks of Study and Reflection. In October 1993 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences of Russia.

Tribute to Silo

On September 16th Mario Rodriguez Cobos, Silo, founder of the Humanist Movement, philosopher and spiritual guide for thousands of people, died in his home near Mendoza, Argentina, accompanied by his wife, one of his sons and some friends.

Tomas Hirsch, a close friend for decades and former candidate for the Chilean Presidency said,"He died as someone who not only did not believe in death, but above all considered life to be part of transcendence. His legacy is so broad that today we cannot grasp its dimension. He is a man who has set in motion a project that absolutely transcends himself in time, a project of personal and social transformation that has been translated into numerous organisations around the planet: political, social, cultural and above all spiritual."

Publicly Silo launched himself on the world in May 1969 in a speech called "The Healing of Suffering" in Punta de Vacas, in the Andes, the only place the military authorities in Argentina at the time would allow him to speak. On this occasion, after explaining that desire leads to violence, he denounced all the different forms of violence in the world and added: "Only inner faith and inner meditation can end the violence in you, in others, and in the world around you."

This spiritual dimension accompanied all the following steps and the development all over the world of the Humanist Movement and it was an important part of all the organisations based on his doctrine of social and personal change: the Community for Human Development, the Humanist Party, the World Centre of Humanist Studies and World without Wars and Violence.

In recent years he warned about the danger represented by nuclear weapons and his teaching was the inspiration of an historical event, the World March for Peace and Nonviolence launched by World without Wars and Violence. This was the first march that passed through all the continents and united people of different cultures and ages with a common intention: to fight against violence and to build a nonviolent world.

In his last public speech, during the 10th Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Berlin, in November 2009, Silo said: "The most urgent task is to create awareness of peace and disarmament, but it is also 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."

In more recent years he dedicated himself to the launching of Parks of Study and Reflection of which there are almost 30 in development, with their distinguishing meditation halls which are totally spherical inside and pointy on the outside, and devoid of anything apart from oneself and other people. He also dedicated himself to his spiritual project "Silo's Message", in the form of a small book containing another book he wrote back in 1971 called "The Inner Look", the author's journey from a state of "non-meaning" in life to a meaningful existence, eight ceremonies to accompany life-changing moments such as marriage and death, and a meditation called the Path.

As he wrote in the ceremony of recognition, "Our spirituality is not the spirituality of superstition, it is not the spirituality of intolerance, it is not the spirituality of dogma, it is not the spirituality of religious violence. It is the spirituality that has awakened from its deep sleep to nurture the best aspirations of the human being."

Bulletin of World without Wars and Violence, International Humanist Organisation.
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INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN
World without Wars and Violence, International Humanist Organisation
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A new spirituality as the only way out of the current crisis

Nowadays, just as is happening to individuals, so too entire peoples and cultures are going through a process of global and accelerated change. The old no longer works, while the new is still imperceptible or doubtful. It won't be possible to give birth to the new on the basis of an old sensibility, of an obsolete mental form or mentality that was the essence of the old and that has led the system to its current, necessary stage of exhaustion and failure, not just in its social organisation but, mainly, in the hearts of good men and women.

As has happened before in humanity's history, a new civilisation will be foreshadowed by the dawn of a new spirituality. This new spirituality will be the seed of the new world that will later begin to be perceived and to take shape. But for this seed to grow and mature, it has to be a true spirituality.

What is this true spirituality? True spirituality, as religious sentiment or feeling, does not depend on temples and priests, on gods and their statues. A person can be spiritual whether believing or not in god, whether following a particular creed or not. As Silo explained, true spirituality "is not the spirituality of superstition, it is not the spirituality of intolerance, it is not the spirituality of dogma, it is not the spirituality of religious violence, it is not the ponderous spirituality of ancient tablets or worn out values." This new spirituality is simply the spirituality of treating others the way you want to be treated.

World without Wars and Violence translates and implements this new spirituality in the specific field of peace and disarmament, connecting social action with a process of personal change and deep contact with a spiritual dimension, without which any real change is impossible.

This new spirituality is the only way to overcome the crisis that the world is undergoing. The change we speak about will not be able to arise from any movement or organisation without a new social mysticism, without a new spirituality that drives and inspires an essential and true change.

Thanks to Fernando Garcia for these inspiring words. The whole text can be seen at www.fernandoagarcia.blogspot.com

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2nd of October, the International Day of Nonviolence

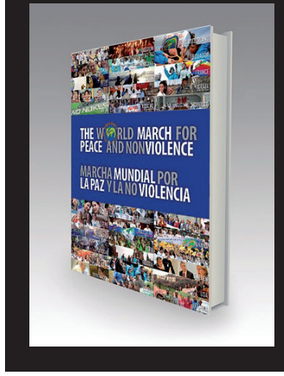
SPAIN

Castelldefels | Tony Robinson, International spokesperson of WwW, was interviewed by Radio Castelldefels and developed a vision of the before and after the World March.

An event was organised to present the documentary of the WM: the speakers Inma Prieto, member of the Base team in the Pacific route, Pepe Gómez and Magda Burguera talked about the objectives of WwW and the relation between military expenditures and social needs and then invited the audience to participate in a Workshop of Education for Nonviolence.

Madrid | The book of the World March was presented in the Ateneo. Among the speakers present were several members of the Base team, including Rafael de la Rubia, coordinator of the March and editor of the book, Tony Robinson and the Argentine actor Alberto Amman. Later in Reina Sofia Square a public event and a tribute to Silo were held.

Toledo | The book and the documentary of the World March were presented in the Alcazar library.



CANADA

Waterloo | The World without Wars team organised 12 days of activities from the International day of Peace to the International Day of Nonviolence. The festival started with our 4th annual Human Peace Sign and concluded with our 5th annual Peace Walk. The activities were co-organised with other local groups and included meditation, yoga, tai-chi, crafts, a movie night, and a lecture. The Scrabble fundraiser raised money for a local women's shelter and a local bookstore had a display that featured peace and nonviolence books.

Rigaud | Students from Bourget College created a photo picture mural to celebrate the international day of nonviolence. Bourget College is part of the UNESCO school and part of the network of schools for a world without violence launched by the youth and nonviolence commission.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka | The event took place at Dhaka Reporters Unity, with the participation of 45 persons and ten journalists of different newspapers. After a welcome message, Silo's bibliography was illustrated and several videos were shown, followed by a ceremony of wellbeing and a talk about active nonviolence.

RUSSIA

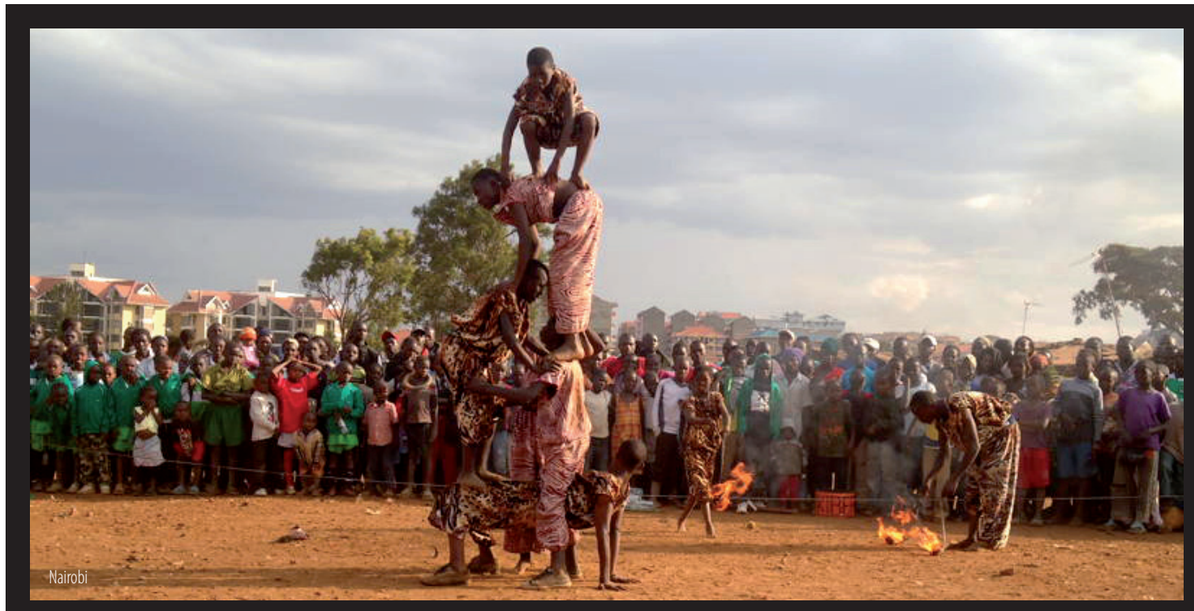
Saint Petersburg | The first presentation of the World March Book was held in the Saint Petersburg Institute.

D. R. CONGO

Lubumbashi | The International Day of Nonviolence was an occasion to launch the Network of Schools for a World without Violence. At the end of the activities, the organisers exchanged on the continuity of network activities in the city of Lubumbashi, in the whole country, and even in neighbouring countries and elsewhere.

KENYA

Kibera slum, Nairobi | Many people participated in the celebration of the Day of Nonviolence. Government officials were present too.



ARGENTINA

Tucumán | We were invited to present our activities in the First Fair, Artist Day, held in the Arts Faculty. Humanist students of the Faculty of Philosophy organised a march.

San Miguel de Tucumán | We organised a presentation and an exhibition of Silo's books.

Mar del Plata | World without Wars organised a festival with the other organisations of the Humanist Movement and Silo's Message. More than 400 people participated in the event at Payrò Theatre. Local artists showed their works and hundreds of kilos of food for children were collected. At the start of the festival a tribute to Silo was made.

ECUADOR

Guayaquil | More than one hundred people met in San Francisco Square and held a march and a candle-light ceremony. At the end children and young people danced and refreshments were offered.

CHILE

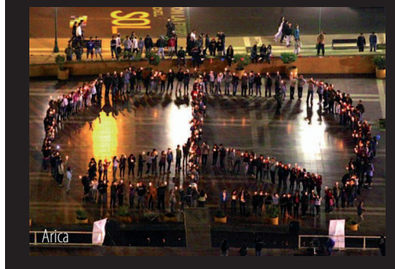
Santiago | We organised a march with the Invisibles.

Arica | 250 persons formed a living peace sign.

MEXICO

Mexico City | An artistic and musical event called "Festipeace, Culture for Nonviolence" was organised in a park, with a presentation of paintings, photos and posters about different kinds of violence, information stands and musical performances. A campaign called "All for Nonviolence" was launched and will circulate through radios and internet.

Guadalajara | A symbol of nonviolence was made in a park.



GREECE

Athens | We stood as "the Invisibles" in front of the main entrance to the Bank of Greece, protesting against the today's economic violence due to the extreme measures inflicted on the Greek Economy, imposed by the IMF and EU. We were around 15 people in the activity and we received a great response and feedback from passers-by. Some of our slogans were: "We don't owe, we don't pay", "Serious Taxes on Banks and Church Now", "Freedom for Greek households from their debts to the banks".

Corfu | An exhibition of pupils' drawings took place in the central square of the town in order to express the values of peace and nonviolence through the eyes of children. The participation was big! 120 drawings were submitted beforehand and during the exhibition another 130 were created on the spot by other children. Prize-winning photos on the subject of peace were presented and videos regarding the day were shown with extracts of speeches by Gandhi, M.L. King and Silo.

Preveza | The WwW&V activity that took place here was an interactive presentation co-organised with the local organisation "On stage". The theme was psychological and verbal violence. More than 100 people came together and the age range was very interesting; from 15 up to 55 years old. After a presentation about the roots and results of violence by different speakers, videos regarding New Humanism and activities of WwW&V were presented. Later on, the participants reflected and wrote about 2 situations in which they give and receive violence in their immediate environment. It is very important that among the participants were people working in education and there was a lot of interest in the subject of Education and Nonviolence in the lively interchange that followed.

FRANCE

Paris | After the projection of the documentary of the World March and the presentation of the campaign "Ultimatome" for a national consultation to abolish nuclear weapons, about 70 people formed a living symbol of Nonviolence. WwWaV and Convergence of Cultures launched a call for a new and nonviolent spirituality.

Marseilles | The celebration of the day of Nonviolence was included this year in the program of a popular festival in the city centre. So we had a stand of WwW where many people signed the petition "Ultime Atome" asking for a referendum on French nuclear disarmament. We projected the DVD about the World March, and with songs and speech rebaptised a city square "Gandhi Place", painted a giant colourful mandala in the shape of the Nonviolence symbol and finally formed a human Nonviolence symbol with about 70 people, making a short speech about nonviolence and nuclear disarmament and offering people written quotations of famous leaders of NV.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague | In Vyšehrad a meditation for nonviolence was organised and at the end flying lanterns were released. A small video for the Million Pleas campaign (www.millionpleas.com), with the banner of WwW, was filmed.

Prague

Prague

IRELAND

Kilkenny | After trying to light candles in the heavy rain the group moved to Kilkenny's Art Cafe to continue their celebration. There group members lit candles to form a nonviolence sign. In the warm glimmering light they remembered their events over the last year and a half. The activities mentioned, included last year's local World March events, the positive collaboration and relationship being built with other antiwar and peace movements, the joint events of World without Wars and Irish CND to welcome the Peace Boat's Hiroshima survivors and the round table discussion organised with Irish and international NGO leaders on nuclear disarmament issues.

Prague

Paris

Paris

Marseilles

Paris

ITALY

Rome, Garbatella | The event was supported by the Province of Rome, the XI Municipality, the Embassy of India and councillors of the Lazio Region and the City Council of Rome. Several organizations participated, among them Greenpeace, Physicians without Frontiers, the Partisans Association, COMES and groups of Civil Protection Volunteers.

The initiative consisted of three parts: a press conference at the Province of Rome, with the promise by the institutions to fix a plate on a historical building of the neighbourhood visited by Gandhi in 1931, a big road race and a concert with Kamal Sabri and the Sarangi Group: the only date in Italy of their European tour to be supported by the humanist band 'Pure Utopia'.

Milan | The afternoon program included a theatrical performance in the streets and a game called "Free Milan": the participants were divided into teams and had to "liberate" the places of the city that symbolise violence (embassies of nuclear powers, banks and so on), transmitting the values of a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and nonviolence. In the evening the book and the documentary video of the World March for the Peace and the Nonviolence were presented and then everyone sang along to "Imagine" by John Lennon, reliving the wonderful karaoke of one year ago in Duomo Square.

Vicenza | We organised a moment of reflection in a square with a statue of Gandhi and then we walked along the streets of the centre and returned to the square to read some texts by Gandhi, watch a video and the performance of a percussion group.

Brescia | We showed the documentary of the World March in a central street and illustrated a program of initiatives about the production of small weapons in the province of Brescia.

Trieste | World without Wars, Multiculture and Music without frontiers, the Province of Trieste, the House of Theatres and many other associations organised an evening at Basaglia Theatre, where the music was a means to unite different communities and cultures. The images of the passage of the World March through Trieste were particularly touching.

Rome

Vicenza

Brescia

Rome

Rome

Milan

Trieste

Milan