



AUSTRALIA EAST TIMOR JAPAN NEW ZEALAND PAPUA NEW GUINEA PHILIPPINES BANGLADESH CHINA INDIA IRAQ ISRAEL MONGOLIA NEPAL NORTH KOREA PAKISTAN PALESTINE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SOUTH KOREA TURKEY AUSTRIA BELARUS BELGIUM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CROATIA CZECH REPUBLIC DENMARK ESTONIA FINLAND FRANCE GERMANY GIBRALTAR GREECE HUNGARY IRELAND ITALY LUXEMBOURG MACEDONIA NETHERLANDS NORWAY POLAND PORTUGAL RUSSIAN FEDERATION SERBIA SLOVAKIA SLOVENIA SPAIN SWEDEN SWITZERLAND TURKEY UNITED KINGDOM ALGERIA BENIN BURKINA FASO CAMEROON COTE D'IVOIRE D.R. OF THE CONGO EGYPT GAMBIA GHANA GUINEA BISSAU GUINEA CONAKRY KENYA LIBERIA MALI MAURITANIA MOROCCO MOZAMBIQUE NIGER SENEGAL SIERRA LEONE SOUTH AFRICA SWAZILAND TANZANIA Togo GUGANDA ZAMBIA ARGENTINA BOLIVIA BRAZIL CANADA CHILE COLOMBIA COSTA RICA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. ECUADOR EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HAITI HONDURAS MEXICO NICARAGUA PANAMA PARAGUAY PERU UNITED STATES URUGUAY VENEZUELA ANTARCTICA

New Zealand, the most peaceful nation on Earth

The Global Peace Index, produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace, gives top ranking to New Zealand, the launching site of the 95-nation peace march.

countdown 98 days
October 2, 2009
January 2, 2010

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www.theworldmarch.org

President Rafael Correa to resolutely promote Nonviolence

In a 50 minute audience, on the 22nd of May, at Carondelet Palace, the President of Ecuador, economist **Rafael Correa**, spoke with great joy and warmth to World March Spokesperson **Rafael de la Rubia** and Latin American Spokesperson, **Tomas Hirsch**, to express his resolute commitment to the World March for Peace and Nonviolence.

Without formality but with a close and joyful attitude Correa expressed his complete support for the World without Wars' initiative, committing himself to receive the columns of peace marchers that will arrive from Colombia at the end of the year.

The Ministers of Education, Culture, Security and Heritage, also committed themselves to the project; their ministries being the ones that will take on the responsibility to implement the Government's backing for the actions of the World March.

The meeting took place with jokes and laughter, with the delegation leaving the Palace via the Plaza Grande terrace in Quito, where the people on the plaza started to spontaneously cheer for the President, showing their great affection for him.



Correa with de la Rubia and Hirsch

NEW ZEALAND New Zealand is the most peaceful nation on earth, according to the newly released Global Peace Index.

Wellington, New Zealand is the kick-off site of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence that will travel through 95 countries, starting on October 2, 2009, the International Day of Nonviolence and culminating in Punta de Vacas, Argentina, January 2, 2010.

Rafael de la Rubia, international spokesperson for the World March and World Without Wars founder, says, "We chose New Zealand because it is the first country to grant women the right to vote, to legally ban nuclear weapons, and the first and only country to establish a Minister of Disarmament so we are pleased at the recognition now given to New Zealand by the Global Peace Index."

According to the GPI, an independent analysis of 144 countries using 25 concrete indicators, New Zealand ranks first because of its peaceful foreign policy, relatively low rate of violence and restrictions on weapons and low level of military expenditure.

Mayor **Kerry Prendergast** of Wellington says: "While the march starts in the peace of New Zealand, its course will take it through many territories - Israel, Palestine, Bosnia, Russia, Pakistan - which are scarred by decades of conflict. The aim of the March is to give a voice to the majority of humankind who yearn for peace, on an international and national scale as well as in the home." An international team of marchers will cross the planet from New Zealand to Argentina, to raise awareness of the dangers of a renewed arms race, the military occupation of foreign territories and the heightened probability of nuclear conflict. Thousands



of concerts, festivals, forums, and demonstrations are planned to coincide with the March worldwide.

Alyn Ware, March Coordinator for New Zealand, says, "With the World March we celebrate the successful examples, in our communities and worldwide, of violence prevention, conflict resolution, cross-cultural understanding, bringing hope and inspiration for the future."

For more information about the activities planned for the start of the World March in New Zealand see: www.worldmarch.co.nz

The Colombian Congress endorses the World March

COLOMBIA The Colombian Legislature's backing of the International mobilisation came from an initiative presented in the upper chamber by the parliamentarians **Yolanda Pinto, Juan de Jesus Cardenas and Oscar Hurtado**.

A Senate spokesperson informed the press that a plenary session of Congress approved the participation of three senators and three representatives of Congress at the start of the World March in New Zealand.

Besides this, the Legislature

committed itself to offer support to the mobilisation during its time in the Colombian capital, planned for the 15th of December.

The proposal was promoted by Senator Pinto, widow of **Guillermo Gaviria**, Governor of Antioquia who was assassinated several years ago by FARC forces together with his peace envoy, former Minister of Defence **Gioberto Echeverri** and eight members of the security forces that were being held as hostages in the Northeast of the country.

Gaviria, who followed the principles of Nonviolence and Echeverri were taken hostage while they were heading to a town that the rebels were occupying.



Congress Building, Bogotá



Colourful festival anticipates the arrival of the WM in Mendoza

ARGENTINA Numerous local artists participated in the gathering.

On Sunday the 24th of May, to promote the World March, a colourful festival organised by the Kuasar Community of Silo's Message and the Provincial Youth Project took place in the Town Park in the city of Mendoza.

In the open air and with free entrance to all the activities, a mostly young audience enjoyed the presentations of musicians, painters, street theatre, jugglers, actors and photographers. The participation was estimated at around 1000 people.

On a giant screen installed in the Park videos could be seen about the many initiatives that are being developed throughout the world for the March.

Green Party leaders back the World March

In an interesting convergence of interests, Greens around the world express support for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence.

WORLD News has reached the World March of the latest endorsement by Elizabeth May, leader of the Canadian Green Party.

May informed World March organisers in Canada that, "Greens embrace the commitment to a culture of peace. Canada must return to our historic strengths as a peace-maker and reject the arms merchants and the business of making money making war. For the world to be peaceful, governments must invest in peace."

May's endorsement is the latest in a string of important endorsements in the field of ecology and the environment.

Bob Brown, leader of the Australian Greens, on the 6th of May sent this message to organisers in Australia: "I endorse the World March for Peace and Nonviolence. We could begin by diverting some of the billions of dollars being spent globally on armaments annually to the billion people living in poverty. Congratulations to everyone who



Bob Brown and Elizabeth May



takes part".

Besides these individual endorsements, we have received the endorsement of the Green Party in Sweden and in Switzerland along with Greenpeace from Hungary, New Zealand and the Czech Republic, to name a few.

Finally, notable philanthropist and environmentalist Douglas Tompkins, in his endorsement said, "The great teachers, from Lao Tsu, the Buddha, Confucius,

Gandhi, to Martin Luther King taught us that peace and nonviolence was the trait we must develop if we want to achieve happiness, security and realize our full potential as good human beings. Supporting the World March for Peace will be taking many steps toward creating a consciousness of those noble ends and help make the world a magnificent place for humans and all of nature."

More endorsers

MORE THAN 2000 ORGANISATIONS TOGETHER WITH HUNDREDS OF RENOWNED PEOPLE FROM THE WORLDS OF POLITICS, CULTURE, SHOW BUSINESS AND SPORT, NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE ENDORSED THE MARCH. DESMOND TUTU - DALAI LAMA - SILO - JOSÉ SARAMAGO - RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ - EDUARDO GALEANO - JIMMY CARTER - DARIO FO - NOAM CHOMSKY - MICHELLE BACHELET - RAFAEL CORREA - CRISTINA FERNANDEZ - EVO MORALES - STJEPAN MESIC - YOKO ONO - VIGGO MORTENSEN - NOA - JUANES - CAROLYN CARSON - BOB WILSON - ZUBIN MEHTA - A. JODOROWSKY - PHILIP GLASS - LOU REED - ART GARFUNKEL



Queen Rania of Jordan

"It is with pleasure that I endorse the World March for Peace and Nonviolence. For three months, millions of people will carry a universal message of peace across countries and continents, through tropical climates and temperate seasons. Yet, this journey will also symbolise a step forward in humanity's history, away from discord and towards harmony. The World March comes at an important time in world events. With crises and conflicts around the world that threaten the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere, there is increasing urgency to end all violence. I wish all those participating in the event the best of luck; may God bless you and keep you safe. I hope each step brings us closer to a world of peace and nonviolence."



Mario Soares
PORTUGAL POLITICS

Former President of Portugal.
"There is a danger that peace will not be consolidated. It's necessary that we believe in a culture of peace and not a culture of violence. It's necessary to respect others even when they may not think the same as we do and even more necessary when they don't think like we do. It's necessary to be for Peace and Nonviolence and that's why I am endorsing the World March."

Day of Peace and Nonviolence in the Dar es Salaam district of Conakry



GUINEA Friday 14th May 2009 a Day of Peace was organised by humanists in the Dar es Salaam district of Conakry to promote the World March for Peace and Nonviolence. "After songs by children a meal was prepared in the Salim humanist school", explained Mamadou Oury Diallo, Humanist Movement coordinator in the neighbourhood.

"In the afternoon hundreds of people made a march with the World March banner and drums and the event finished with a football match between teams from the district around 6pm", Diallo added. The World March in Guinea was launched on Saturday 14th March 2009 in a conference hall at the headquarters of Mouna Net à Kaloum in the presence of 25 journalists and numerous representatives of civil society.

Artists bed-in for peace in the heart of Prague

CZECH REPUBLIC A double bed and the music of John Lennon attract attention in Prague city centre.

Marking the fortieth anniversary of John Lennon and Yoko Ono's Bed-in of May 1969, on Thursday 28th of May, from 10am a Bed-in took place at Palackeho Namesti, in the centre of Prague. The event, organized to promote the World March for the Peace and Nonviolence, attracted the attention, not only of passers-by but also of the media.

Among those participating in the event were, the singer Ondrej Ruml and the famous group Yellow Sister who laid on the "peace bed", and performed the music of John Lennon.



Intercultural Day in Iceland celebrates diversity and promotes the WM

ICELAND A new initiative sponsored by Reykjavik city council this year took the themes of the World March and aims to become an annual event celebrating the city's diversity.

On the 16th of May an Intercultural Day was held for the first time in the Icelandic capital bringing members of the City Council, the Intercultural Centre and the World March Team together in promoting peace and celebrating diversity.

A multicultural parade went through the city with representatives from several different commu-



nities of immigrants organising themselves to come and march in a vivid show of international diversity with their flags, their costumes and their music and dancing.

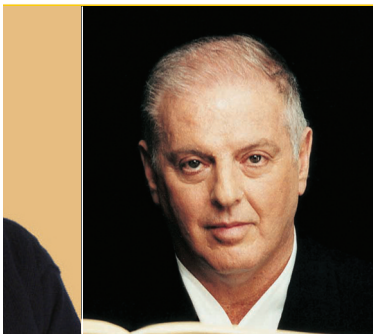
Hundreds of people participated and many more watched from the

sides of the road in a very festive atmosphere.

The idea for the march came from a Kenyan friend who recently moved to Iceland and active with the WM Promotion Team. She had this idea of a Multicultural Day in

Reykjavik as a part of the World March events. The International communities represented included: Australia, Kenya, Cuba, Philippines, Poland, Mexico, India, Ghana, Russia, Angola and Thailand. Apart from the international communities a number of civil society organisations also took part including: anti-racist groups, Muslim groups and refugee groups.

In what was a great contribution to the whole spirit and message of the March, a song was written especially for the day, composed by former Icelandic TV presenter and comedian, Omar Ragnarsson.



Daniel Barenboim
GERMANY MUSIC



El Hadj Ibrahima Bah
GUINEA RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL



Pedro Almodovar
SPAIN TV-CINEMA-THEATRE



Adnan Shino
IRAQ ART



Amma
INDIA RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

Argentine Musician of Jewish background, originally from Russia with Israeli, Spanish and Palestinian citizenship. Together with Edward Said - he founded the West Eastern Divan Workshop in 1999, an orchestra formed by young Arab and Israeli musicians, for which he received the Prince of Asturias Concord Prize in 2002 and the Wolf Prize for the Arts in Jerusalem.

El Hadj Ibrahima Bah is the most senior Muslim cleric in Guinea. **"This Peace Movement needs all possible support. I commit myself to the World March and I endorse it. Every long-lasting development, all cultural progress, has the acquisition of Peace as a necessary condition. So we consider ourselves as pioneers of Peace in Africa and in Guinea. We believe that Peace must be applied in every aspect of life."**

Pedro Almodovar is a film director and producer who has achieved great success overseas, having received leading international film awards, after two Oscars: one for best foreign language film (All About My Mother) and another for best Screen Play (Talk to Her). He holds the French National Order of the Legion of Honour (1997), besides winning a Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts (1998).

Founder of the Iraqi Academy of Art. **"As a Kurdish Artist I have confronted a lot with violence. Somebody who is not able to love will end up hating. It's a matter of human responsibility not to close one's eyes to poverty, war, exploitation and injustice."**

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi, better known as Amma, has founded a vast network of charitable activities with humanitarian objectives. She spreads her message of compassion and unity of all living beings through embracing all people regardless of caste, race or social position. Due to her work in furthering the principles of nonviolence she was presented with the Gandhi-King Award for Nonviolence.



Nuclear warheads in the World

Country	Operational	In Reserve or to be Dismantled	Total
Russia	4800	8200	13000
USA	2700	2500	5200
France	300	0	300
China	180	60	240
U.K.	200	?	200
Israel	?	?	80
Pakistan	?	?	60
India	50	10	60
N. Korea	?	?	<10

189 Countries that have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). That is almost all States. No country can now build an explosive device without violating their international obligations.

3 Constitutions (Italy, Japan and Bolivia) have articles repudiating the use of war as an instrument for resolving international controversies.

45% Increase in military spending in the last ten years.

Just in the last year (2007), with an increase of 6%, military spending has reached 1,339 thousand million dollars (851 thousand million Euros), 45% of which is by the USA.

6 Years have passed since the illegal occupation of Iraqi soil by the US army.

SOURCE: NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENCE COUNCIL'S NUCLEAR NOTEBOOKS

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WM representatives meet with the UN Office of Disarmament

UN World March organisers met recently with Sergio Duarte, the United Nations High Representative on Disarmament, and with officials in the United Nations Office of Disarmament.

The World March delegation of Dennis Redmond (USA), Nicole Myers (USA), Mayra Gomez (Bolivia/New Zealand) and Alyn Ware (New Zealand) met Mr Duarte to build a collaborative relationship between the March and the United Nations and to plan the visit of the March to the UN on November 30 or December 1.

The World March team commended the United Nations for its leadership on peace and disarmament - in particular the UN Secretary-General's five point plan for nuclear disarmament which was released on UN Day 2008. The team also met with other UN officials and ambassadors including Helen Clark (Head of the United Nations Development Program) and Hardeep Singh Puri, Ambassador of India to the UN (photo).



Scotland the Brave!

UK The First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond, sends his support to the WM affirming his belief in a world without nuclear weapons.

Scotland, a small country in the north of the island of Great Britain and several hundred surrounding islands, is a country of 5 million people which is home to the UK's nuclear weapons fleet at the Faslane Naval base.

The current government of Scotland is headed by Mr Salmond whose party has consistently fought against nuclear

weapons. The Faslane naval base is only 25 miles west of the city of Glasgow with a population of 2.3 million in the metropolitan area.

UK Governments based in London have consistently ignored the clamour from Scotland for these weapons to be removed from their territory.

Mr Salmond said in his letter to World March organisers in New Zealand, "The Scottish Government firmly believes in a world without nuclear weapons and we are pleased to give our endorsement to your efforts".

This endorsement joins others from Scotland, noticeably the Faslane Peace Camp protesters and Bill Kidd the Member of the Scottish Parliament who endorsed the World March during the Abolition 2000 meeting in New York last month. The World March will pass through Scotland coming from Iceland on its way through the UK to connect with the main body of the March in Paris during November.



Alex Salmond



GERMANY



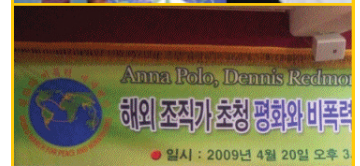
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