



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 ICELAND ITALY LUXEMBOURG MACEDONIA NETHERLANDS NORWAY POLAND PORTUGAL RUSSIAN FEDERATION SERBIA SLOVAKIA SLOVENIA SPAIN SWEDEN SWITZERLAND TURKEY UNITED KINGDOM ALGERIA BENIN BURKINA FASO CAMEROON CÔTE 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 UGANDA 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

Kenyan PM denounces money spent on nuclear weapons

Raila Odinga drew attention to the injustice of military spending when the money could be better spent on eradicating poverty and disease.

countdown 55 days

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Nonviolence in a violent world

We are faced with the belief that nonviolence is not possible in the midst of a violent world.

In the beginning of evolution, life appeared in the seas, in the water and no life-form could live out of water. If any fish would have been able to say, "Let's go into the atmosphere. There's a new life out there." All the others would have said that they're crazy and they're putting everyone's life in danger. In the sea of violence, no one believes that it's possible to escape and those who look for a "new atmosphere", so that the human being can breathe, are looked at with mistrust.

When we speak of violence, we are not talking of something easy that can be achieved with good will or through decrees; we are speaking of evolution, of a leap of humanity, of the search for a new experience and a new human being, of the creation of a worldwide and social atmosphere in which to create a fully human society.

We drag violence from our →



Dario Ergas

KENYA Raila Odinga drew attention to the injustice of military spending when the money could be better spent on eradicating poverty and disease.

The Kenyan Prime Minister received a delegation of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence on the 22nd of July for a half an hour meeting to hear a presentation about the forthcoming global mega-event. During the presentation Odinga expressed his enthusiastic support for the March, declaring it "an idea whose time has come."

Odinga heard in the presentation that although Kenya may not have nuclear bombs, be invading other countries or be at war with her neighbours, the issue of nuclear weapons and military spending is an issue that directly affects Kenyan nationals. Worldwide military expenditure in 2008 totalled an estimated US\$1464 billion, according to figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in June, whereas according to calculations by Jeffrey



Raila Odinga, Kenyan Prime Minister

Sachs in his 2007 book, "The end of Poverty", 10% of that would be enough to eradicate poverty. Odinga was left to ponder what could be achieved were 50% to be invested in health, education, infrastructure and development.

Kenya is not without its share of recent turmoil as the general election of December 2007 almost turned into a blood bath of Rwanda-size proportions until both sides took a step back and following the mediation of Kofi Annan, agreed to a government of national unity. Nevertheless before this agreement was reached, hundreds of Kenyans were murdered and hundreds of thousands internally displaced as tribal tensions were incited by rival politicians and revenge was wrought for injustices and land disputes that can be traced

back to colonial days.

It is not surprising that the World March is gathering enthusiastic support in all sectors of Kenyan society.

Working for a Nuclear Free Zone in Africa

Organisers of the World March in Ghana today highlighted the issue of the Treaty of Pelindaba to the Deputy Speaker of parliament who promised to investigate and see what could be done to ratify it as soon as possible

GHANA The Treaty of Pelindaba, named after the city in South Africa where it was agreed, was written in 1996 and is an attempt to create a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Africa. 27 countries have so far ratified the treaty but 28 are required to do so in order for the treaty to come into force. Upon ratification this treaty would stand alongside the Treaty of Tlatelolco which established a nuclear weapon free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, and other such regional and sub-regional treaties. During a meeting between Professor Aaron Mike Oquaye, MP for Dome-Kwabanya constituency and Deputy



Professor Oquaye, Deputy Speaker with WM organisers in Ghana

Speaker, WM organiser in Ghana Ben Annan and Tony Robinson from the Institutional Relations team from Poland, in which the MP gave his enthusiastic support for the WM he also showed great interest in the Treaty and said that he would follow up the issue.

As part of the proposals of the

World March, organisers in Ghana see real possibilities to highlight this issue to legislators as they seek their endorsements and push for the early ratification by the Ghanaian government, which would have the added importance and kudos of bringing the treaty into effect.

Ben Annan said, "Although it is clear that Ghana is not likely to become a nuclear power in the near future, the treaty is important for the whole of Africa and it would ensure that all African countries effectively renounce nuclear weapons and would prevent third-party countries such as the USA from building nuclear bases on African soil."



→ hominid ancestors and just as one day we stood up to look at the heavens and another day we learnt to produce fire to illuminate the Earth, we can approach the day in which we leave behind the behaviour that we carry from prehistory. I mention these evolutionary milestones intentionally to illustrate the size of the change to which we aspire, a truly human project.

This image of the future can be found stored in some part of ourselves and from here light is projected and it gives direction and hope to humanity.

Why this image that we keep exists, and why there is profound meaning that orientates life is because actions matter. The actions that accompany this image of the future produce meaning, strength and joy in us and the actions that don't help the evolutionary direction of human beings produce suffering in us and increase our own violence.

Nonviolence, much more than a political position, is a moral act. The moral act can be recognised because it is awakened in the one who brings inspiration, strength and meaning in life.

The truth of nonviolence cannot be imposed on others; not even the use of its methodology. Nonviolence starts from a personal decision to change one's own life, from recognising the violence in oneself and surpassing one's own resentment and desire for revenge and domination; to stop treating others as they treat me and to start to treat others as I would like to be treated.

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence can become a moral act, in which, beyond all resistances and all reluctance and scepticism, I affirm in myself and I proclaim to others the world that I want, the human being that I want to be and try to show with my intention and with my action that this yearned-for world is getting closer and closer.

The rhythm of Atapercu

During the presentation of the International Percussion Festival, Atapercu'09, the chairman asked for support for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence.

SPAIN From the 16th to the 19th of July **Atapuerca** (Burgos) hosted the second edition of the International Percussion Festival Atapercu'09, gathering together some of the world's most famous percussionists. Atapuerca, one of the world's most important archaeological sites, will vibrate to the rhythms of various places.

The Artistic Director of Atapercu, **Ernesto Schmied**, said, "Music is a vehicle for spiritual union and has always been a bridge between cultures. Atapercu is trying to continue this encounter between music and its message of human coexistence.

In a very short space of time Atapercu has become a reference on the European music scene."

The festival is recognised by UNESCO as one of the events promoting the International Decade of the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, Ernesto Schmied, in the opening presentation, recalled that Atapercu has endorsed the World March and requested that this be publicised and supported.

Over the four days, Atapercu presented concerts by artists from Spain, Morocco, the USA, Switzerland, Japan, Uruguay and Brazil.



Jorge Drexler and Ernesto Schmied, Atapercu director.

To protect a Constitution of Peace

COSTA RICA 30 Japanese "passengers" from Peace Boat asked the WM promotion team to publicise and prevent the intention of the Japanese government to rewrite their constitution.

The group participated in a chat about the World March in the Friends for Peace Centre in San Jose. During the interchange the passengers expressed their concerns for the modification that intends to do away with article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, considered as the basis for security in North East Asia as it proclaims pacifist fundamentals such as the renunciation of war and the right for people to live in peace.

Endorsers

MORE THAN 2000 ORGANISATIONS AND HUNDREDS OF PERSONALITIES FROM THE FIELDS OF POLITICS, CULTURE, SHOW-BUSINESS, SPORT, AND RELIGION HAVE ENDORSED THE MARCH TOGETHER WITH NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS: DESMOND TUTU-SILO-JOSÉ SARAMAGO, RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ-EDUARDO GALEANO-DARIO FO-FEDERICO MAYOR ZARAZOGA-MAIRED CORRIGAN MAGUIRE-DALAI LAMA-NOAM CHOMSKY-MICHELLE BACHELET-RAFAEL CORREA-CRISTINA FERNÁNDEZ-EVO MORALES-TABARÉ VÁSQUEZ-STJEPAN MESIC-RANIA DE JORDANIA-YOKO ONO-VIGGO MORTENSEN-NOA-JUANES-BOB WILSON-ZUBIN MEHTA-PENÉLOPE CRUZ-PEDRO ALMODÓVAR-PHILIP GLASS-LOU REED LAURA PAUSINI-DANIEL BARENBOIM-CAROLYN CARSON-ISABEL ALLENDE-MALANGATANA



Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo

ARGENTINA HUMAN RIGHTS

The Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo is an Argentine organisation whose mission among other aims is to locate and reunite with their families all the children kidnapped or disappeared by the last military dictatorship.

"We endorse the World March for Peace and Nonviolence. We wish it all the success

such that such an important proposal deserves in this moment in which economic interests of the powerful, either out of indifference or out of excessive ambition, disregard the suffering of millions of excluded, abandoned and hungry people all over the world; when the obvious injustice that governments are always ready to come to the aid of troubled banks without the same concern for those whose lives are at stake with real and tragic problems. That is the worse violence that one can suffer and the main cause of wars and the lack of peace and justice."

Inter Campus

ITALY SPORTS

Inter Campus utilises football as an educational tool, restoring the right to play to needy children around the world.

"This endorsement means the belief in the message that the initiative wants to spread and to pass this to the children who participate in the soccer projects of Inter Milan, involving them directly in specific organised events during the passage of the March in different countries."

Sao Paulo to support the World March

BRAZIL **Gilberto Kassab** (photo), Mayor of Sao Paulo, a city of 15 million inhabitants in the largest country of South America, endorsed the World March this week with plans to promote big events on October 2nd.

In a meeting between the team of the spokesperson for New Humanism in Brazil and Mayor Kassab together with the secretaries for Culture, Environment, Participation & Partnership and Public Security, a central activity was agreed to coincide with the UN day of Nonviolence and the start of the March with broad publicity during a week of activities to raise public awareness.

During the talks, it was proposed that Sao Paulo passes a law to create a Peace and Nonviolence week that will take place every year in the first week of October among many other issues that will be worked on in the coming weeks.



On top of the world in Iceland

ICELAND 160 people climb 24 mountain peaks in Iceland to put the WM logo on top of all of them!

The initiative that starts on Saturday 11th July will be publicised on Icelandic Radio.

Helga Óskarsdóttir, WM Spokesperson in Iceland also reported, "The other action this weekend is at the biggest sports competition event over here. The sports Union will have two big WM flags and a huge WM logo at the welcome opening ceremony later on today. There will be about 12,000 people there and the president of Iceland will be there as a guest of honour."

"We will have leaflets distributed there. The chairman of the Sports Union contacted the Newspapers and two TV stations about it."



"They're walking for Peace" says Norrköping newspaper 'nt.se'

On the 21st of February in "The House of Solidarity and Culture" in Norrköping, Sweden an interview with the paper **nt.se** - one of the most serious and widely read provincial newspapers - took place in which World March activities done and to be done in the short term, were publicised.

SWEDEN The interview with two journalists from the paper took place a few hours before a gathering and presentation of the World March and was published with the headline "They're walking for Peace".

The Journalist wrote, "They are enthusiastic and committed. They talk a lot and complete each others sentences. The

walls are covered in posters with handwritten pacifist messages.

"In principle the March will pass through Stockholm but as we are here and have worked a lot, we hope that it also passes through Norrköping," said **Patricia Vasquez**.

"The March is well known in the rest of the world but not in Sweden," continued Vasquez, who is supported by **Amparo**

Valencia, Soledad and Ivan Garrido who form part of the group.

She is one of the seven or eight people who make up the informal group in Norrköping that is working to publicise the worldwide project of the March.

She hopes that the group grows as much in support of other organisations as in real people who want to join the March.'



Organisers of the March in Norrköping



Burkina Human Rights and Peoples Movement
BURKINA FASO HUMAN RIGHTS

Operation Peace Through Unity produces a quarterly publication "Many to Many" through which they spread information internationally on issues crucial to the development of a culture of peace. They are planning to organise a peace and reconciliation march starting from Wanganui on the UN Day of Peace (21st September) and arriving in Wellington in time to join the start of the WM on October 2nd.



Ekta Parishad
INDIA ACTIVISM

A people's movement whose aim is to see India's poorest people gain control over livelihood resources, all through non-violent principles of action. In 2007, they organized the largest-ever march across India. Ekta Parishad is convinced that only through non-violent methods can world problems be solved. Ekta Parishad is happy to endorse the March and will actively collaborate in making it a success.



CIDOB
BOLIVIA HUMAN RIGHTS

Organization representing the 34 indigenous groups of Bolivia, dedicated to defending the rights of indigenous peoples of the Bolivian Low Lands in front of public and private interests and to the strengthening of their representative organizations. "We express our solidarity with this activity and commit ourselves to the dissemination of the message to diverse social sectors."



AMARC ALC
ARGENTINA JOURNALISM & MEDIA

A secular and non-profit NGO. Organizational, political and communications reference of a movement constituted around community, citizen and people's radio stations. "We share the spirit of this convocation and we are making ourselves available to disseminate and communicate the different activities related to the WM."



Operation Peace Through Unity
NEW ZEALAND NONVIOLENCE

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Some time has passed

For 39 years it has not been allowed to build atomic bombs.

On the 5th of March 1970 the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty has been in force. The Treaty also demands nuclear disarmament. There are 189 signatory states, among which are the five countries with nuclear "status", however the list doesn't include; Israel, India or Pakistan.

For 49 years the people of Western Sahara have been waiting to be decolonised.

On the 14th of December 1960 the UN voted on resolution 1514 that recognised the right to independence of the colonised peoples of countries (among which are Western Sahara). In 1965 the General Assembly re-affirmed the right to independence of the Sahrawi people.

For 8 years the Americans have been trying to find Bin Laden in Afghanistan. On the 8th of October 2001 the USA invaded Afghanistan. The UN Security Council has never authorised the use of force against Afghanistan, in any resolution.

40 years ago they should have left. In 1969 the first UN resolution to question the withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories in Palestine.

Editorial team

- Daniela Mencarelli (Italy), Coordination
- Tony Robinson (UK / Poland), English edition.
- María Silvia Marini (Argentina) and María José López (Spain), Spanish edition.
- Carles Martín (Spain), Catalan edition.
- Giovanna Vascimino (Italy), Italian edition.
- Olivier Turquet (Italy), documentation
- Angelo Colella (Italy), design

Contact: worldmarch@theworldmarch.org

WM organisers and Ministers in Ecuador meet

ECUADOR On the 13th of July the first coordination meeting took place with delegated Ministers invited by the Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic and coordinators of the Institutional Relations and Communications Commissions of the WM in Ecuador.

In the meeting the commitment of the government of President Rafael Correa to support the WM through his Ministers was ratified. Basic agreements were made regarding coordination, priorities, timetable of meetings with each minister to clarify the nature of their support and the date of the next wider meeting.

Those participating were: Secretary of the Presidency (**E. Villacís**); Minister of Education (**L. Monteros**); Minister of Culture (**S. Alcívar**), Sports Minister (**G. Campaña**), Minister for Foreign Affairs (**Doris Melo** and **L. Sanchez**); Heritage Minister (**Y. León**); Minister of Defence (**G. Martínez**); WM Institutional Relations Commission (**J. Salcedo**) and WM Communications Commission (**M. Ovando**).

A new meeting with the results of the advances of each one of the agreements with each minister will take place on Monday, the 27th of July.

Meetings promoting the World March in Thessaloniki

GREECE Three important meetings, among others, took place with institutions in Thessaloniki this week between a delegation made up of **Camillo Comelli** (coordinator of the Balkan Route), **Stefano Cecere** (organising committee - Florence) and **Vasiliki Mitsiniotou** (coordinator in Thessaloniki) in order to promote the World March.

At noon on Tuesday, 21st of July, the delegation met **Anastasio Manthos**, the Dean of Aristotle University, the biggest in the city, to present the Balkan Route and ask for the university's endorsement and support for events. The project of the March was welcomed by the dean who will promote it to the University's congress.

On Thursday, 23rd of July, the delegation met **Ioana Matzari**, director of the Department of

Culture at Thessaloniki City Council, and informed her about the March and specifically about the Balkan Route. There was a discussion about the present situation concerning war, the Balkans, nuclear weapons and the events that will take place in Thessaloniki during the passage of the World March through the city. The meeting ended with an exchange of gifts in a friendly atmosphere and an agreement for further communication on these matters.

On the same day a meeting with a representative of the NGO, "Voluntary Work" concerned with disabled people and youth took place and apart from the presentation of the March led to contacts for the Greek Green Party and other personalities. There will be collaboration concerning our project for the World March.



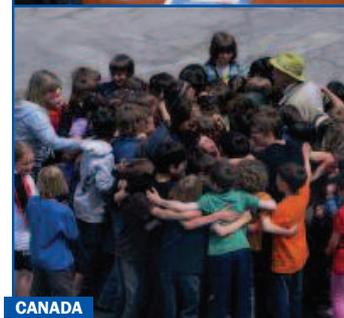
ITALY



VENEZUELA



ECUADOR



CANADA



GERMANY



SPAIN



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