



For immediate release

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence

Oct 2, 2009 Wellington, New Zealand to Jan 2, 2010 Punta de Vacas, Argentina
www.worldmarchusa.net • theworldmarch.org

HISTORIC SIX-CONTINENT PEACE MARCH KICKS OFF 93 DAYS OF US AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS ON OCT.2

NEW YORK, September 29, 2009—Friday, October 2, marks the historic launch of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence, the world's first six-continent peace march calling for the elimination of wars, nuclear weapons and violence of all kinds.

The event kicks off 93 days of activities in 300 US and international cities involving more than 1 million participants. US activities planned for Oct. 2 alone include:

- 8 am interfaith blessing on the waterfront in Battery Park, New York City
- peace walk in Richmond, VA
- formation of a human peace symbol in Santa Monica, CA
- teachers across the country teaching nonviolence in the classroom as a way of responding to conflict.
- 7:30 pm Brooklyn AHIMSA concert at the Brooklyn Lyceum

"The World March for Peace and Non-Violence is a wonderful idea," states **Noam Chomsky, one of hundreds of high level endorsers that include the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and 7 sitting presidents, among others.** "It is a fitting commemoration of Gandhi's legacy on the centenary of his birth," Chomsky adds. "It could hardly be more timely, and should serve as an inspiration to those who seek to fulfill the noble ideals that Gandhi's life and work symbolized in ways that are rarely approached."

The march is also widely endorsed among actors, artists and musicians including **Yoko Ono, Penelope Cruz, Viggo Mortenson and Pedro Almodovar.**

"It is surprising the number of people who believe that armed intervention is the best solution to some of the problems facing the world," says **actor Cate Blanchett.** "Yet if a small share of the money spent on weapons and armed conflict was directed to the elimination of hunger and poverty, many of the root causes of these conflicts could be solved. For the future of our children, [we must] speak out in favor of peace, nuclear disarmament and the end of violence."

"We need to end wars and occupations, and to end all forms of violence against people no matter what their age, gender, sexual preference or religion," states **activist and**

actor, Jane Fonda. "We need to learn to help and heal rather than hurt our fellow human beings and this planet we live upon."

"We're living in a highly dangerous moment," says **Chris Wells, US spokesman for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence.** We're all threatened by nuclear weapons. Young and old, rich and poor, all colors and faiths, all of us. And the spread of this technology is more and more out of control. There can be no peace as long as nuclear weapons exist and to avoid a future catastrophe, we must act today."

For more information, including a complete list of events, visit:

www.worldmarchusa.net (US site)

www.theworldmarch.org (international site including complete list of endorsers)

ABOUT THE WORLD MARCH

The World March is both a series of events and a symbolic 93-day march undertaken by an international team of 25 marchers that begins in Wellington, New Zealand on Oct. 2 and proceeds through more than 100 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America. The team will arrive in New York City on November 30 and visit Washington, DC, San Francisco and Los Angeles before traveling to Costa Rica where they will continue their journey. The marchers will carry the Hiroshima flame throughout the march and reach their destination, Punta de Vacas, Argentina, on January 2, 2010.

Launched by the international organization World Without Wars, the World March has been endorsed by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter and other Nobel Peace Prize winners, along with Noam Chomsky, seven presidents, hundreds of world leaders and newsmakers (including Sarah Obama, President Obama's Kenyan grandmother), and celebrities like Yoko Ono, Cate Blanchett and Viggo Mortensen. Thousands of organizations including Mayors for Peace, Abolition 2000, Veterans for Peace, Code Pink are taking part.

Officially launched at the Symposium of the World Center for Humanist Studies in Punta de Vacas, Argentina, on November 15, 2008, the march has five goals:

- abolition of nuclear weapons worldwide
- immediate withdrawal of invading troops from occupied territories
- progressive and proportional reduction of conventional weapons
- signing of non-aggression treaties between countries
- renunciation by governments of the use of war as a means to resolve conflicts

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