

# For Immediate Release

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## Keeping the Hope Alive

# Marchers from 5-Boroughs to Converge at City Hall for launching of "World March for Peace & Non-Violence"

Selected Endorsers:

Desmond Tutu

Zubin Mehta

Noam Chomsky

Juanes

Daniel Berrigan

Ana Belen

Federico Mayor Zaragosa

Ariel Dorfman

Alejandro Jodorosky

Jose Saramago

Eduardo Galeano

Arun Gandhi

Mario Rodriguez Cobos-Silo

Bruce Gagnon

Alfredo Jalife-Rahne

Roberto Wilson

Adam Hochschild

Michael Lerner

(New York City) In light of the historic election of Barack Obama and his promise to bring home the troops from Iraq, a new spirit of peace and cooperation is emerging worldwide and New Yorkers are responding to his call for Americans to keep the momentum of change alive. On **December 7th**, marchers are gathering in the five boroughs to converge at **City Hall in a press conference at 3 PM** to mark the beginning of a year of activities in New York in support of the "World March for Peace & Non-Violence."

Speakers include: NY State Senator-elect Hiram Montserrat, Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito, Veteran Sergeant Matthis Chiroux who publicly refused deployment to Iraq, Yash Paul Soi, President of the Federation of Indian Associations for NY/CT/NJ and leaders of peace, community and youth organizations and university faculty.

The first-ever "World March for Peace & Non-Violence" will begin on October 2nd 2009, the International Day of Nonviolence and travel 90 days over 6 continents and through 100 countries ending in the Andes mountains of Argentina in January 2010. The March will unite the voices of millions of people worldwide in a call for the dismantling of nuclear arms, an end to war and military aggression, and the rejection of all forms of violence – physical, racial, religious, economic, sexual and psychological.

Chris Wells, spokesperson for New Humanism in North America and an organizer of the March says, "The recent events in India make the importance of disarmament and nonviolence even more clear. Mounting tensions and distrust between two nuclear neighbors spell disaster!"

[more....](#)

## Some Visual Highlights

There will be 6 separate march routes, one from each borough and a children's march, traveling by foot, subway, tram, bus, and ferry, all converging at City Hall:

**Queens:** The march will begin in the shadow of the Unisphere at Flushing Meadows Park, travel to Manhattan via the Roosevelt Island tram; large peace puppets created by Queens College art students.

**Brooklyn:** Marchers will gather under the arch at Grand Army Plaza, travel to Borough Hall and walk to Manhattan over Brooklyn Bridge.

**Manhattan:** Starting from the *Imagine* mosaic in Central Park, passing through Times Square and the Gandhi statue at Union Square.

A separate children's march will leave from Tompkins Square Park.

**Staten Island:** Marchers will take the Staten Island Ferry, passing by Lady Liberty, and stopping at Wall Street, to denounce the economic violence perpetrated upon average Americans.

**Bronx:** An environmental tour of the south Bronx will highlight situations of ecological violence.

[worldmarch.info](http://worldmarch.info)

[worldmarchusa.net](http://worldmarchusa.net)

Dennis Redmond, the US Coordinator of the World March, hopes December 7th will highlight the importance of the great diversity of people coming together to show support for change. "Obama has opened the door, but it's up to all of us to keep the momentum going."

An unprecedented number of world leaders in all fields are coming together at this crucial time in our history to support the World March, which promotes a nuclear free world and addresses the problems of violence at its roots. Endorsers include Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu, internationally acclaimed conductor Zubin Mehta, Colombian rock star and "King of the Latin Grammy" Juanes, and world-renowned intellectual Noam Chomsky.

The borough marches will begin at different city touchstones, including the Imagine mosaic in Central Park, the Unisphere, and Grand Army Plaza, and will make stops at symbolic places before reaching City Hall, including the Statue of Liberty, WTC, Wall Street, and the Gandhi Statue. A children's march will start at Tompkins Square Park.

For more information: call 212 313 9480 or go to [worldmarchusa.net](http://worldmarchusa.net) for exact times and places.

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### Speakers:

Hiram Monserrat, Senator-elect New York State  
Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Councilmember Robert Jackson  
Vet. Sgt Matthis Chiroux, Iraq Veterans Against the War  
Dr. Rikki Asher, Queens College  
Peter Geffen, Founder, Abraham Joshua Heschel School  
Chris Wells, Spokesperson for New Humanism in  
North America

Cheryl Wertz, Exec. Dir., Peace Action NY  
Irma Rodriguez, Exex. Dir., Queens Community House  
Yash Paul Soi, President, Federation of Indian Associations  
Nicole Myers, Director, Center of Cultures  
Dennis Redmond, US Coordinator, World March for Peace &  
Nonviolence  
Julissa Ferreras, City Council Candidate District 21

### Participating Organizations (list in formation):

World Without Wars and Violence/USA  
Center of Cultures  
Queens Community House  
Peace Action/New York State  
Queens College  
The Community for Human Development  
Astorians for Peace & Justice  
Juventud Ecuatoriana  
The Community of Silo's Message

Federation of Indian Associations of NY/NJ/CT  
Mahatma Gandhi Peace and Nonviolence Foundation  
Green Workers Coop  
ISO (International Socialist Organization)  
Arte Kolectivo  
Veterans for Peace  
Andolan: Organizing South Asian Women  
Movement for Peace in Colombia  
Impacto Latino Media Group

If you'd like more information about this event, or to schedule an interview with Dennis Redmond or Chris Wells, please call Nicole Myers at 212-580-8029 or e-mail Nicole at [nicole@newhumanist.net](mailto:nicole@newhumanist.net)

