



**Response to Invitation to the Secretary-General: Seventh Annual Prayer Vigil,  
New York, 12 and 13 September 2016**

Jackilyn Punsal to: reverendralph

22/08/2016 05:45 PM

Alexandra Barahona Posada, Mary Sack, G. Cucinotta, Rommel  
Cc: Maranan, Amy Kyaw, Aminata Sy, Ruxandra Ferascu, Wook-Jin  
Chang, Benjamin Knight, Sophie Guesne

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. CHANG Wook-jin, Chief of the Scheduling Unit of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Grateful if you can convey the attached scan of formal communication to Reverend Ralph Alexis, regarding the above-mentioned subject.

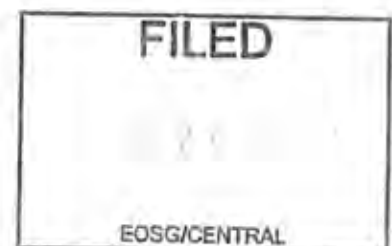
The original has been sent via mail. Kindly confirm receipt of this email.



Response to invitation\_Seventh Annual Prayer Vigil.pdf

Yours sincerely,  
Ms. Jackilyn Punsal  
Scheduling Office of the Secretary-General  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Room S-3862  
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

19 August 2016

Dear Reverend Ralph,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 23 July 2016, inviting him to attend your Seventh Annual Prayer Vigil, which will be held on 12 and 13 September 2016 in New York.

The Secretary-General appreciates your kind invitation. Regrettably, he will be unable to attend, in view of prior commitments and pressing demands already on his schedule during the said period.

Nevertheless, allow me to take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a fulfilling prayer vigil.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edmond Mulet".

Edmond Mulet  
Chef de Cabinet

Reverend Ralph Alexis  
Queens Village

# Reverend Ralph Alexis

From The Church in the Sky

Email: [ReverendRalph@yahoo.com](mailto:ReverendRalph@yahoo.com)

RECEIVED

July 23, 2016

OWJ  
(Sb) / ABY / JP

7 H III  
16-06740

Dear Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

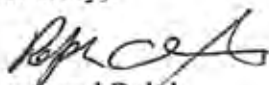
I would like to invite you to my Seventh Annual Prayer Vigils on Monday, September 12, 2016 at the Federal Courthouse in East Islip, NY between noon and 1:00 P.M. and on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 between noon and 1:00 P.M. The September 13<sup>th</sup> Vigil will be held in One Police Plaza Park, Manhattan, New York. We pray in silence for love, peace, for the families of people who have been lost to gun violence and each person prays for what is in his or her heart.

Each year there are different events that are happening around the world that are related to the violence that comes from hatred and fear. God told me that He put us here on earth to love each other and appreciate each other. We are not here to kill each other. We are not here to hate each other. We are not here to torture each other. God wants me to try to get all the people to put their weapons down. God never made a gun. We cannot use religion as an excuse to commit acts of violence or to hurt each other in the name of God.

God is a loving God. Our job is to make life; not to take life. Death doesn't need help. God made all of us with our physical differences, our religious differences and different cultures. Every skin color that you see on earth was created by God. God loves all of his creations because He made them and we have no right to hate anyone for his or her skin color. Man and woman have been on this planet for approximately 200,000 years. In that time, we have warred with each other. It's time for a change. It's time for forgiveness. If we can't forgive, we can never move on.

So I am asking you to join me at one or both of the Seventh Annual Prayer Vigils. Perhaps if you can't make it, you can send a representative. God bless you.

Sincerely,

  
Reverend Ralph

Enclosed: Update letter 2016; Letter to President Obama 2009; Lists of Vigil Invitees from 2010 through 2016

Simple Reply

SCH/08/002: 501: 28/006



# *Reverend Ralph Alexis*

## *From The Church in the Sky*

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Email: [ReverendRalph@yahoo.com](mailto:ReverendRalph@yahoo.com)

### Reverend Ralph's Journey-Why I Am Inviting You to My Annual Vigil

July 14, 2016

My story doesn't end with my experience of racial profiling that I described in my letter to President Obama, dated December 17, 2009. My story begins there. Of course, as any dark skinned person knows, I have lived all my life experiencing racial tension and prejudice even so far as having police officers draw their weapons on me as I sat in my car in the parking lot of a fast food place waiting for my friend. When my friend came out, who is white, he literally saved me. But when the 2009 incident happened to me and it involved my 2 year old son, in front of my own house, it shook me to the core because I could see the future being no better than the past. It has come to pass that even children playing with toy guns have been murdered. I feel like the canary in the coal mine and it is my job to increase awareness of what is happening and to promote peace. There is so much anger on all sides that breeds hatred and it frightens me.

I am just a regular guy. I grew up, went to school, got a job, had a family, never been arrested and yet still was accused of being a criminal in front of my own home with my 2 year old son. The love for my son is what inspired me to hold these annual vigils. The first time I went to the Federal Courthouse in East Islip not to protest but just to pray, where I had served on jury duty for over a year, I was told that I could not stay there, and had to leave immediately. I said, "Okay. I don't want any problems." As I stepped outside, I was surrounded. After one of the officers asked for my social security number, which I gave him, he spoke it over the walkie talkie. Then he asked me, "What is this all about?" I told him that he would never have experienced what I experienced since his skin was white. I told him about the profiling incident with my son and he could see that I was emotional. I could see that he was touched by my story. Nonetheless, he told me that I could not stay and pray and that if I came back, I would be arrested. That made me feel even worse than I did when I was profiled by the NYPD. I was scared about going back but God told me that I should never give up and I have been back every year since and been treated with respect and kindness except that I was told that I could not hold the American flag which was attached to a pole, because it was considered a weapon. After 2 days of trying to pray with the flag in different areas and being told that I couldn't, God told me to wear the American flag and that is what I have done ever since. The United States of America is the greatest country on earth where all things are possible and we must continue to try and fix our problems. That is why I try to bring leaders that normally wouldn't be together to come together.

After all of this, I met a wonderful NYPD police officer, Danny who works in my neighborhood precinct and happens to be white. There was an accident where a car drove into my fence. Danny was the officer who came to take the report. His demeanor was comforting and we got along right away. Shortly thereafter, there was another accident with my fence. Danny was again the officer. Over time we became very good friends and I could see that he serves the community with great respect for everyone. One day, Danny called me and was upset because someone had filed a report against him saying that he was a racist. Nothing could be further from the truth. I was devastated at this false report. But Danny continues to be the exceptional officer that he is. Not long ago, Danny met an elderly woman on a call. She was a caretaker for another elderly woman. She told him that she struggles to get to the house a few blocks away. He suggested a bicycle but she said that she couldn't afford one. Danny knows that I do bike art and he asked me if I could get a bicycle for the lady which I did. After making sure that I adjusted it for her, he gave it to her. She was thrilled. We need to focus on the good police officers as well as the "rotten apples." We also need to be careful that we don't see racism, where there is none.

I have always been treated with respect and courtesy when I have prayed at 1 Police Plaza Park. This has inspired me to attend the funerals of fallen officers. It touching and sad to see the families of the fallen officers.

I have a solution that might help with racism. It would be a bill called the Alex Bill. Many people are targeted when driving. The Alex Bill would allow people to have tinted car windows in all states so that all people could travel around the country in privacy without fear of being targeted. You would need to get a license to tint the windows and one provision would be that you cannot carry guns in the passenger portion of the car. They must be in the trunk. There would be penalties for carrying a gun. Convicted criminals including sex offenders and those on the terrorist watch list would not be able to tint the windows of their cars. All the police would feel safer. It would also help with road rage because it would limit eye contact between drivers. Some of the proceeds of the license fee would go to victims of violent crimes including the families of fallen officers.

## 2016 Vigil Invitees

The Honorable Bill DeBlasio

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Police Commissioner William Bratton

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren

The Honorable Charles Schumer

The Honorable Kristin Gillebrand

The Honorable Charles Rangel

President Barack Obama

Hillary Clinton

The Honorable Bernie Sanders

The Honorable John Lewis

The Honorable Keith Ellison

The Honorable Bob Menendez

Police Commissioner David O. Brown

Chief of Police Carl Dabadie, Jr.

Mr. Eric Holder, Jr., Esq.

The Honorable Michael S. Rawlings

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

President Patrick J. Lynch

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The Honorable Melvin L. Holden

New York Daily News-first time invited

New York Times-first time invited



### **Invitees to Vigils**

#### **2015**

Mayor Bill DeBlasio  
The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
His Holiness, Pope Francis  
President Raul Castro  
President Vladimir Putin  
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu  
President Mahmoud Abbas  
Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un  
President Park Geun-hye  
President Francois Hollande  
President Andrzej Duda  
President Benigno Simeon Aquino III  
Chancellor Angela Merkel  
Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
President Dilma Rousseff  
President Nicolas Maduro  
Prime Minister David Cameron  
President Rafael Correa  
Prime Minister Tony Abbott  
Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei  
King Salman bin Abdulaziz  
President Juan Manuel Santos  
Police Commissioner William Bratton  
President Prokopis Pavlopoulos  
President Xi Jinping  
Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif  
President Jacob Zuma  
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe  
President Tru'o'ng Tan Sang  
Presidente Mariano Rajoy Brey  
Taoiseach Enda Kenny

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#### **2014**

President Barack Obama  
Pope Francis  
Mayor DeBlasio  
Police Commissioner Bratton

2013 Invitees

<p>Muhammad Ali  Pamela Anderson  Edward Asner  Bob Barker  Charles Barkley  Tyson Beckford  Harry Belafonte  Valerie Bell  Halle Berry  Justin Bieber  Bill Moyers  Mary J. Blige  Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg  Jon Bon Jovi  David Bowie  Richard Branson  Bobbi Kristina Brown  Warren Buffett  James Cameron  Jim Carey  President Jimmy Carter  Governor Chris Christie  The Honorable William H. Clinton  George Clooney  Sean Diddy Combs  LL Cool J  Anderson Cooper  Bill Cosby  Tom Cruise  Ice Cube  The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  Ellen DeGeneres  Matt Damon  Robert De Niro  Doctor Dre</p>	<p>Missy Elliott  Representative Keith Ellison  Gloria Estefan  Patrick Ewing  George Forman  Michael J. Fox  Jamie Foxx  Aretha Franklin  Bill Gates  Richard Gere  Danny Glover  The Honorable Al Gore  Tom Hanks  Darryl Hannah  Salma Hayak  Tommy Hilfiger  Janet Jackson  Mick Jagger  Wyclef Jean  Young Jeezy  Elton John  Magic Johnson  Angelina Jolie  Michael Jordan  Police Commissioner Ray Kelly  Alicia Keys  BB King  Calvin Klein  Heidi Klum  Phil Knight  Lenny Kravitz  Patti Labelle  Snoop Lion  Eva Longoria  Governor Dannell P. Malloy  Ricky Martin  Judge Greg Mathis</p>	<p>Chris Matthews  Paul McCartney  Mark Messier  Marilyn Milian  Nicky Minaj  Michael Moore  Eddie Murphy  Willie Nelson  President Barack Obama  Shaquille O'Neal  Sean Paul  Katie Perry  Brad Pitt  Kelly Ripa  Chris Rock  Diana Ross  Susan Sarandon  Judge Judy Sheindlin  Howard Schultz  Jerry Seinfeld  Garry Shandling  Martin Sheen  Michael Shumacher  Will Smith  Steven Spielberg  Bruce Springsteen  Oliver Stone  Michael Strahan  Ice T  Lawrence Taylor  Justin Timberlake  John Travolta  Donatella Versace  John Walsh  Denzel Washington  Keenan Ivory Wayans  Kanye West</p>	<p>Venus Williams  Serena Williams  Jay Z  Mark Zuckerberg  Pitbull  Bono  Cher  Eminem  Fat Joe  Lady GaGa  Madonna  Pink  Prince  Prince Harry  The Duke of Cambridge  Shakira  Sting  Usher</p>
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## List of Invitees-in no particular order

### **2012**

Mayor Ed Koch  
President Barack Obama  
Vice President Joseph Biden  
President Jimmy Carter  
President Bill Clinton  
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton  
Senator Charles Schumer  
Senator Kristin Gillibrand  
Congressman Charles Rangel  
Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy  
Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Governor Mario Cuomo  
Governor George Pataki  
Mayor Rudolph Giuliani  
Mayor Cory Booker  
Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly  
Governor Chris Christie  
Mayor Michael Bloomberg

### **2011**

Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Senator Charles Schumer  
Senator Kirsten Gillebrand  
Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly

### **2010**

Mayor Michael Bloomberg

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December 17, 2009

Dear President Obama:

This is the first time that I am writing to a President. First I want to say "thank you" for inspiring me when the incident with Professor Gates occurred. I had a similar incident a few weeks before that I am still trying to recover from. I was a proud citizen serving on the Federal Grand Jury for 18 months. I smiled when I saw your picture in the Federal Courthouse. I have had to deal with racism all my life as you and others have as well. My incident of racial profiling started on a Sunday afternoon. I was putting boxes in to my van in front of my house with my 2 year old son. I have lived there for over 20 years. It is a solid middle class neighborhood with mixed ethnicity. A marked NYC patrol car stopped abruptly and the officers asked me if I lived there. I replied, "Yes." They asked me if I was moving. I said, "No." They asked if I had any ID on me. I replied that it was in my house. They told me to get the ID. I asked why. They said that there were some robberies in the neighborhood so "go get your ID." That's when I felt as if all my accomplishments in life were worth nothing and my son was worth nothing too. I picked up my child and went into the house to get my ID and when I gave it to them; they saw my address, so clearly it was my house. Yet they "ran" me through the police computer. When I turned up with no record of any kind, not even an unpaid parking ticket, they handed me my license. Without comment or an apology, they drove away. Since then I have issues concerning raising my 2 sons in a country where despite having a bi-racial President, there is little respect for black people. I had to withdraw from the Federal Grand Jury because I no longer felt that I could be impartial regarding the testimony of white police officers. This is one of many incidents in my life but this is the only one that involved my child and where the police officers didn't even apologize when they realized that they were wrong. I did put a complaint in with the Civilian Complaint Review Board but am unaware of any action taken.

I look at every human as an equal. My wife happens to be Polish and I notice that when I am in Poland, racism doesn't seem to exist. I have often thought of moving to Poland with my children and staying. But I love my country and I realize that it is my calling to continue my fight against prejudice of all kinds.

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I want you to know that I support your decisions about Afghanistan. I worked at ground zero immediately after 9/11 and saw personally the horror that hate and racism causes.

Because of my dyslexia, it is my Mom who is helping me to write this letter. I sent an excerpt from this letter to you via email but then decided I wanted to send the entire letter.

I want to give you insight about my character-the person who is writing to you. I was born in June 1966 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. There is no control over who one's parents are or where one will be born. I was very fortunate because of my grandfather who was an ambassador from Haiti. He made it possible for me and my family to come to the



United States. That was a good thing considering the state of Haiti. I was 5 years old when I came to the US and I met my mother for the first time. She had left Haiti right after I was born. She left me there with some relatives. By the age of 6, I almost lost my eye when my father hit me in the face with a glass because he thought I was using too much sugar. I still wear that scar under my left eye.

My mother had favorite children. I am one of six children. She preferred my other siblings. I knew so because when my birthday came each year, she would tell me that she forgot and had nothing for me. She knew I had a reading problem and she told me that I would be homeless, so at a young age I looked at the homeless and it scared me. She always threatened that she wanted to kick me out of the house. I had to work ever since I can remember to make money to support myself because I didn't get anything from my parents. My mother said that I had to pay to live there so she always took half of my money but didn't do that with my siblings. At the age of 8, I got in trouble in school and my mother told my father. My father said that when he got home he was going to "get me." That's when I went into the medicine cabinet and took all the pills that I could swallow. I wanted to be dead because I couldn't take the beatings anymore. They were ruthless with spitting, biting and kicking added on to the beating. I lived through the beating and then threw up all the pills. That's when God touched me and I said to God, "I'm not going to call that man my father anymore. I am going to call you Father." I've been speaking to God ever since and I know it sounds crazy but he speaks back to me. By the time I was 14, I was kicked out of my house by my mother and a white Jewish teacher who had stayed in contact with me and who knew what I went through, adopted me. That blessing helped me grow in a positive manner. I had a new family, a white family, which accepted me. With that gift I have an extended family that I look up to who are successful

I don't hate the police because I wanted to be an officer myself. Although I had testing accommodations because of my dyslexia, I was unable to pass the test. I took the Sanitation test and received a grade of 100%. I recently retired after serving over 20 years as a Sanitation Worker. That is how I came to work at ground zero and was handpicked to represent the department and stand with Rudy Giuliani at a news conference on TV.

I have also learned to pick my friends well because one can pick friends and they can be an extension of family. My best friend is like a brother to me. He is an ex-Marine who fought in Iraq and is now an NYPD police officer who has trained other police officers.

Since the racial profiling incident, I have had trouble working on my art. I was working on a project that represents 9/11 and another project that represents the Holocaust. I have been to the Auschwitz concentration camp which touched me. In fact it was because of my art that I was loading the cartons in to my van.

I feel that if I could get an apology from the 2 white officers, I could then continue my work. The one good thing that came out of this negative experience is that I am a Reverend now and speaking out against all racism.



Congratulations on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. Thank you for listening. Happy holidays to you and your family.

Respectfully,

Reverend Ralph Alexis

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