

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON THE FIRST OBSERVANCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE
2 October 2007

The United Nations was created in the hope that humanity could not only end wars, it could eventually make them unnecessary. Our founders hoped that the Organization could help stop violence by spreading a culture of peace, promoting tolerance and advancing human dignity.

These same ideals sum up the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, whose birthday we celebrate today. His peaceful struggles against unjust regimes in South Africa and India captured the world's imagination. And his incorporation of non-violence into everyday life inspired countless individuals to lead better, more meaningful lives.

"Non-violence is the first article of my faith. It is also the last article of my creed" was the Mahatma's response when charged with agitation against the State in 1922.

The Mahatma's inspiration is needed now more than ever. All around us we see communities increasingly mired in rising intolerance and cross-cultural tensions. We see extremist dogma and violent ideologies gaining ground, as moderate forces retreat.

Recently, we have witnessed lethal force being used against unarmed and non-violent marchers who exemplified the very spirit of the Mahatma's teachings.

Today, there is a great need to address these trends, and to promote true tolerance and non-violence at every level, from the individual all the way up to the State.

The International Day of Non-violence can help advance this effort. May it help spread Mahatma Gandhi's message of non-violence to an ever wider audience, and hasten a time when every day is a day of non-violence.

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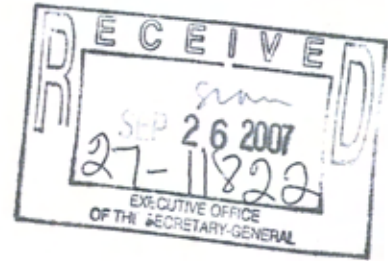
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Bharatiya Vidya
Bhavan
AUSTRALIA

Let noble thoughts come to us from every side



MRM

His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
UNITED NATIONS
First Avenue 46th Street
New York NY 10017 USA

Your Right Excellency Ban Ki-Moon

International Day of Non-Violence 2 October 2007

With your blessings on 15 June 2007 United Nations General Assembly declared **2 October (Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)** as International Day of Non-violence by a resolution moved by India and supported by 142 countries.

We are commemorating this day (2 October) by a special programme consisting of Music for Peace and Presentations on Mahatma Gandhi, Non-Violence and Peace.

Program Information

Location: SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

Time and Date: 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Tuesday 2 October 2007

Tentative Event Schedule

1. Presentation by the Drum Cafe with **drums played for harmony and peace**. Music has the power to transform, inspire, move and motivate us both as individuals and groups. This is because we all strongly identify to music. It is a shaping force in our world. The audience will also be invited to participate in harmony drumming.
2. Inaugural speech by Hon Sujan Chinyo, Consul General of India, Sydney.
3. Presentation on Non - Violence and Mahatma Gandhi by Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees, Director of The Sydney Peace Foundation and Director of Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney.
4. Speeches by other dignitaries.
5. Peace Songs by Kamahl and Others.

I humbly make a special request to have your message which will be read at this internationally significant day commemorations. Senior Diplomats and Members of Parliament are confirming their attendance. I will greatly appreciate your message by 28 September 2007.

Sambhir Watts

Sambhir Watts
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Reliance on violence is GODLESS and reliance on non-violence is based on a belief in GOD.