

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN



World without Wars and Violence, International Humanist Organisation

Issue 6, March 2011

“Peace will not result from a violent approach to violence.”^[1]

The Libyan uprising continues and UN forces have started bombing to enforce a UN no-fly zone. World without Wars condemns the violence, the hypocrisy of Western governments and their policy of preventative war.

We in World without Wars and Violence are horrified to see the latest UN “preventative” war: an action which is as much hypocritical as it is doomed to failure and to produce the contrary.

The situation is really complex, but we can outline some basic points.

We denounce:

- › **the hypocrisy of Western countries that supported the Libyan dictator for years and sold him weapons to protect their interests and now for the same reason assault him.** See how the French planes attacking Libya now are the newer models of the Mirage Jets that belong to Gaddafi! No doubt once this is over France will rush to sell even newer versions of their planes to Tripoli.
- › **the hypocrisy of countries who although express their concern for the wellbeing of the civilians in Benghazi show almost complete indifference for the wellbeing of the citizens in Bahrain and Yemen,** where non-violent demonstrators are attacked and killed by the armed forces every day, **not to mention the Ivory Coast,** where the killing of innocent civilians trapped in a struggle for power between two presidents has been going on for months.
- › **and the policy of preventative wars.** This policy, used in Iraq and again in Afghanistan, has led to **the military of those countries involved killing hundreds of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis, the use of depleted uranium weapons that has left the civilians of vast areas of Iraq prone to cancer, birth defects, and other horrors,** and what’s worse, a situation that appears unsolvable and likely to lead to the kinds of governments that the USA specifically hoped to avoid. “When you force something towards an end you produce the contrary.”^[2]

We call on:

- › those countries involved in the UN mission to immediately withdraw their military support for such actions,
- › we call on the Libyan army commanders to protect all Libyan people – as is their function,
- › we call on all those opposed to the current Libyan regime to lay down their weapons and seek non-violent methods to achieve their aims—including dialogue,
- › and we call on all nations of the world to immediately stop all trade of any sort with the Tripoli regime, with the exception of the supply of food, humanitarian and medical supplies – this means **NO MORE OIL TRADE.**

We call for the end of all dictatorships all around the world and a transition to a truly democratic form of government, beyond the formal democratic models of Western nations, based on principles of peace, nonviolence and the central value of human life and the eradication of all forms of violence.

We are desperately concerned for the innocent civilians on all sides of the Libyan conflict who will be killed by the UN attacks and by the attacks of armed Libyan militias of all sides. **A war is underway and we believe that if it is not stopped immediately it will lead to a massive disaster affecting all the countries of the Mediterranean and beyond.**



[1] Silo’s words at the First Annual Celebration of Silo’s Message, Punta de Vacas, Argentina May 4th, 2004

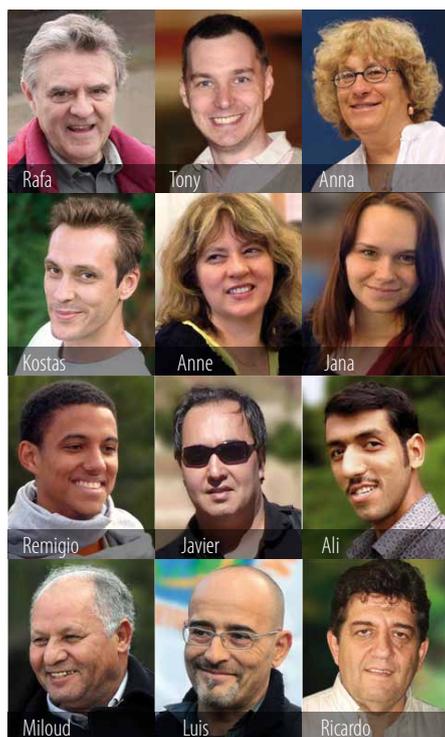
[2] The second principle of Valid Action, taken from chapter XIII of the book, Silo’s Message

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International meeting in Madrid

Although the World Coordination Team was elected in May last year those elected had never actually met before all together. Even sometimes getting everyone together for a meeting on Skype can be a challenge! Some members know each other from their days in the organisational structure of the Humanist Movement and others have connected to World without Wars through the World March.



The Team consists of 9 men and 3 women from 5 continents and 11 countries. We worked out that there are 8 native languages (Arabic, Czech, English, French, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish). It's a great diversity and for those of us who are used to Spanish-speaking dominated meetings it was extraordinary and inspiring to hear people speaking Arabic.

The meetings started with informal gatherings from Saturday the 5th when Ricardo arrived from Brazil and by the time the last people arrived on Wednesday we had a fair idea of the agenda that we needed to cover during the two days prior to the open meeting on Saturday the 12th.



The co-present background to the meetings was the non-violent revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia together with the developing civil war in Libya and the continued non-violent protests in Bahrain and Yemen among other places. Also disturbing news was reaching us of a humanitarian disaster unfolding in the Ivory Coast that the western media is totally oblivious to.

On the Friday, we were reminded about the disasters of war in Iraq and Afghanistan and the resulting terrorist attacks in Atocha Station, Madrid, which left us all reflecting about the real need for World without Wars to be stronger than ever in every country of the world. First thing in the morning though, horrible news reached us of the huge earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan. It was immediately clear that the world now faced an even greater threat in the form of the failed nuclear power stations that line the Japanese coast line which were defenceless in the face of a huge tsunami. The irresponsibility of world leaders to continue their reliance on nuclear power is breathless in this day and age.



Ever since the World March finished we have seen World without Wars quietly move ahead with base teams, in various parts of the world, developing a great variety of activities which have been reported in the pages of this bulletin which has now been issued 7 times.

In various informal conversations with members in recent months it has become clear that there is a need for a new unifying image that will lead the organisation through this year and into 2012. So, we have decided to launch the **WORLD FORUM FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE** – a global initiative that is designed on three principles: 1) participation open to all base teams on any subject related to peace and nonviolence, 2) a common logo and name and 3) a common time frame.

This will be a great opportunity for us to build on the work done during the World March. We will take advantage of important dates like the 21st of September and the 2nd of October in order to promote the Forums and between the 7th and 13th of November we hope that all around the world initiatives, activities and forums will take place to create the sensation of an international phenomenon in motion, a continuation of the World March, and a stepping stone to even bigger and better activities in 2012.

For many of our activists we imagine that such an event can be an opportunity to expand our network into the Arab world. We believe that there will be no difficulty finding people who resonate with our themes of peace and nonviolence. We have seen the dramatic revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia that have been brought about by the overwhelmingly non-violent actions of the people who have decided that enough is enough.

As a Coordination Team we have undoubtedly benefited from spending this time together, gaining in mutual understanding and above all in team work. We hope the results of our efforts will be useful for all base teams around the world and we ask for your feedback.

With a big hug to everyone everywhere.

Editorial Team



WORLD FORUM for Peace and Nonviolence



Open meeting in Toledo Park

On an inspiring day in Toledo Park of Study and Reflection, dozens of our activists gathered to meet, get feedback from the WCT meeting and hear plans for the World Forum.

Members from Spain, Italy, France, Morocco and Ecuador made the trip to Toledo. We finished the day with a beautiful ceremony in the meditation hall asking that we may all find the strength to act in the world.



Over a year has passed since the end of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence and the Humanist organisation, World without Wars and Violence (WwW), is preparing itself to launch a new global campaign to build on the success of the March as another element in a string of increasingly large actions to take place since its foundation in 1995.

At the open meeting of the organisation's members in the Toledo Park of Study and Reflection in Spain on the 12th of March a new action plan was announced.

Between the 7th and 13th of November 2011 a week of activities will take place around the world. All kinds of activities that have to do with peace and nonviolence will be promoted; marches, concerts, exhibitions, workshops, debates, etc and also a series of polycentric, decentralised forums will be organised by WwW base teams.

When speaking about the Forum Rafa de la Rubia said, "With this Forum for Peace and Nonviolence we will build on the work of the World March, but whereas the March took 3 months, this will take just one week."

"What we did uniquely in the World March was to join the subjects of Peace and Nonviolence together and take it into the World. Insofar as the aim of the World March to eradicate nuclear weapons goes, we failed, but in terms of the awareness we created in the world, we believe that it is so great it is beyond measure. You just had to see the number of young people who joined in events that were held to know it was worth while."

"We will see how we can build the forum on this awareness and take it forward into other events in 2012."

The International Spokesperson for World without Wars, Tony Robinson, said, "We needed to do something new, something that everyone can get involved with, and something that can make all organisations involved with peace and nonviolence grow and help in publicising our proposals. We won't do this alone. This proposal is open to everyone. Wherever World without Wars base teams currently exist we will promote forums, where they don't currently exist we will see how to involve new activists, and where other organisations wish to join in, we will allow them complete freedom to contribute in whatever way they can."

Kostas Klokas from Greece informed those in the meeting of a key moment that can take place during this week in November. "We will issue a worldwide call to stop for 11 seconds on the 11th of November 2011, in other words 11/11/11, and reflect about the theme of nonviolence at a personal and social level. The idea is that in the human process great steps and great discoveries don't need more than 11 seconds to be imagined (for example: to fly, to go to the moon, to stop slavery). We are speaking about illuminated moments in the human process at a social level and also illuminated moments that each individual registers at a personal level."

As Rafael de la Rubia, spokesperson for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence, said on the 2nd of January 2010 in the foothills of Mount Aconcagua. "The World March does not stop here. Numerous projects have opened up that we must continue. This March will not stop until we achieve the elimination of wars and the installation of a culture of nonviolence."

These forums for Peace and Nonviolence are the next steps.

7TH – 13TH NOVEMBER 2011

- > Week of activities: one or more days
- > Focus on 11th November:
"11 seconds of reflection on nonviolence"

POLYCENTRIC FORUM

- > At the grassroots level
- > Open for participation of other associations and for endorsements of different kinds
- > Forums and all other kinds of activities (marches, festivals, cultural activities)

OBJECTIVES

- > To build on the World March for Peace and Nonviolence
- > To continue creating awareness of nonviolence in the world
- > To discuss and analyze the present local situation, link it to the global situation
- > To work out an action plan for grassroots activities that will be carried out after the forum
- > To introduce a new international or regional campaign

Visit our new
international website
www.worldwithoutwars.org



After months of development the WCT is delighted to launch our new website. It has been developed on an open-source platform which should make the system easy to maintain and develop in the future.

We have launched it for now in 2 languages: English and Spanish, but we are able to add any other languages that our members demand as long as we have a coordinator available for the language and willing translators.

If you're interested in having the website in your language or if you find any problems with the site, like broken links, spelling errors, translation errors or anything else, then please contact jana@svetbezvalesk.cz or tonymrobinson@gmail.com

Also, don't forget to send your positive feedback. If you like it, let us know.

World without Wars calls for a rapid end to the use of nuclear energy in the light of the Japanese earthquake

14 Mar 2011 | The earthquake in Japan and the subsequent meltdown of nuclear reactors in Japan has caused fears of a nuclear catastrophe of unprecedented scale. With the approach of the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, which non-industry supported investigations report the deaths of up to 950,000 people, World without Wars spokesperson speaks out about the use of nuclear energy.

The earthquake that struck Japan has caused an explosion inside two nuclear reactors in the Fukushima I Nuclear Power Plant with a possible third reactor also in danger of meltdown causing a radioactive cloud, the evacuation of 170,000 people and the immediate admission into hospital of one hundred people.

Despite the reassurances from the Japanese government, the situation could still worsen and the spin of the nuclear industry can already be seen working to try to lessen the growing opposition to nuclear energy.

What has happened shows that nuclear plants are unsafe and dangerous, not only for the radioactive waste left behind for

future generations for thousands of years, but also for the enormous dangers for those who live nearby. The Japanese government has been totally irresponsible in pursuing a nuclear energy policy given the instability of the country's geology.

Tony Robinson, spokesperson for the organisation said, "World without Wars supports the abandonment of this energy source which apart from being a threat to nuclear weapons proliferation is outdated, insecure and expensive and instead we support the adoption of energy models based on alternative and renewable energy sources.

"From the moment uranium is mined from the ground until the moment it ends up as undisposable waste products the substance causes poisoning, weapons proliferation problems and struggles for control of minerals. It is absolutely irresponsible for governments to use nuclear energy. This is not about restricting the rights of individual countries to pursue energy policies necessary to meet today's national demands; it's about not poisoning the whole planet for hundreds of generations to come."



Campaign against reintroducing of nuclear power in Italy.

Bulletin of World without Wars and Violence, International Humanist Organisation.

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