

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN



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The new moment and the War of the Markets

There are sufficient indicators to interpret that we have entered a new moment in international matters. What started in Tunisia and Egypt with the “Arab Spring” has extended to numerous countries on different continents: from the Outraged of Spain and Greece, to Chile where students are demanding free and good quality education through massive, non-violent demonstrations. The wave is not stopping; on the contrary, it’s growing day by day. People are waking up and channelling their protests through novel movements and new forms of struggle that are gaining renewed strength. It could be that this will not stop until it reaches and moves the consciousnesses of the entire planet.

These mobilisations mark a before and an after. In general they start from the motor of “outrage” against injustice, corruption, a lack of democracy and loss of social advances, and they are taking novel paths, being carried out peacefully and based on the methodology of nonviolence. A current with these dimensions is occurring for the first time, moving spontaneously, without leaders, without indoctrination, with horizontality and in a totally new way. All of this marks a point of inflection from previous, violent revolutions. The model of the “guerrilla” has passed into history. Now people are talking about the “nonviolent rEvolution”.

This way of doing things is disturbing for the powers that be who are prepared to fight against violence. The violent system needs violence to perpetuate itself. And, when these movements act peacefully they receive broad popular support with which its strength grows unstopably. The testimony of an activist makes it clear, “They can’t stop us. It doesn’t matter what the police do. If they come and evict us, we won’t oppose with violence. We will dissolve, but tomorrow we will return to demonstrate once again and there’ll be even more of us. Everyday more people are coming. Time and time again.”

The new moment has also made it clear that the so-called “markets” are setting the agenda of government policy and not the reverse. We can clearly speak of a dictatorship that subjugates even the most “advanced” countries and sets the working agenda. This has a devastating effect with unimaginable cuts and privatisations. All so that speculators in the dictatorship of money may continue to thrive.

The Markets have declared a war

In this moment, the “Markets” have declared war on the people, subjugating governments, forcing them to break agreements, to eliminate social advances in education and health, to reduce advances in pensions, employment stability, etc, etc. There is no limit to their greed that is taking a headlong path towards an abyss in a crisis that they themselves have produced.

Citizens, the people, have been conned. They have been made to believe that there is a big crisis with which everything can be justified. But it is not explained who generated this crisis, who got themselves irresponsibly into debt, who followed incorrect policies, who proposed fictional ways out until they could no longer sustain the financial bubble that they themselves created. This is not a crisis for everyone. Here there is deception, manipulation and distortion, because those who created this crisis, the banks, are those who continue to benefit and end up in profit because of it.

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There are clear indicators of perversion in the political arena. It has been implanted in the social consciousness that profits are earned through private enterprise and that if there are losses they will be covered with public money. If there is a public company that's doing well, it is privatised. If there is an important private company that is doing badly, it is rescued with public funds. Corruption abounds in all countries like an epidemic that people have to fight everywhere.

People are starting to consider themselves

Recent transformations produced in countries, over a very short space of time, show once more the true strength that people have and their great transformational capacity, if it happens using nonviolence and the path of peace. If on the other hand it is violence that prevails, everything ends up in a war where, besides the human losses and the impacts on society, problems multiply exponentially without the possibility to finally resolve them, on the contrary, aggravating them even more, like in the recent cases of Iraq and Afghanistan and more recently in Libya.

We think that these new forces now awakening will find in nonviolence the truly revolutionary tool that will open the future for them, if this tool is directed towards creating truly democratic societies, to improving living conditions and making advances in society so that every human being may have a dignified life.

A generation is awakening

In all of these demonstrations, even if they count on broad and total popular support in almost all sectors of society, we must point out that the principle protagonists are young people. Or maybe we can go even further and affirm that for the first time in history, we are facing the fact that a generation is in tune, connected and becoming aware of its power, awakening and revolutionarily projecting itself on a global scale. Is it possible that we are witnessing the awakening of a generation with a global consciousness? The first non-violent generation in human history that is aware of itself?

Nonviolence opens the future

Here, where the methodology of nonviolence is developed and deepened, adapting it to the country or society, according to its historical moment, combining the virtual work of social networks and the internet with the experience of action in the neighbourhoods, local action and existential contact between people, recovering contact at a human level and where the "I" combines with the "we", where these components are found, movements will advance.

In the process it will continue to open itself to other countries and cultures, connecting with planetarisation, with the global revolution. It will end up as unstoppable as a force of nature. How rapid will this process be? It's difficult to predict. But what is for sure is that it's going in this direction.

In this context World without Wars and Violence believes it is convenient to say:

- › The War of the "Markets" against the people and against the citizenry is a new scenario that must be identified, defined and combated as it was not previously identified in the socio-political panorama. Today the great problem on a global level is the voracity of speculative markets. Here is where famines, epidemics, general poverty, deterioration in healthcare and education, discrimination, dictatorships, corruption, social fragmentation and exclusion, and of course, conflicts, wars, an increase in military spending, etc, etc, all start. This is the path of general dehumanisation on an international level.
- › We see winds of fresh air in these new movements. In them are the seeds of the new world to which we aspire. We express our support to any nonviolent direction that they set out on. This is not just a declaration, because in all countries where WWW is present, our activists are participating in the development of these movements or helping them to form. These non-violent revolutions, then, open the future for the whole of humanity. We are approaching the Universal Human Nation.
- › To push with all our strength so that the direction of nonviolence is not abandoned by these movements. We mustn't be naïve because the entire system will be against them. The system will try to manipulate, infiltrate, deform, corrupt, deviate, influence, discredit, persecute and even get rid off the Movement's followers. Their violent methods are broad. This is why we have to train ourselves and advance in the struggle of organised nonviolence.
- › In the short term, there is a roadmap that is being put together for the first time on an international scale. On the 15th of October there is an international call for united action inviting movements in all countries.



The first Nonviolence Expo culminates in Santiago Library

After 26 days of a variety of activities seeking to promote nonviolence as a model of thought and valid action for the construction of a more human society, accompanied by the exhibition of 78 giant photographs illustrating the passage of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence through 5 continents, the closing event of the Nonviolence Expo took place on the 31st of August.

The first such public event of an educational character on the theme of nonviolence took place in the Santiago Library in the neighbourhood of Quinta Normal.

Photos, songs and videos taken, sung and created along the journey of the first World March for Peace and Nonviolence at the end of 2009 served as a background to the staging of 60 cultural, social, artistic and academic activities.

The idea was to create awareness, to sensitise and reflect about Nonviolence as a lifestyle and Active Nonviolence as a methodology of social transformation of the conditions that provoke pain and suffering in human beings.

Over 80 academics, diplomats, artists, politicians, unionists and social activists—both groups and individuals—voluntarily contributed their art, their thought and their knowledge.

Talks, theatre productions, debates, book presentations, sessions of nonviolent games for children, workshops to understand nonviolent conduct, ceremonies asking for world peace, conversations between environmentalists, educational visits for students, music and dance shows and a thousand conversations about the world we would all like to live in, filled the halls and corridors of the Library with bustle and voices.

The Nonviolence Expo is one more sign of the new times. “As long as Humanity continues to suffer from violence in its most diverse manifestations: war, hunger, manipulation, the absence of real democracy, injustice, discrimination, nuclear threats, exploitation, homophobia, environmental destruction, racism, xenophobia, fear; in sum, human pain and suffering, then this type of event is indispensable,” said Leticia Garcia, Director of the Alethéia Humanist Centre of Studies, the group that organised the Expo.

“I saw the expo and I saw many people from around the world happily hugging each other. I thought that nonviolence was a utopia and from what I saw I realised that there can be peace, understanding regardless of beliefs, races, colours, languages and that if it was like that, this would be a marvellous world. Just everyone has to make their contribution.”

“I entered by chance and found a movement that unites all the basics: respect, the end of discrimination, nonviolence and peace. Sincere congratulations, I hope that in Chile these concepts will continue, above all in regard of the student movement.”

Some of the testimonies left by the visitors serve to highlight the relevance of this event that couldn't be happening in a more opportune moment, a moment in which the social atmosphere, in the world in general and in Chile in particular, has unleashed protests characterised by their nonviolence, demonstrating for and demanding a profound change in the current social, economic, political and cultural model which is unjust and inhuman.

Thousands of people came along, other hearts and consciousnesses were touched. The Nonviolence Expo turned into, over almost one month, a space of convergence for nonviolent activism in Chile.

www.exponoviencia.org



Humanist camping Chania 2011

From the 5th to the 29th of August, humanists from Italy, Holland, Switzerland, France and Greece came together in a magical atmosphere in one of the most beautiful places in Greece, Crete, and more specifically Chania. This seems to be turning into a tradition following our time in Corfu last year. This year Crete gave us the opportunity to explore splendid landscapes; from paradise beaches to ancient kingdoms like Knossos and helped us come closer to each other and interchange in the most favourable conditions about social and personal change. No doubt this beautiful, relaxing and very useful habit will continue in 2012!



Run this Way school race & program

To support the emergence of nonviolent social movements, and to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21st and the International Day of Nonviolence on October 2nd, the Canadian Runthisway organizers are launching a race for peace and nonviolence. The Runthisway project is launched in partnership with World without Wars and Violence.

The first race was organized in 2010 in Rome by World without Wars in Italy. The organizers are inviting schools, students and young people to participate. More than 15,000 students have already registered: they come from 40 elementary and high schools from different countries. The Runthisway organizers invite schools throughout the world that took part in the World March for Peace and Nonviolence in 2009 to take the race challenge for nonviolence.

The kilometers run by the young people and students will be compiled and given to the Global Coalition to protect Education from Attack (GCPEA). The coalition gathers several international organizations and works to highlight the impact of attacks on education. It encourages states to adhere to existing international law protecting education and the strengthening of international norms and standards.



The schools will receive the activity booklet for Runthisway. The booklet proposes practical exercises based on two fundamental teachings: 1 - learning to treat others the way you wish to be treated 2 - learning to resist the violence that is within you and outside of you. These exercises and practices are drawn from the works and teachings of Mario Rodriguez Cobos, Silo and New Humanism. Races will be organized in different schools around the world from September 21st to October 8th.

News from around the world

CANADA

The 7th annual Nonviolence Festival Day in the Park was held in Kitchener during July, with the participation of 40 community groups and 1200 visitors.

There were also music and demonstrations - Tai Chi, Yoga, Meditation - and a kids' area with a stage for stories and puppets, crafts and carnival games.

The event was the product of many volunteers planning for several months and funded by advertising revenue, merchandise sales and donations.

SPAIN

On July 14th World without Wars organized an activity in Castelldefels with more than 50 people of different ages, but mainly parents with their children up to 11 years old. The origin of the meaning of the cranes as a symbol of peace in Japan was explained, then people were invited to make one. To help the youngest children, still unable to distinguish between a crane and a camel (a paper one, of course), a mural filled with photocopies of cranes was arranged, so that they could paint them.



MOZAMBIQUE

On the 66th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, WwW organized a visit to the Park of Study and Reflection Marracuene. Upon arrival there was a small tour of the Park - the youngsters present came from the seminars held in the schools over the previous weeks, and they had never been to the Park - followed by an interchange circle to read together the shocking testimony of hibakusha Tamigushi.

Then groups of interchange discussed the theme of Active Nonviolence and some initiatives for November's Forum for Peace and Nonviolence.

At the end there was a cultural part, in which some participants presented self-composed peace songs and poetry, a theatre performance representing the moment in which the United States army officials ordered the bombing of the Japanese cities and a brief ceremony in the Meditation Hall of the Park (still under construction).



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