



AUSTRALIA EAST TIMOR JAPAN NEW ZEALAND PAPUA NEW GUINEA PHILIPPINES BANGLADESH CHINA INDIA IRAQ ISRAEL MONGOLIA NEPAL NORTH KOREA PAKISTAN PALESTINE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SOUTH KOREA TURKEY AUSTRIA BELARUS BELGIUM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CROATIA CZECH REPUBLIC DENMARK ESTONIA FINLAND FRANCE GERMANY GIBRALTAR GREECE HUNGARY ICELAND ITALY LUXEMBOURG MACEDONIA NETHERLANDS NORWAY POLAND PORTUGAL RUSSIAN FEDERATION SERBIA SLOVAKIA SLOVENIA SPAIN SWEDEN SWITZERLAND TURKEY UNITED KINGDOM ALGERIA BENIN BURKINA FASO CAMEROON COTE D'IVOIRE R. OF THE CONGO EGYPT GAMBIA GHANA GUINEA BISSAU GUINEA CONAKRY KENYA LIBERIA MALI MAURITANIA MOROCCO MOZAMBIQUE NIGER SENEGAL SIERRA LEONE SOUTH AFRICA SWAZILAND TANZANIA TOGO UGANDA ZAMBIA ARGENTINA BOLIVIA BRAZIL CANADA CHILE COLOMBIA COSTA RICA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. ECUADOR EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HAITI HONDURAS MEXICO NICARAGUA PANAMA PARAGUAY PERU UNITED STATES URUGUAY VENEZUELA ANTARCTICA

# What more important cause than peace could there be?

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countdown 127 days

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[www.theworldmarch.org](http://www.theworldmarch.org)

**New Zealand: A country that inspired Gandhi will be the starting point for the World March**

New Zealand, the first country on the planet to see the light of the new day will be the starting point for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence on the 2nd October 2009.

This is also a pioneering country in the defence of pacifism and nonviolence: it was the first country in the world to give the vote to women; to be declared as a country free from nuclear weapons after a civil campaign led to the US withdrawing their bases; to have given equal civil rights to ethnic minorities even before the start of the 20th century; and to have been pioneers in the defence of the environment, since the times of Rainbow Warrior. The proposal for the World March to officially set off from here has been very well received by associations and institutions, and there are already teams working in Auckland, Wanganui and Wellington to make the start an event with global repercussions. People such as Helen Clark, former Prime Minister and current Director of Development Projects at the United Nations and the Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendergast, are among the political personalities and diplomats that are



The statue of Gandhi

**BOLIVIA** "Of course we support the World March for Peace and Nonviolence... what more important cause than peace could there be?" asked the Bolivian President, Evo Morales, while formalising his endorsement of the March in a meeting that took place yesterday, 14th of May, with the spokesperson for Humanism in Latin America, Tomas Hirsch.

The President said that his government is committed to promote peace and thereby it will support dissemination of the March and activities that are being developed. In turn he committed himself to give a video message with his endorsement of the March in the coming days.

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence will reach Bolivia on the 26th of December, passing through Desaguadero on the border with Peru and will hold a special event at the ceremonial centre of Tiwanaku. Then, the Mayor of the city of El Alto, Fanor Nava, will receive the March in a special event, before the March finishes its stay in Bolivia with a central event in Government buildings in La Paz with the participation of the Bolivian President.

"Those of us who are advancing this activity invite those who would like to join to have the March's objectives clear: the reduction of weapons spending, the withdrawal of troops from occupied territories and the dismantling of nuclear weapons," emphasised Hirsch to the press.

The Latin American Coordinator of the March, in turn, invited President Morales to take part in the journey to the Antarctic that will take place at the end of December to join this continent with the March and above all to participate in the final stretch that will conclude in Punta de Vacas in the foothills of Mount



Aconcagua.

Besides the President, several personalities from the worlds of art, politics and culture from this country in the Andes have endorsed the March as is the case of Pablo Ramos, civil Governor of the La Paz region, who also formalised his endorsement today. The Governor expressed his support for the initiative, announcing that the start of the journey on the 2nd of October will be celebrated with a massive event to be held in the Hernando Siles Stadium in La Paz.

## Gender and Development Minister in Liberia endorses the World March

**LIBERIA** In February, various presentations of the March were made in this country that has suffered so many consequences of war. Among others, the Gender and Development Minister, Vabah G. Gayflo, endorsed the March.

In a long series of presentations of the March in Liberia, 11 endorsement videos were made; Vabah G. Gayflor (Gender and Development Minister), Julie Endee (Cultural Ambassador, traditional kingdom), Daniel Acheson (President of the Civil Society Movement, an association of all the trade unions),

Moses S. Tandanpolie (Member of Parliament), Tokay Tomah Kailie (Musician and executive Director of Woman Aid Society), George Sie Williams (President of the Students Union at the University of Liberia), Amos Monweh (President of the youth association, Global Students Development Program), John Y. Jukon (National President of LINKK, an association of more than 250 NGOs), Reverend Geegbe (from the Church of God of Prophecy), Aryee K. Williams (President of the Community Policing Forum) y Hh Zaizay (TV and radio presenter).



In addition to this, many organisations endorsed the World March: Fanima Islamic School, Combatstress School, anti-violence youth groups, the International network of Women for Peace.

The radio station: One Mission in Liberia broadcast a live interview to invite people. This generated lots of interest from the listeners who started calling for more information.

Movie on [theworldmarch.org](http://theworldmarch.org)



# World March presented at the United Nations

→ giving their backing to the March, alongside artists, professors, journalists and associations such as The Peace Foundation (promoter of the March in NZ), Greenpeace and Amnesty International, among others. Among the events programmed for the kick off are a visit to the Chatham Islands, where the Māori people, from whom Gandhi learned active nonviolence principles, will offer the base team their hospitality and a blessing ceremony. From the north of the country, in Auckland, until the official start at the Gandhi Monument in Wellington, activities and marches for peace have been organised that will start before the arrival of the international team and will culminate on the 2nd of October, in which we expect a wide range of individuals from across the world to support the official inauguration events with their presence.

**WORLD** The Chilean Mission to the United Nations organized the first presentation of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence inviting international spokesperson Rafael de la Rubia, President of World Without Wars (Spain) to address UN Delegates of the Third Committee and NGOs from the NPT PrepCom.

De la Rubia explained the background and objectives of the March and the growing list of international endorsers.

Summarizing his reasons for coming to the United Nations, de la Rubia said: "The World March has the basic objectives of creating global awareness that peace is the only pathway forward and that today it's necessary to accompany this peace with the methodology of nonviolence so that we may truly pass into a new stage for Humanity."

De la Rubia proposed that the Heads of State endorsing the World March make a joint declaration of support at the opening of the next UN General Assembly in September. He added, "on December 1st, the World Marchers will bring their message directly to the United Nations



Rafael de la Rubia with UN delegates

after two months of traveling through several continents."

Delegates attending from countries such as Argentina, China, Iran, Uruguay, Syria, Guatemala, Poland and Burkina Faso were receptive to the March and promised to take the information back to their respective governments.

Gladys Acosta, Chief of UNIFEM, Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed enthusiastic support for the March connecting it to their worldwide campaign, "Say No to Violence Against Women".

Subsequently first contacts were made with the Chinese delegation in order to define a way forward to facilitate the passage of the World March through China.

Belén Sapag of the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations gave the opening remarks explaining Chile's interest in supporting the march. She also introduced US World March spokesperson, Chris Wells who gave a brief introduction about the significance of a world march that promoted peace and nonviolence that will "give voice to the silent ones".



## World March endorsers

MICHELLE BACHELET - BRYAN ADAMS - GIANLUCA PESSOTTO - MAYORS FOR PEACE  
ART GARFUNKEL - YOKO ONO - DALAI LAMA - SILO - ZDENEK TROŠKA - AWICH  
POLAR - UMBERTO GUIDONI - MAXIMILIANO GUERRA - LUISA MORGANTINI - NOAM  
CHOMSKY - JURY CHECHI - ARUN GANDHI - IVÁN RAMIRO CÓRDOBA SEPULVEDA

### President Fernández of Argentina

ARGENTINA POLITICS

Lawyer and current President of Argentina Since her time as a student in the National University of La Plata, she identified with the Justicialist Movement and committed herself to the struggle for Human Rights. She has held public posts on various occasions and is currently President of the Republic of Argentina.

*"I send a very special message of endorsement for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence. May these lines be an expression of the certainty that we must all commit ourselves to work every day for the construction of a world without violence, in which the banners of justice, liberty, dialogue, equal opportunities and respect for the dignity of every human being are upheld. Let the March find people from all nations together striving for peace and liberty."*



### Carlos Valderrama

COLOMBIA SPORT

Colombian soccer player, Carlos (The Kid) Valderrama, has endorsed the World March inspiring others to participate in his nationally televised video spot asking for the end of wars and for complete nuclear disarmament.

*"I join the World March for Peace and Nonviolence asking for the end of wars, complete and total nuclear disarmament and the elimination of all forms of violence."*



## Peace Celebration

**IRELAND** The Kilkenny branch of the World March, has held its first Peace Celebration locally. A small but enthusiastic crowd turned up at the Canal Square, Kilkenny, where Hungarian woman Krisztina Dragoman was chief organiser. She said that activities will continue throughout the year. Next will be a multi-cultural fundraising event with the World March for Peace and Non Violence on June 20.

A concert is being planned for August 6, Hiroshima Day, with a number of bands playing.



## Presentation of the march with Danielle Mitterrand

**FRANCE** President of the foundation France Libertés - Fondation Danielle Mitterrand. She is the widow of the 21st President of France, François Mitterrand.

*"I have joined the World March for Peace and Nonviolence like millions of human beings who want to live with good intelligence, to share the richness of co-existence and to give Peace a chance."*



## Commemorative lottery tickets for the March

**SPAIN** ONCE is a Spanish charity (National Organization of the Spanish Blind) and raises funds to provide services for the blind and persons with serious visual impairment. One of the most visible aspects of ONCE is the charity lottery ticket known throughout Spain as the "Cupón". The basic graphic designs on the cupón stay the same on each day, but the theme changes to correspond to current events. To commemorate the World March for Peace and Nonviolence, ONCE are producing special cupóns on the 21st of September, the 2nd of October and the 14th of November when the March reaches Spain.

## Atapuerca and Santillana del Mar, archaeological heritage sites, endorse the World March

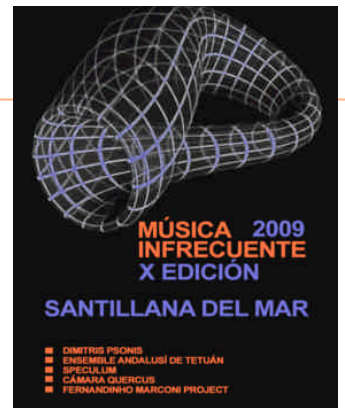
**SPAIN** Both Spanish councils, internationally known for their prehistoric archaeological importance for Humanity are betting on the future, supporting the publicising of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence in their respective musical festivals: the II Atapercu International Percussion Festival and the X Infrequent Music Festival

Santillana del Mar, where the Altamira caves are to be found, known as the Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art, has enthusiastically

endorsed the World March.

This was expressed by Mayor Isidoro Rabago, who stated that "in the 21st century all of us must contribute with our grain of sand to build a just society". Rabago also underlined as the reasons for his endorsement the need to struggle "solely through the strength of the words". In addition, Atapuerca Council in Burgos, another site closely linked to human history because of its archaeological deposits, has also announced its support of the March.

In addition, Ernesto Schmied, director of the musical festival that are taking place in both towns during the summer, has promised to make the widest possible dissemination of the March during these events. They are FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE PERCUSIÓN ATAPERCU (Atapuerca, on the 16th to the 19th of July) and the FESTIVAL MÚSICA INFRECUENTE, (Santillana del Mar, between the 4th and 11th of September). So, two places especially linked to human evolution will put their efforts - through art - in the



publicising of this initiative that is aspiring, in the words of its organisers, to leave behind violence as "a stage in human prehistory".



**Mairead C. Maguire**  
UNITED KINGDOM NOBEL PRIZE

She co-founded the Community for Peace People in Northern Ireland and co-organised a march with 35,000 people onto the streets of Belfast. She believed the most effective way to end the violence is the re-education. Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 continues her work as a member a network of Women Nobel Peace laureates and trying to bring an end to the violence between Israel and Palestine.



**Helen Clark**  
NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENTS

Member of the New Zealand Labour government which introduced peace studies into the school curriculum, and which prohibited nuclear weapons, then Prime Minister, she launched the Global Campaign for Peace Education. Honorary member of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament and of the Council of Women World Leaders, she currently heads the U.N. Development Programme.



**Edgar Mitchell**  
UNITED STATES ASTRONAUT

He is best known for his life-changing experience seeing the planet Earth from space on his Apollo XIV mission in 1971. He is the founder of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, which sponsors research on the nature of consciousness. *"I endorse The World March for Peace and Nonviolence and its efforts to bring awareness to governments and people worldwide to end wars, occupations and violence of all kind."*



**Rigoberta Menchú Tum**  
GUATEMALA NOBEL PRIZE

Doctor Rigoberta Menchu Tum, from the K'iche-Maya indigenous group was recognised in 1992 with the Nobel Peace Prize. *"I want to send a very special greeting to all the friends who are generating this energy around the whole world [...]. Above all I want to call on young people to participate in this movement for peace, [...] so they can make a better world, participating in global action like these."*



**Carlos Sastre**  
SPAIN SPORT

Winner of the last Tour de France and popular favourite for the Italian "Giro del centenario", Spanish champion Carlos Sastre showed his support for the World March, the World without Wars initiative, appearing with some of his representatives in Trieste (Italy) after the challenging second stage of the race. He confirmed his commitment to the initiative in a little video spot.



### The World March in Numbers

- Continents: 6
- Countries: 90
- Distance: 99,419 miles (160,000 kilometers)
- Duration: 90 days
- Transportation: 40 train trips (including the Trans Siberian)
- 100 trips by land (four-wheel-drive, bus, car, motorcycle, bicycle, etc.), including the segments from Paris to Dakar and from North to South America through the Andes Mountains.
- 14 trips by air.
- 25 trips by sea (ship, barge, canoe, etc.)
- Climates: the March will pass through all climates, from mild and temperate - crossing through Mediterranean, continental, tropical, and desert zones - to polar. From the Siberian Steppes, through the Sahara desert and the Atacama Desert (the driest in the world), to Antarctica.
- Seasons: in 90 days the March will pass twice through all 4 seasons of the year.
- Altitude: during the journey the March will climb to altitudes of more than 16,400 feet (5,000 meters)
- Permanent team: 50 members.
- Border crossings: 160
- Co-organizing institutions: 500
- Collaborating and supporting institutions: 3,000
- Visits with governments and political representatives: 100
- Spiritual centers: 25
- Participants in the tour: 1 million
- Virtual participants: 10 million



## It's time for citizens to exert pressure for Peace!

With the participation of 350 people, representatives of social, academic and cultural organizations, the World March was launched in Colombia.

**COLOMBIA** During the event, the government of Bogotá publicly committed itself to promoting the initiative.

For Samuel Moreno, Mayor of Bogotá Capital District, the development of programs for peace and nonviolence is the best path toward guaranteeing the fulfillment of the fundamental rights of citizens. He stressed that his support for the World March is in keeping with a set of policies aimed at eradicating all forms of violence in the city. His administration is making efforts to do away with the kidnapping phenomenon in Colombia and develop the mechanisms of reconciliation and peace-building. Among those measures can be counted a program to eliminate violence against women.

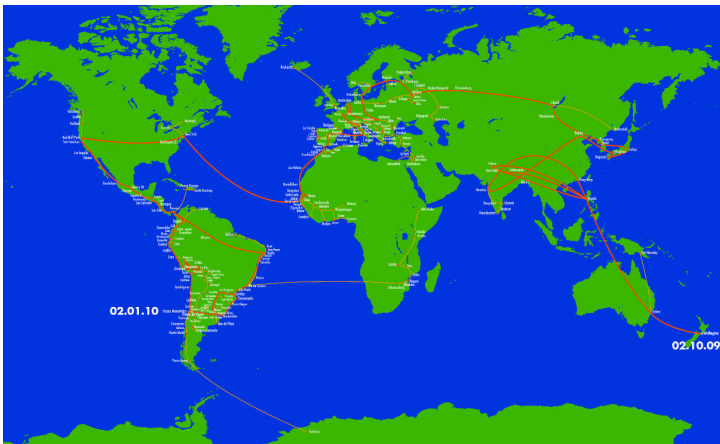
Rafael de la Rubia, global coordinator of the March, stressed the fact that the crisis of the current system has already

affected even banks, which only a few years ago were considered invulnerable. He pointed out that only the military industry doesn't seem to have been affected by the current crisis. "All the governments, especially in Europe, speak all the time in favor of peace, but their military industry hasn't stopped producing," he stated.

The nuclear threat is a solid threat, even in countries in which it is thought to be a distant matter. It is a global threat, De la Rubia emphasized, but globalization also gives humanity the opportunity to act as one and organize actions on a global level such as the World March.

As a representative of the program to eliminate violence against women, the well-known actress Alejandra Borrero appeared, explaining that the project called "Not a single rose petal" seeks to bring about a city without violence toward women and girls. She summarized the moment by saying that "in 2000 we saw how the arrival of the new millennium was celebrated around the world; today we can see how the whole world is preparing to ask for peace and non-violence."

The event was carried out in an auditorium of the District Institute of Recreation and Sports, a department of city hall, thanks to a process of cooperation that is ongoing between the Humanist Movement, the organization World Without Wars, and the Bogotá mayor's office.



PARAGUAY



CHILE



SPAIN



ARGENTINA



GREECE



FRANCE



ECUADOR

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: