



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 D.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 GUGANDA 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

# "We can also deactivate our own violent behaviour"

These were the words spoken by the World March Spokesperson, Rafael de la Rubia on Saturday 20th June at the inauguration of the Park of Study and Reflection in Toledo, Spain.

**countdown 84 days**  
**October 2, 2009**  
**January 2, 2010**

International Bulletin N° 8  
 9th July 2009  
[www.theworldmarch.org](http://www.theworldmarch.org)

## World March endorsement campaign

In more than 100 countries the **Humanist Movement** is promoting an endorsement campaign for the **World March** and going to the streets to publicise the March's proposals and to ask for the explicit support of those who believe in Nonviolence as a transformational force.

More than 700,000 endorsements have so far been gathered from the American continent, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. In this campaign we are not just looking for a signature, but rather the active and voluntary participation of thousands of men and women, of diverse beliefs, customs and cultures, with different ways of thinking, who come together in the ideals of Peace and Nonviolence. We are looking for those who can publicise the proposals of the World March and influence their immediate environment.

On the 6th of August events will be held around the world in order to remember the destruction of **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** by atomic bombs. This shame on humanity will be marked and with the March we will be generating a consciousness so that this never happens again.

The next endorsement campaign will take place between the 4th and 14th of September.

**SPAIN** Hundreds of Humanists and friends from all over Spain, the rest of Europe and other continents were present for this event and heard the words spoken by de la Rubia to mark 149 days before the March passes through the Park on the 15th of November. Rafa touched on an important point of the World March, apart from the more frightening issues of Nuclear weapons; he also spoke about the need to overcome violence, particularly the violence that human beings carry inside themselves.

*"But, as we are in a centre of study and reflection we can also speak about giving an inner dimension to this World March. It is not only a march "outside". We can do our inner March; to also journey through our inner places of conflict, our places of contradiction, our enmities, our inner battles. We can also deactivate our own violent behaviour, and in this work we will also be 'doing the World March for Peace and Nonviolence'.*

*"Friends, this Park of Study and Reflection has been built on historic land. Many civilisations have passed through here. There have been wars, invasions, conquests and re-conquests, full of blood-thirsty stories, where madness reached extremes of misfortune. In the last violent episode which took the worst form: that of "civil war", it brought members of the same town and even the same family into confrontation. But there have also been moments of splendour in an era in which Europe was submerged in shadows. In the Middle Ages, when Toledo was known as Tulaytulah, the "doubly tolerant". Here the three cultures: Arabic, Christian and Jewish lived side by side. Toledo became a centre of irradiation of knowledge. People came here from across Europe seeking knowledge. This World March comes also from these lands as a new attempt, one*



The Hall at Toledo Park, de la Rubia with Silo and the Monolith

*more contribution, to decisively leave behind human prehistory."*

De la Rubia closed his speech with a renewed call for all present to become protagonists of this extraordinary endeavour. He concluded, "We have 104 days to go until the start of the first World March. Friends, the majority of us are already protagonists of this March, but to those who are not, we invite you to participate, to be the architects of the greatest human adventure in favour of peace and nonviolence."

## World March presentations in the Philippines

**PHILIPPINES** During a 10 day campaign to gather endorsements from members of the public, WM activists in Manila were busy at work. The WM was presented at the Judge Celia Muñoz Palma High School with 1100 students who formed 2 Human Peace signs, at the Payatas C Elementary School, and through a booth at a travel magazine event for youth called "ROAM". ROAM is featuring the WM in their August issue.



Endorsement campaign in Amsterdam





### The Supreme Council of Imams announces its endorsement of the World March

**TOGO** The President of the Muslim Union of Togo and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Togo publicly stated their endorsements of the World March for Peace.

His Excellency **Bouraima Inouss**, President of the Muslim Union, and the Togo Council of Imams have announced their support for the worldwide Peace initiative. The public announcement of their endorsements took place on the 12th of

June in the central mosque of the Togolese capital, Lomé, after 1 o'clock prayers.

The announcement was made in front of the congregation of the more than 8,000 faithful Muslims.

# Presentation of the World March to the Italian media

On the 23rd of June a press conference was held in Milan to launch the World March in Italy.

**ITALY** Giorgio Schultze, European Spokesperson for the March and Emanuela Fumagalli, Italian Spokesperson introduced the World March to the journalists and companies present.

Also taking part were:

**Nicholetta Flutti**, manager of Inter Campus who reaffirmed their commitment around the world;

**Alberto Nicoli** of Emergency, one of the most important of the 420 associations that have endorsed the March in Italy;

The General Manager of Guna, a company that is supporting the March in Italy and publicising it through their employees and in all their public communications;

**Emma Re**, Italian singer most famous for having sung during the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games, who spoke as a representative of the countless Italian endorsers and who has dedicated a part of her new CD to the World March by putting the logo on the cover;

**Mariolina Moioli** of Milan City Council was also present in her



Press conference panellists

role as councillor for Families, Schools and Social Policy and announced that "The City of Milan is sponsoring the World March that will travel through the world's capitals to promote the construction of a culture of peace and nonviolence."

At the end of the conference the logistics of participating were explained and the campaign "Adopt a Kilometre!" was launched. (See [www.marciamondiale.org/sostieni](http://www.marciamondiale.org/sostieni))

[www.marciamondiale.org/sostieni](http://www.marciamondiale.org/sostieni))

Once the conference was over many radio interviews were given and lots of news was subsequently published on line.

The biggest circulation sports newspaper, La Gazzetta dello Sport, interviewed Emanuela Fumagalli and they published on their home page the endorsement video with people from the world of sport passing the World March jersey to each other.

## More endorsers

**MORE THAN 2000 ORGANISATIONS TOGETHER WITH HUNDREDS OF RENOWNED PEOPLE FROM THE WORLDS OF POLITICS, CULTURE, SHOW BUSINESS AND SPORT, NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE ENDORSED THE MARCH.**  
 DESMOND TUTU - DALAI LAMA - SILO - JOSÉ SARAMAGO - RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ - EDUARDO GALEANO - DARIO FO - MAIRED CORRIGAN MAGUIRE - NOAM CHOMSKY - MICHELLE BACHELET - RAFAEL CORREA - CRISTINA FERNANDEZ - EVO MORALES - STJEPAN MESIC - QUEEN RANIA AL ABDULLAH - YOKO ONO - VIGGO MORTENSEN - NOA - JUANEZ - BOB WILSON - ZUBIN MEHTA - PENELOPE CRUZ - PHILIP GLASS - LOU REED - ART GARFUNKEL - LAURA PAUSINI - DANIEL BARENBOIM - JURY CHECHI

### President Vazquez of Uruguay

URUGUAY POLITICS

Dr. Tabare Vazquez, President of Uruguay becomes the latest Latin American president to give his backing to the World March.

President Vazquez of Uruguay joins President Bachelet of Chile, President Fernandez of Argentina, President Morales of Bolivia, and President Correa of Ecuador becoming the 5th Latin American President to endorse the World March, together with President Mesic of Croatia and President Ramos Horta of East Timor. In his letter to World March organisers in Uruguay, President Vazquez wrote:

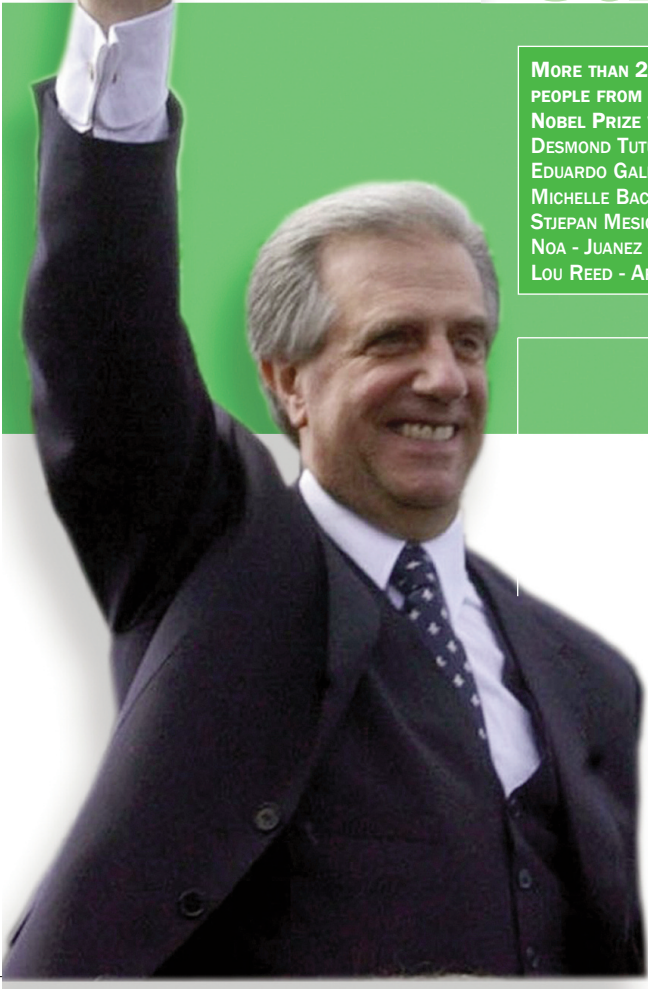
**"Please count on my endorsement and that of the Government over which I preside because there is no room for doubts or delays with this initiative. Peace is everyone's right and nonviolence is also a shared and permanent responsibility."**



### Mary Robinson

IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mary Robinson is a former President of Ireland, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a founding member and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders. In 2004, she received Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for her work in promoting human rights.





## Portugal and Spain joined by a Peace Bridge



**PORTUGAL-SPAIN** On the 16th of June, volunteers from both sides of the Spain-Portugal border gathered to hold hands across the old International Bridge in support of the WM.

More than 500 people from the border towns of Tui and Valença do Minho formed a human chain in support of the WM which will cross the border from Portugal into Spain on the 1st of November.

Around 11am, the Portuguese contingent met the Spanish contingent around the old border crossing to prepare a banner with the slogan "Peace Bridge" that was then carried to the international bridge.

The Activity benefited from the collaboration with the Tui and Valença do Minho councils.

## The WM in the world's longest flag

**ARGENTINA** The name of the March, covering more than 100 metres, is part of "Alta en el Cielo" (High in the Sky), the longest flag in the world according to the Guinness Book of Records.

The flag is more than 15 kilometres long, made up of sections that communities from around the country have donated. In Rosario, the city where the national flag was created, the parts are assembled for the annual parade in which thousands of people participate.

This year, the new part was the inclusion of the World March in one of its sections, which was invited by organisers of the project when then they recently gave their endorsement.

"The organisers of 'Alta en el Cielo' gave us this opportunity when they endorsed the March. A group of Humanists cut out the fabric letters and sewed them to the flag. Today is its first outing... It's very exciting and we are very happy".

Alta en el Cielo (the first verse of a popular song) is the name of a project by the Rosario Journalist, Julio Vacaflor.



## Public Presentation of the World March in Mozambique

**MOZAMBIQUE** Around 400 people were present in the presentation of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence, organised by the Humanist Movement that took place on the 20th June in the Franco-Mozambican Cultural Centre in Maputo, capital of the country.

During the event, Michel Ussene, Spokesperson for New Humanism in Africa explained the importance of a March of this nature in the world, as well as the endorsement of Mozambique and the national



initiatives that are in progress to support the March.

Philippe Gagnaux, a doctor recognised for his affinities in the political field, was invited to speak on

the question of violence and wars in the world. His presentation reflected the current situation of violence and conflicts that characterise the world.

During the event presentations were made about national and international initiatives for the World March. There were also testimonies by citizens who have endorsed the March and have decided to take it to other places with different initiatives and projects.

The launch of the March was covered by journalists from TV, radio and newspapers.

At the end of the event the participants formed a Human Peace Sign in Independence Square.



**Isabel Allende**  
CHILE LITERATURE

Isabel Allende is the author of The House of the Spirits, Eva Luna and Paula, among many other works. Before that she was a journalist for a Chilean women's magazine, for TV shows and movie documentaries. She has earned numerous honours around the world, both as a writer and as a feminist. Ms. Allende has also earned Honorary Degrees in her native Chile, in the United States and Italy.



**Carolyn Carlson**  
FRANCE MUSIC

Internationally famous dancer and choreographer at the Paris Opera Ballet for more than 10 years. *"Imagine that the whole world joined hands and surrendered their selfish desires of power, borders, and glory. We of the same breathing air of existence, a shared cosmic lung of survival, being of the same breath in the other's blood. Reflections of mercy."*



**Héctor Chumpitaz**  
PERU SPORTS

Chumpitaz is a famous Peruvian former footballer. *"I call upon all people to take part, all colleagues from sport in general, from all disciplines, because this March is going to be important so that we see that between human beings we have to have friendship, care, appreciation. I call on all people, especially Peruvians, to support this great March for Nonviolence."*



**David Suzuki**  
CANADA ECOLOGY

David Suzuki is a Canadian science broadcaster and environmental activist. He is best known as host of the popular and long-running TV series, The Nature of Things, seen in over forty nations. He is also a well-known critic of government inaction to protect the environment, and the author of over forty books.



**Elena Poniatowska**  
MEXICO LITERATURE

Poniatowska is a journalist, writer and social activist. She has participated very actively in politics and development in Mexico. *"We are asking for global disarmament and we are against all forms of violence... Violence is not hereditary nor is it in our genes, no one has a violent brain and only the powerful who sell weapons want wars..."*





### The World March in Numbers

**40** years have passed since the first U.N. resolution asking for Israeli retreat from the occupied territories in Palestine.

**7** Presidents and **1** Queen have already endorsed the World March: Michelle Bachelet (Chile), Rania al Abdullah (Jordan), Cristina Fernández (Argentina), Evo Morales (Bolivia), Rafael Correa (Ecuador), Tabaré Ramón Vázquez (Uruguay), Stjepan Mesic (Croatia) and José Manuel Ramos-Horta (East Timor).

**100** million dollars per day Cost of the military intervention of the United States in Afghanistan while for civil reconstruction only 7 million dollars per day is targeted.

**200** Nuclear weapons in Europe (B61 Bombs) distributed in US bases situated in 5 European countries (Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy and Turkey)

**+4%** The further increase of world military spending in 2008; despite the economic crisis. This means a record of 1464 million dollars. (source: SIPRI, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

### Editorial team

- Daniela Mencarelli (Italy), Coordination
- Tony Robinson (UK / Poland), English edition.
- María Silvia Marini (Argentina) and María José López (Spain), Spanish edition.
- Carles Martín (Spain), Catalan edition.
- Giovanna Vascimino (Italy), Italian edition.
- Olivier Turquet (Italy), documentation
- Angelo Colella (Italy), design

Contact: [worldmarch@theworldmarch.org](mailto:worldmarch@theworldmarch.org)

## Celebration of world ethics in Helsinki

**FINLAND** The annual Helsinki multicultural festival "Global Village" was held on 23rd to the 24th of May. During the festival, WM organisers were actively promoting the World March.



The Celebration, held in front of the statue of the national author of Finland and the national theatre, consisted of members of diverse faiths and convictions, who each expressed their communities' version of the Golden Rule: the basis of a universal ethics. Each of the speakers expressed their personal conviction rather than being formal authorities of their respective communities. The communities represented included the Buddhist community, the Baha'i community, the Islamic community, the Unitarian Universalists, the Lutheran Church, the Christian Science community, the followers of Sri Mata Amritanandamayi ("Amma"), the Hinduism-inspired community Ananda Marga, and members of the Humanist Movement.

## Support from the President of the UN General Assembly

**Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann said that there is a 100% agreement with the goals of the World March.**

**USA** The President of the UN General Assembly Miguel d'Escoto and International World March Coordinator Rafael de la Rubia met on June 16th at the UN headquarters in New York to discuss the objectives of the World March and its endorsement by the President of the General Assembly.

In the meeting, which lasted more than an hour and took place in a friendly atmosphere of deep mutual understanding, both parties expressed their firm commitment to work together to promote the World March and its goals, which are in agreement with the founding principles of the United Nations.

D'Escoto said he personally supports the World March because

he shares the objectives it pursues and the principles it represents. He said he would work to achieve the support of other member nations, as has already happened with Nicaragua, and that he would help in the organization of the March in Asia, Europe and the Americas. Both parties agreed that there must be "zero tolerance" of nuclear weapons and that it is essential to achieve their complete eradication, one of the main objectives of the World March.

After the meeting, de la Rubia met with the Chinese Mission to the United Nations to explain the goals of the March, discuss China's endorsement of the March and the possibilities of the March passing through China.



d'Escoto and de la Rubia



TOGO

LA PACE HA UNA MARCIA IN PIÙ!



ITALY



ARGENTINA



CZECH REPUBLIC



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



NETHERLANDS



SPAIN

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: