

# December 2013



This bulletin is inspired by the recent article by Marianne Perez de Fransius who has started a "peace superhero series" on the Internet. This raises important questions for our time, "What is a peace hero? and What is good leadership for a culture of peace?"

Perhaps the best example of peace heroes and leadership at the present moment of history is "the Elders" founded by Nelson Mandela and including a number of Nobel Peace Laureates and former Presidents who work for peace and reconciliation around the world, and especially in Africa. In their biannual meeting, which took place recently in South Africa, they discussed the need for ethical leadership and what it requires. CPNN readers know the work of the Elders through articles concerning dialogue in South Sudan, recognition of Palestine, peace efforts by women in Great Lakes region, and protecting internet freedom.

Once again, as they have done now each year since 2009 to mark the campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, the Nobel Women's Initiative provides biographies of 16 women leaders involved in local action for peace and justice around the world, and in particular to stop violence against women. CPNN carries articles in November from the first four women to be cited this year: Hania Moheeb from Egypt; Visaka Dharmadasa from Sri Lanka; Julienne Lusenge from the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Marjorie Lafontant from Haiti.

Four other recent CPNN articles concern the work of other true peace heroes.

- In India, Ela Bhatt (actually a member of the Elders) who organized a trade union of poor, self-employed women.
- In Bangladesh, Fazle Hasan Abed runs the world's largest NGO, a creative self-help program centered on mothers and their families.
- In Afghanistan, Sima Samar established and manages the Shudada Organization which has schools and clinics focusing on women and girls.
- And the widely acknowledged "father of peace research", Johan Galtung, originally from Norway, is celebrated in a book of his key essays collected in a book for the first time.

All of these individuals illustrate well the description of good leadership provided at the meeting of the Elders by Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway and international leader for health and sustainable development: "To be bold; to have the courage of your convictions; and to think long-term, not short-term or for political expedience."

Last year, CPNN asked a group of young people who was their hero at the present time, and one name stood out: Julian Assange, for his boldness and courage to blow the whistle on the secrets of the culture of war and promote the free flow of information which is essential for a culture of peace. Recently, Edward Snowden has been recognized for the same reasons. He illustrates the fact that "The power of a single person can change the world."

The role of the individual to change the world is especially marked in our time by singers and musicians who devote their music to a culture of peace. In recent weeks, CPNN has carried articles on music for culture of peace by Rochy Ameneiro from Cuba, JosÈ Antonio Abreu from Venezuela, Gilberto Gil from Brazil and Norman Granz in the United States. One should also mention in this context the music for Israeli/Palestinian solidarity by Daniel Barenboim.

More and more people are providing leadership for a culture of peace, and increasingly it is women who are involved. This bodes well for the future as their consciousness will be transmitted as mothers, daughters and sisters. There are so many peace leaders now that one website lists biographies, quotes and links for one thousand "heroes for a better world."

## PEACE EDUCATION



The Peace Superheroes Series

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Exploring new ways of connecting people with nature

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## HUMAN RIGHTS



16 Days of Activism: Meet Marjorie Lafontant, Haiti

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## WOMEN'S EQUALITY



Campaign: My Body is a Canvas, Not a Target

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## DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Belém hosts First Culture of Peace Encounter (Brazil)

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## TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Building competences to fight hate speech online

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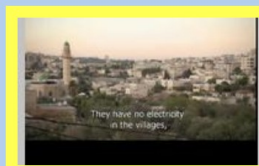
## FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Culture of Peace Congress calls for justice and equality (Bolivia)

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## DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Under the Same Sun: A film for Israel and Palestine

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November 2013



Disarmament has been in the news this month.

The [Nobel Peace Prize](#) was awarded this year to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, calling attention to the important initiative of the United Nations to locate and destroy the chemical weapons that have already been used during the civil war in Syria. The UN initiative was born of an agreement between the United States and Russia which avoided, at least for the time being, a major escalation of that war.

Other international agencies have renewed the call for the signing and ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1992, but has yet to be fully implemented by many major countries. Of special importance in the renewed campaign is the [involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union](#), which is composed of parliamentarians from around the world. More than 40 Speakers of Parliament took part in their recent general assembly meeting which put a great emphasis on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

There is also an increasing [criticism of drones](#), the unmanned airplanes being used by the United States to regularly bomb countries in the Middle East and South Asia.

One does not see much progress on disarmament of nuclear weapons. The International Peace Bureau recently completed and reported on [a survey of 172 countries](#) on their national measures and unilateral efforts toward disarmament. Only eight countries bothered to respond. None of the nuclear powers responded, which prompted the researcher for the report to conclude that "It is counter intuitive that a state would

educate its own population to question its sovereign prerogatives, and the author was not optimistic of finding a genuine disarmament education program run by a state."

There is also not much progress on ratification by Member States of the arms trade treaty that was adopted this April by the UN General Assembly (See [May bulletin of CPNN](#)). As of now [the UN website](#) reports that it has been ratified by only 8 countries, and according to [news reports](#), many senators in the United States have said they will not allow ratification by that country.

Meanwhile, civil society organizations, especially those on the political left, continue to try to push for [nuclear disarmament in the Middle East](#). Following the failure of states to attend last year's meeting that had been scheduled for Helsinki (See [CPNN, December 24, 2012](#)), there is now a call for a meeting of civil society in Israel with the theme, "For a Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East.

Now for some good news. Following up the theme of the [June CPNN bulletin](#), you may have noticed that a majority of CPNN articles this month come from CPNN reporters, 41 in fact. As a result there is a much higher volume of stories than in the past, now almost two a day!

Most of the reporters this month are from Europe and North America. However, in order to better reflect the Global Movement, the Culture of Peace News network needs more reporters from other regions as well.

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



Video games and law of war: International Committee of the Red Cross

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**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**



Initial count from Amboseli is good news for elephants

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**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**



Global conference, including teachers, commits to fight child labour

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**WOMEN'S  
EQUALITY**



Voices against Violence'

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**DEMOCRATIC  
PARTICIPATION**



Restorative Justice for Children in Brazil

**TOLERANCE &  
SOLIDARITY**



UNOY Youth Advocacy Team at the UN, October 2013

**FREE FLOW  
OF INFORMATION**



World needs more teachers, quality education: UN agencies

**DISARMAMENT &  
SECURITY**



Sima Samar: human rights defender in Afghanistan

# October 2013



In addition to thousands of local events around the world (too numerous to mention) marking the International Day of Peace on September 21, five important international meetings for a culture of peace took place in September.

## 1 - Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

At the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, representatives established a "[Network of Foundations and Research Institutions Promoting a Culture of Peace in Africa](#)." The network is part of the Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in Africa that was established earlier this year at the Luanda Forum (see [CPNN of March 26](#)).

## 2 Geneva, (Switzerland)

The [annual meeting of the Global Alliance of Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace](#) heard reports from the highest level gathering of national peace ministries in the history of the organization. Most impressive was the National Peace Council in Ghana which represents a broad spectrum of Ghanaian society and is credited with helping to maintain peace during and after national election campaigns. Similar initiatives were described from elsewhere in Africa, as well as Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Costa Rica.

## 3 UN headquarters in New York

For the second straight year, the United Nations General Assembly sponsored a [High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace](#), featuring primarily reports from civil society organizations.

## 4 Bangkok (Thailand)

The UNESCO office in hosted a [meeting of educators and historians](#) in a long-term project to produce materials for history education in South-East Asia that promote peace and mutual understanding instead of conflict between nationalistic histories that has been called "culture wars."

## 5 Stockholm (Sweden)

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) held its [Triennial gathering](#) which concluded that "the forming of international coalitions for military intervention is now much more difficult as public opinion against war has become so strong. People are weary of war and the deceit and rhetoric that go with it. They are suspicious of double speak and are tired of `humanitarian' statements which end with actions that simply generate more human suffering".

The IPB awarded their [annual peace prize](#) to Chelsea/Bradley Manning, the whistleblower imprisoned for having divulged secret information about American culture of war activities . No doubt the whistleblower activities of Manning, [Robert Snowden](#), [Glenn Greenwald](#) and [Julian Assange](#) have greatly contributed to this growing public opinion against war.

Finally, in the same spirit as last month's bulletin about peace education activities, CPNN has recently published reports on the development of peace education in [Armenia](#) and [Nicaragua](#).



## PEACE EDUCATION



Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and a Culture of Peace in South-East Asia through Shared Histories

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Pacific leaders endorse climate-action declaration

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## HUMAN RIGHTS



Refugees International Statement on New U.S. Initiative, "Safe From the Start"

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## WOMEN'S EQUALITY



Blog 'Woman 2 Woman Networking'

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## DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Parliaments Preparing for International Day of Democracy

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## TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Interfaith Cultural Study Tour to Nepal: Pakistan Youth Explore the Mysteries of Nepal

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## FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



'Snowden did it for all of us'

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## DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Pope on Syria: Violence not the path to peace

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# September 2013



We return this month to a frequent theme of CPNN bulletins - the energy, enthusiasm and international solidarity of today's young people. As Meg Villanueva expresses in her [article on the Youth Building Peace project in the Caucasus](#): "Youth are not just the "victims" of long-standing conflicts; we are also agents and actors that can help support and sustain the development of the peace process. "

This was very evident in two international summer schools this month.

The summer school of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (see [CPNN of May 9](#)) attracted one hundred young social activists from 93 countries. As described in the [article by Marcos Estrada](#), "My day at the school was an enriching joyful experience. Youth from around the world should hold hands together and build a better future for all. I want to take part in it."

This year's Global Intergenerational Forum and Leadership Training Program at the University of Connecticut attracted over 60 young social activists from 53 countries. This program takes place every year; see [CPNN of August 5, 2012](#) for an account of last year's event. The program included discussions on the importance of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. CPNN articles written by the young activists this year included:

[Culture of Peace through Tourism in Kosovo;](#)

[Tackling Economic Poverty in Afghanistan;](#)

[We are not just Pink or Blue;](#)

and the [Sulha Peace Project](#) that brings together Israeli and Palestinian youth.

Other CPNN articles this month include:

a [march for peace and justice by students in Guatemala](#);

an [international summer school for the culture of peace, tolerance and international friendship in the Gambia](#);

and [international exchange for solidarity by young Spaniards in Argentina](#).

[Ayman Qwaider, a young Palestinian activist](#), illustrates the commitment of this generation to respond to oppression by non-violent actions that build hope and empowerment.

Illustrating how general this theme has become, the discussion question, "[Is there a renewed movement of solidarity by the new generation](#)" now applies to over 30 CPNN articles. Discussing this issue following a youth training session last year in Budapest, [Ana Afonso wrote](#), "Inspiration. If I had to define my experience during the week spent in Budapest with 31 young people from all over Europe this would be the word I use. Because inspiration is what we need to keep going, inspiration brings joy and a feeling of being able to do whatever we want."

As we have remarked before, the culture of peace is in good hands with this new generation!

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



Martin Luther King's unfinished symphony of freedom

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**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**



Tackling Economic Poverty in Afghanistan

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**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**



We are not just Pink or Blue

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**WOMEN'S  
EQUALITY**



Educators' network to empower women in the Pacific

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Council for Culture of Peace and Nonviolence established in Baja California

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**TOLERANCE &  
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Sulha Peace Project. An alternative conflict resolution method

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The Second United Nations High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace

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**DISARMAMENT &  
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The Hiroshima Appeal

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# August 2013



This month CPNN articles recognize many city peace initiatives.

The [cities around the Mediterranean](#) that are members of the international network Mayors for Peace will meet September 19 to 21 (the International Day of Peace) to discuss, among other subjects, "What tools for a culture of peace for cities in crisis?" [Mayors for Peace](#) is the oldest and largest organization of peace cities. Launched in 1982 by the city of Hiroshima and managed ever since by that city, the organization now counts 5664 member cities. They are devoted to the lobby against nuclear weapons at the United Nations and its Member States.

Two other major organizations of peace cities have announced plans to celebrate the International Day of Peace:

- International Cities of Peace is organizing a "[global feast](#)", inviting all to gather at the table for a common meal on that day. Their website states that "[The worldwide movement to instill a culture of peace has many roots, branches and leaves](#)".
- The International Association of Peace Messenger Cities will be [pairing several schools](#) across the world by livestreaming. The [International Association of Peace Messenger Cities](#) was established in 1986 "to recognize and encourage the role and responsibility cities have in creating a culture of peace."

Another organization, called "[Peace Cities](#)", showcases initiatives in cities around the world that have hosted local interfaith events in cooperation with the Partner Cities Network and past Parliament of Religions international gatherings

The newest international city peace organization, [Peace Towns and Villages](#), was launched last month by the International Institute of Peace through Tourism and Skål. A goal has been set for the dedication of 300 Peace Towns and Villages in the first year of the project.

Individual city peace initiatives are regularly featured in CPNN. The most recent are:

[Eugene](#) (Oregon, U.S.),

[Hamilton](#) (Ontario, Canada),

and [Oaxaca](#) (Mexico).

The article from Eugene is especially interesting because it shows how all of the aspects of a culture of peace can be promoted at the city level.

Finally, it is argued in the [CPNN article by David Swanson](#) that city administrations are much more in touch with the desires and needs of the people than is the national government, as illustrated by the resolution against nuclear weapons adopted recently by the United States Conference of Mayors.

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



At UN, Malala Yousafzai rallies youth to stand up for universal education

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**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**



Initiative for Land, Lives and Peace in Baringo County, Kenya

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**HUMAN  
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Combating Human Trafficking: An Interview with Simone Monasebian [United Nations]

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EQUALITY**



Change the date: fighting violence against young women

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**DEMOCRATIC  
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Mediterranean Cities for Peace Conference

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**TOLERANCE &  
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Muslim and Christian youth come together in Mombasa, Kenya

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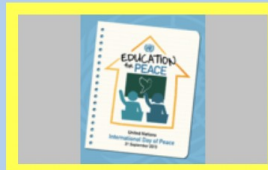
**FREE FLOW  
OF INFORMATION**



SIGNIS Launches Global SIGNIS Competitions 2013

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**DISARMAMENT &  
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The UN Secretary-General's 100-day Countdown Message to the observance of the International Day of Peace

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**Please send us articles about the work of your organization and other culture of peace news. (see <http://cpnn-world.org/reporter.html>). We look forward to hearing from you.**

**Peace, through struggle,**

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# July 2013



In this bulletin we ask if the *Global Movement for a Culture of Peace* is growing, looking especially at the articles from its eight program areas that we have cited in the bulletins over the course of the past year.

(1) *Peace education*. We continue to see more CPNN articles devoted to peace education than to any other area. In addition, we may see signs of progress in the [newsletter of the Global Campaign for Peace Education](#) which has grown to the point of citing thousands of initiatives. Culture of peace studies in universities and schools are especially important but only beginning to develop.

(2) [Sustainable development](#). Ever since the Rio Conference of 1992, the ecology movement has set the standard for development of consciousness and institution-building. Leadership continues to come not from the states of the world, but from the civil society, especially youth, city initiatives and indigenous peoples - and, as [some have argued recently](#), from part of the private sector

(3) [Women's equality](#). This year we have seen increasing leadership by women with recognition of their effective and exemplary action as reflected in numerous CPNN articles. At the same time there are more and more initiatives in the struggle against the violence which has traditionally kept women down.

(4 and 5) *Human rights, tolerance and solidarity*. The annual reviews by [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) continue to show us that this is a long, slow struggle in which there is more consciousness than ever, in the face of continued suffering by victims of exploitation and war and violations of human rights by the entrenched institutions of the world, both states and the private sector.

(6) *Democratic participation*. There are many CPNN articles about local, isolated initiatives, but It is difficult to assess if there is progress on a global level in democratic participation. A [report last year by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNDP](#) came to mixed conclusions. Perhaps the most important development is [participatory budgeting](#) which began in Brazil and has now spread to over 1500 cities around the world. Ironically, the website of the [International Observatory on Participatory Democracy](#) is not available in English, French or Spanish, but only in Catalan.



(7) Free flow of information. In a dialectical process, at the same time as [the nation states attempt more than ever to control information](#), we have access to more and more independent news media, and more and more information from courageous whistle-blowers such as [Julian Assange](#) and [Edward Snowden](#) who risk imprisonment and even death by revealing state secrets.

(8) [Disarmament](#). Although progress in disarmament is confined to a few weapons systems such as landmines and cluster bombs, where leadership has come from the civil society, there was a first step forward this year in the adoption of an Arms Trade Treaty by the UN General Assembly.

As for the actors in the Global Movement, the leadership continues to come from civil society, as it did during the [2001-2010 Culture of Peace Decade](#). It would be useful to have figures on the extent of involvement in the [International Day of Peace](#) (September 21), but they are only available through 2009. As for other actors, we have already mentioned increasing leadership by women. Also, everywhere we may see increasing involvement and leadership by the [youth of the next generation](#).

And as for the [United Nations](#), which played a leading role in the culture of peace at the end of the last century and then faltered, they are beginning to be involved once again.

Although many European and North American actors, both individuals and organizations, were deeply involved in the launching of the Global Movement for a Culture of Peace, the leading initiatives recently have come more from [Latin America](#) and [Africa](#).

Also, the process of the [Arab Spring](#) continues to advance despite murderous resistance by state actors, violence by radical movements and devastating military interventions by the Americans and Europeans. The Arab Spring will certainly take many more years to develop its full contribution to the culture of peace, but if we look across the years, given that such a movement was not even thought of just a few years ago, we must see that there has been remarkable progress.

In sum, there is progress! But is the Movement growing fast enough to cope with the crises that threaten the world? As stated by the slogan of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, the answer is in our hands. Only time will tell if our efforts prove effective.

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



Institutionalizing an Academic Path for Future Peacebuilders (USA)

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Human Development Report 2013 - The Rise of the South

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**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**



Amnesty International Report 2013: world increasingly dangerous for refugees and migrants

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**WOMEN'S  
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Consultation Identifies Ways to Support a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (Fiji)

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**DEMOCRATIC  
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IIPT and Skål set goal to dedicate 300 Peace Towns and Villages

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An intercultural encounter in a multicultural place: A Living Library in Ballarò (Italy)

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UNESCO to make its publications available free of charge as part of a new Open Access policy

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**DISARMAMENT &  
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The International Peace in Syria Initiative Meets with Government and Opposition in Damascus and Lebanon

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# June 2013



This month marks an important advance in the Culture of Peace News Network. For the first time, almost half of the articles are submitted by [CPNN reporters](#). This is important because it begins to make CPNN self-sustaining instead of being fully dependent upon the editor to write or seek out all of the news about the culture of peace.

This has always been our goal, as stated on the homepage: "It is a self-sustaining network in which You, the reader, are invited to write a news report and contribute to its discussion, and eventually to become a reporter." However, despite the fact that over the past two years more than 150 readers have submitted articles to CPNN, it has taken until now to establish a network of regular reporters.

The CPNN reporters who contributed this month come from all over the world, which is also one of the long-term goals of CPNN. Reporters work in various ways. This month, some of the articles describe events in which the reporter was directly involved. This is the case for the articles by Gwenaelle Beauvais from France ([preview](#) and [results](#)), by Antonio Palazuelos from Cape Verde ([preview](#) and [results](#)), by [Balkrishna Kurvey](#) from India, by [Barry Weisberg](#) from the USA, and by [Dr. Diana Tashkova](#) from Bulgaria.

Other articles were submitted by Janet Hudgins from Canada who regularly searches the Internet for news articles about actions that promote a culture of peace through [sustainable development](#), [women's equality](#), or [human rights](#). She obtained permission to reprint two of these articles where the sources indicated that permission is needed to reproduce. Additionally, an article is shared by [Shreya Jani \(STEP\)](#) from India who writes a regular on-line newsletter and shares it with CPNN.

In the months and years to come, it is hoped that many others of you will contribute as reporters, either about events in which you are engaged or relevant articles that you find on the Internet.

In recent weeks, I have contributed one book review and one play review, and in the future, hopefully, some of you will also submit reviews of books, films, Internet videos, etc. that promote one or more of the eight areas of the culture of peace.

In the future, CPNN can play an important role in the continued advancement of the [Global Movement for a Culture of Peace](#) by sharing information among its actors. As stated in the [United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace](#), "Partnerships between and among the various actors as set out in the Declaration should be encouraged and strengthened for a global movement for a culture of peace. A culture of peace could be promoted through sharing of information among actors on their initiatives in this regard."

To achieve its future potential, CPNN needs to become self-sustaining.

Dear Reader, your help is needed!

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



Massachusetts Peace Action Statement on Boston Marathon Bombing

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**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**



International Symposium 2013 "Science, Technology and Culture of Peace" (France)

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**HUMAN  
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The Three Heroines of Guatemala: The Judge, the Attorney General and the Nobel Peace Laureate

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**WOMEN'S  
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Peace & Human Rights Training for Women at Nagpur, India

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**DEMOCRATIC  
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Assault on Peaceful Co-existence (Nagaland, India)

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**TOLERANCE &  
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These intellectuals, guardians of traditions (Africa)

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**FREE FLOW  
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Ethiopian journalist Reeyot Alemu wins 2013 UNESCO-Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

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**DISARMAMENT &  
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Book Review of Moon Shadow of War; How a Young American became an Anti-War Activist

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# May 2013



On April 2, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty, an historic first step towards a control of the global arms trade.

One of the young people involved in the effort to pass the treaty, Meg Villanueva, explains to CPNN "[what it means to a young person like me.](#)" And [Amnesty International](#) describes the long process that went into its adoption.

Much of the world followed this with great interest, but people in the United States were kept in the dark, as it was [not covered by their mass media.](#)

As emphasized in all of these articles, the Treaty is only a first step. Further steps require ratification by member states, and the development of means to implement its provisions. We should not forget it took almost 20 years after the adoption of the historic Declaration on Human Rights before the United Nations Commission could begin to even investigate and produce reports on violations.

Quietly, and without much publicity, the most successful of recent disarmament efforts continues to advance: [the banning of landmines and cluster bombs](#), thanks to the continued leadership by the civil society.

Meanwhile, the global arms race goes on.

The [annual report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute](#) shows that world military spending has decreased a little because of the global economic crisis, but that spending by China and Russia is increasing.

The nuclear arms race continues despite [efforts by the civil society](#), and the proliferation of small arms continues to kill. In the United States, despite efforts by activists such as [Michael Moore](#) and [the teachers' unions](#), there are mass killings with automatic weapons on a regular basis.

**PEACE EDUCATION**



Shades, an Anti-war Play, Opens to Rave Reviews in Los Angeles

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**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



The Movement of Landless Peasants Honored by the city of Guernica for its struggle for Agrarian Reform [Brazil]

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**HUMAN RIGHTS**



Ban upheld: Avatar tribe 'to decide' future of Vedanta mine (India)

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**WOMEN'S EQUALITY**



Sahel Conference says women's full participation essential to conflict resolution and economic recovery

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**DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION**



Panafrican Forum of Culture of Peace: A Youth Perspective

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Participants in the Pan-African Forum Recommend the Valorization of African Culture

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UN Passes Historic Arms Trade Treaty To Media Silence

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What the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) means to a young person like me...

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**Peace, through struggle,**

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# April 2013



This month we celebrate the second anniversary of the Arab Spring revolutions.

We present two new in-depth analyses of the progress of the Arab revolutions. One is the speech of Tunisian President [Moncef Marzouki](#) to the European Parliament, in which he shows how they are democratic revolutions fighting for the same social and economic rights that were at the root of European revolutions of earlier centuries. The other is the speech of [Ismail Serageldin](#), Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt in which he describes five qualities of the Arab revolutions which give reason to be optimistic about their future: 1) non-violence; 2) rule of law; 3) elections (ballots not bullets); 4) deeply divided society (neither side can crush the other); and 5) public participation. In the discussion section for these articles, entitled "the Arab spring of 2011, can it inspire democratic movements around the world," the journalist [John Mayton](#) challenges Egyptian society to establish a culture of peace and thereby set a precedent not only for their own country but for the whole region.

It is significant that the [World Social Forum](#) is meeting this month in Tunis, the first time that it has met in an Arab country. High on the agenda is the status of women including [workshops and addresses by Tunisian feminists](#). Has the Arab Spring been beneficial for women? The answer is not yet in, but according to [one analysis](#) printed this month in CPNN, "this experience of coming together to be agents of positive change has become a seed that will grow into greater demands for women's rights." The World Social Forum also includes a number of [workshops dealing explicitly with the culture of peace](#).



Good news comes from many of the states involved in the Arab revolution:

- \* a prize for Arab culture to [Mustafa Cherif](#) of Algeria;
- \* interfaith dialogue promoted by the [Islamist political party in Morocco](#);
- \* a campaign for non-violence undertaken by [youth in Yemen](#);
- \* a workshop for [religious tolerance in Tunisia](#);
- \* and a [project to protect journalistic freedom](#) undertaken jointly by UNESCO and Tunisia.

The struggle for freedom for the Palestinian people holds special importance for the future of Arab revolutions, and, as mentioned last month, there is a growing [movement of non-violent resistance](#) which can be considered as the most effective strategy to overcome the Israeli occupation.

On another topic which is related to previous bulletins, an [important conference led by UNESCO and the African Union](#) has taken place this month in Africa to establish a continent-wide movement for a culture of peace.

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



Culture of Peace in the Schools of Norte de Minas, Brazil

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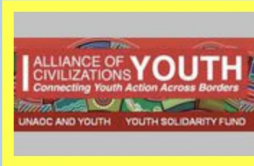
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Earth Hour, March 23: United people to protect the planet

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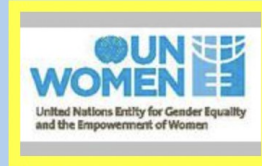
**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**



Youth Recommendations at the UNAOC Forum in Vienna

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**WOMEN'S  
EQUALITY**



UN Women Welcomes Agreed Conclusions at the Commission on Status of Women

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Shukran, Mister President, Thank you!

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**TOLERANCE &  
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Report of Diversity Talk Series 2013 in Lahore, Pakistan

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**FREE FLOW  
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Culture of Peace at the World Social Forum in Tunisia

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Oslo: Historic global conference prepares ground for new initiatives towards ban treaty

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# March 2013



Every day we receive abundant news of violent conflicts around the world thanks to the commercial mass media. They put them in the headlines. But for each violent conflict, there is also a reaction by those who seek to transform the conflict and arrive at a culture of peace. This month's CPNN articles illustrate this in Mali, Palestine, Colombia, Azerbaijan/Armenia and Newtown, USA.

Faced with the ongoing armed conflict in Mali, religious leaders in the region have increased their efforts for inter-religious dialogue and the teaching of peace to the new generation. For the first time, scholars, preachers and imams recognizing the Maliki rite from the Sahel countries, including Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Algeria met [in Algiers, for a seminar to combat religious extremism](#). The seminar participants urged their colleagues to remove all the ambiguities of religion, "to spread the culture of peace, tolerance, harmony and coexistence with other religions and communities . . ." [In Burkina Faso](#), representatives of the Muslim community met with those of the Catholic community "to reaffirm its commitment to promoting peace among different communities." Considering that the Mali conflict will spill over into the neighboring countries like Niger, [the NGO HED-Tamat](#), has renewed its commitment to consolidate and strengthen its Culture of Peace Project in the Agadez Region.

One of the longest and most serious armed conflicts in the world is that between Israel and Palestine. In his article, "[Resistance through non-violence in Palestine: An effective strategy to support](#)", Ziad Medoukh makes the case that such a strategy provides the only way for a future transformation to peace.

For the first time in years, there is hope for a peaceful solution to the armed conflict in Colombia. In this context, Hernando Roa Suárez lays out in his article, "[University and the peace process](#)," a series of proposals for academia in Colombia to contribute to the "construction of a new culture of peace."

The conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia has been going on for so many years that it no longer receives much attention by the media. The good news, however, is that the young generation no longer supports this conflict and are reaching out to each other to

make peace. [Albina Hajimammadova explains it simply](#): "youth are interested in making peace, not war."

Finally, the massacre of school children in Newtown, United States, made headlines around the world. But what is most important for the long run, is the renewed commitment to make a nonviolent society, as exemplified by the [banner at the town hall of Newtown](#) which states "Together We Birth a Culture of Peace."

On another subject, there is more and more mobilization around the world to stop violence against women. This was one of the themes of the CPNN bulletin three months ago, and this month we feature three more initiatives:

- "[One Billion Rising, Global Day of Dance Against Sexual Abuse](#), organized by the playwright Eve Ensler
- the book and movie [The Whistleblower](#) by Kathryn Bolkovac
- a new initiative by [The Advocates for Human Rights](#) to gather national good practices that put a stop to violence against women.

**PEACE  
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Marionettes for Peace

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Earth Charter International enters new phase

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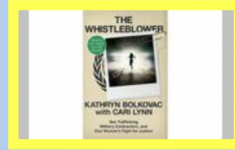
**HUMAN  
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Human Rights Watch World Report 2013

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**WOMEN'S  
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When Peacemakers Become Perpetrators: The Whistleblower

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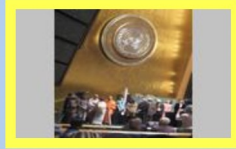
**DEMOCRATIC  
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Launch of the 30th edition of the Intercity (Côte d'Ivoire)

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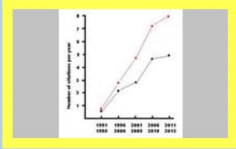
**TOLERANCE &  
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World Harmony Day at the UN Highlights the Culture of Peace

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**FREE FLOW  
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The culture of peace concept is advancing

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**DISARMAMENT &  
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Resistance through non-violence in Palestine

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**[decade@decade-culture-of-peace.org](mailto:decade@decade-culture-of-peace.org)**

# February 2013



Dear CPNN readers and reporters,

The focus this month is on Latin America where the culture of peace is being promoted on all levels, from the United Nations to national, local and regional governments and the civil society.

UNESCO has recognized the Latin American writer and philosopher Frei Betto from Brazil with the [Jose Marti Prize for 2013](#) for "his exceptional contribution to building a universal culture of peace, social justice and human rights." The prize was awarded in a ceremony in Cuba.

The President of Bolivia, [Evo Morales](#), has advocated a deepening of judicial reforms in his country, including, in the words of his Chief Justice, incorporating "the culture of peace as a peaceful way to resolve legal disputes." CPNN readers may recall that Morales called explicitly for a culture of peace [when he inaugurated UNASUR](#), the Union of South American Nations in 2008. Another Latin American President, Porfirio Lobo of Honduras, recently assisted at the [inauguration of a project](#) designed to promote a culture of peace among young people.

The cities of Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Aguascalientes (Mexico) continue a growing tradition in Latin America of cities that explicitly promote a culture of peace (see [CPNN January 30, 2005](#)). Sao Paulo has been a pioneer in this regard, with a Secretary of Human Rights and a Municipal Commission of Human Rights which some years ago began the annual measurement of human rights in all parts of the city. This month, in [the first public act](#) of the newly elected government from the Workers' Party, in the presence of the Secretary of Human Rights, the new mayor Fernando Haddad declared that his priority will be the persistent search for social justice and peaceful coexistence among different peoples who live in the city.

The city government of Aguascalientes has a permanent Secretary for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and this month, [the mayor of that city signed the Earth Charter](#) and promised to institute the measures prescribed by the Earth Summit of 1992 (another major advance that took place in Latin America).

Latin America is now pioneering in another dimension of the culture of peace: instituting it at a regional level. This last month, the regional governments of [Chiapas](#) in Mexico, [Ayacucho](#) and [Puno](#) in Peru and [Amapá](#) in Brazil announced culture of peace initiatives involving human rights, conflict prevention and ending violence against women. As briefly discussed, there are some advantages to promoting a culture of peace at a regional level in comparison to the city level. In particular, the culture of peace needs to be based on a sustainable economy, which, in the long run, should depend on local agricultural production more than imported food. This requires that the unit for the culture of peace include not only the city, but also the agricultural region surrounding it.

The civil society in Latin American continues to play its important role: articles this month include the development of a culture of peace among the [Pioneers of Cuba](#), and the [preservation of community traditions](#) and the [meeting of the International Institute of Peace Education](#) in Puerto Rico.

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



International Institute on Peace Education 2013 - Puerto Rico

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**SUSTAINABLE  
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China's ambitious aim: a windy future

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**HUMAN  
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Culture of peace and social justice are management goals according to Haddad [Brazil]

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**WOMEN'S  
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SEPM promotes educational campaign "Peace Blitz" this Thursday (Brazil)

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**DEMOCRATIC  
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Evo asks the judiciary to make the people aware of its reforms [Bolivia]

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**TOLERANCE &  
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The Grand Magal of Touba, Senegal: The Caliph of the Murids Urges the Culture of Peace

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**FREE FLOW  
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Dominican friar Frei Betto to receive 2013 UNESCO/José Martí Prize

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**DISARMAMENT &  
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UN Counter-Terrorism Expert to launch inquiry into the civilian impact of drones

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**The CPNN Team**

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January 2013



Dear CPNN readers and reporters,

Three major conferences of the United Nations related to the culture of peace were scheduled to take place last month.

The World Conference on International Telecommunication received the attention of hundreds of news articles that stated that the United States, Europe and their allies refused to accept the results of the conference. The media give the impression that their refusal was to avert a "takeover" of the Internet by the International Telecommunication Union which is an agency of the United Nations system. However, according to the [article in CPNN](#) by Professor Milton Mueller of the Internet Governance Project, this was a false alarm. In fact, the management of the Internet is securely in the hands of a number of private organizations that are indirectly controlled by the richest countries, as described in the CPNN discussion, [Who controls the Internet?](#) Professor Mueller concludes that "Internet freedom requires the construction of effective new, open transnational governance institutions and globally applicable legal principles that regulate and limit the power of states and private sector actors to abuse users." [According to Mary Robinson](#), former UN Commissioner for Human Rights, this freedom is a fundamental human right. It has been severely tested in the case of Wikileaks, as described in [the recent message of Julian Assange](#).

The UN Climate Change Conference last month was considered a failure by the major ecology organizations of the civil society, as, for example, in [the CPNN article from Greenpeace](#).

This climate conference was the second such failure in 2012. The first, in Rio, was the subject of the [July 1 bulletin of CPNN](#). Meanwhile, the environmental crisis of global warming continues to worsen as described in the [recent report from the World Bank](#).

A third UN conference, to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, never took place because of opposition by Israel and the United States. Instead, [a](#)

[conference of disarmament NGO's](#) took place and demanded that the UN conference should be convened.

The preceding continues the theme of the [October 1 bulletin](#) on the United Nations and the Culture of Peace. Another article this month continues the theme of the [November 1 bulletin](#) on youth. The youth who took part in the Budapest training a few months ago have made an excellent video entitled "[Do you speak human rights?](#)" which is highly recommended to CPNN readers. And the African Union has held its second [conference on media for the culture of peace](#) which continues the mobilization of African journalists mentioned in the [August 1 bulletin](#) concerning the culture of peace in Africa.

**PEACE  
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Myanmar Invites Nonviolent Peaceforce to Support Peace Processes

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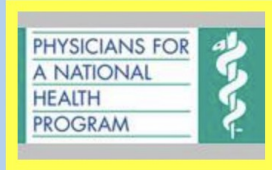
**SUSTAINABLE  
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Talks fail to meet pace of climate change - Greenpeace

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**HUMAN  
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Rally for Healthcare as a Human Right (USA)

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**WOMEN'S  
EQUALITY**



International Seminar for a Culture of Peace: How to Stop Violence against Women [Mexico]

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**DEMOCRATIC  
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Mexico urged to promote a culture of peace

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**TOLERANCE &  
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Tribute to Ancestors

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The World Conference on International Telecommunications: An analysis

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**DISARMAMENT &  
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US Senator to Introduce Gun Control Bill

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**Peace, through struggle,**

Sharmarke

