

International Day of Peace Vigil

21 September 2002

21 July 2002

Dear Friend of Peace,

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution (55/282) designating 21 September of each year as an **International Day of Peace**. The intention of the resolution is to have all Member States observe a full day of global ceasefire and nonviolence. All people and organizations are invited to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner. (A copy of the full resolution is attached.)

Thus far, several departments and agencies of the United Nations are planning official observances by taking practical steps to participate in the day. To support the International Day of Peace on a spiritual level, a group of lay persons and NGOs, representing a wide variety of religious and spiritual traditions, have committed themselves to the task of working with other like-minded individuals and groups for an International Day of Peace Vigil with the following objective:

"To encourage the observation of a worldwide, 24-hour Vigil for peace and non-violence on the International Day of Peace 21 September 2002 in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals and by all men, women and children who seek peace in the world."

This global 24-hour Vigil is meant to demonstrate the power of prayer and other spiritual observations in promoting peace and preventing violent conflict. These worldwide spiritual vigils will also help raise public awareness of the International Day of Peace and directly support the establishment of a global ceasefire. Individuals and groups are invited to support this global initiative by committing to hold a 24-hour vigil on 21 September 2002.

You and your organization are invited to take part in the International Day of Peace Vigil. Please take a look at the website: www.idpvigil.com where you can also see a list of participating organizations. We invite you to share news and awareness of the IDP Vigil with your constituency in whatever way you see fit. You may join as an individual or as a participating organization by registering your commitment on the International Day of Peace Vigil website at: www.idpvigil.com, or mail it to: International Day of Peace Vigil, Secretariat Office: 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 575, New York, NY 10017. Please indicate the name of the individual or group, a contact person and the number of people participating in your Vigil. All commitments will be posted on the website unless you indicate otherwise.

We look forward to your participation in this global collaboration for peace on 21 September 2002.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

Sincerely,

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Mission Statement:

To encourage the observation of a worldwide, 24-hour vigil for peace and non-violence on the International Day of Peace 21 September 2002 in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals and by all men, women and children who seek peace in the world.

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