

21 September 2020 – Mr. Christian Bartolf, Gandhi Information Center, Berlin, Germany:

The United Nations General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session, Agenda item 33, in their resolution A/RES/55/282: “International Day of Peace” on 28 September 2001 was ...

“ ...

Reaffirming the contribution that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace makes in strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict,

Considering the unique opportunity it offers for a cessation of violence and conflict throughout the world, and the related importance of achieving the broadest possible awareness and observance of the International Day of Peace among the global community,

Desiring to draw attention to the objectives of the International Day of Peace, and therefore to fix a date for its observance each year that is separate from the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, ...

1. *Decides* that, with effect from the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace;
2. *Declares* that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day;
3. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.“

But we can read in the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations which was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and came into force on 24 October 1945, the following:

„WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples ...”

<http://www.nonviolent-resistance.info/eng/aboutus.htm>

“Established in 1990 the GANDHI INFORMATION CENTER has been freely available for Education. It has more than a hundred members at home and abroad, amongst them well-known scientists, artists and authors such as Dr. Arun Gandhi (* 1934, a grandson of Mahatma Gandhi), Count Serge Tolstoy (1911-1995, one grandson of Count Leo Tolstoy), Dr. Sushila Nayar (1914-2000, personal physician and secretary of Mahatma Gandhi), Professor Joseph Needham (1900-1995), and the Nobel Peace Laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel (* 1931).

The Gandhi Information Center became well-known all over the world on account of the distribution of the Manifesto against Conscription and the Military System. This Manifesto revives attention to two manifestoes signed by Gandhi, Einstein, Buber and Freud against military training of youth. In the meantime this Manifesto has been translated into 25 languages and has been signed by more than 200 outstanding personalities from over thirty different countries. Among them are, for instance, Ela Gandhi (* 1940, a granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi), Count Serge Tolstoy (1911-1995, a grandson of Count Leo Tolstoy), the artists Pete Seeger (1919-2014), Luciano Pavarotti (1935-2007) and Ravi Shankar (1920-2012).

Since 1990 the Gandhi Information Center for Research and Education on Nonviolence, has organised educational activities with publications about Mahatma Gandhi. The Gandhi Information Center has made contacts all over the world and contributes to an international network.

The nonviolent, active resistance as developed and lived by Gandhi is to serve as focus and support. Connected with this the active members wish to document the origins of Nonviolence in multifold traditions (e.g. Leo Tolstoy's concept of nonviolent non-cooperation in Russia, the Civil Disobedience of Henry David Thoreau, the Civil Rights Movement of Martin Luther King in the USA, the social critic John Ruskin in England).”

Let me remember one song's lyrics of the great poet and singer/songwriter Malvina Reynolds:

From way up here the earth looks very small,
It's just a little ball of rock and sea and sand,
No bigger than my hand.

From way up here the earth looks very small,
They shouldn't fight at all
Down there upon that little sphere.
Their time is short, a life is just a day,
You think they'd find a way.
You think they'd get along
And fill their sunlit days with song.

From way up here the earth is very small,
It's just a little ball, so small, so beautiful and dear.
Their time is short, a life is just a day,

Must be a better way

To use the time that runs among the distant suns.

From way up here the earth is very small,

It's just a little ball, so small, so beautiful and dear.