

## United Nations Peace Road 2017 event in Bangui, Central African Republic

Noel Mathias Salogba

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Bangui, Central African Republic— The Peace Road event in the Central African Republic took place on August 31, 2017 in Bangui, the nation’s capital and largest city.

In unity with the national push for “Social Cohesion and Reconciliation,” more than 100 participants journeyed by foot, motorcycle and auto from the esplanade of the National Assembly to the Palace of Sports under the theme “Connecting the World through Peace.” A team from the Central African Cycling Federation joined for about three kilometers.

The program began with a word of thanks from the emcee, Pastor Jean Paul Gere Kombwanga, followed by the national anthem, which the audience joined in singing. The hymn of peace was also performed by the CAR New Hope Choir.

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Nestor Djotene, founder of the Church Baptist Revival Mission. A large delegation of its members were in attendance. Then, Rev. Noel Salogba, general secretary of UPF-CAR gave a report on the background and significance of Peace Road, which was initiated by the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon as a visionary call to peacefully connect the people of the world.

This explanation was followed by a speech made by the guest of honor, the representative of the Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr. Gilbert Bissidi Deodo. “We need organizations like UPF which advocate for the stability of our country, which is going through difficult times with the crisis we are experiencing. Thus, we encourage the UPF to extend its social cohesion program in order to reach the other regions of the Central African Republic,” he said.



After the signing of the Peace Road map by the authorities, the 3rd Peace Road 2017 was launched in front of the National Assembly by Mr. Bissidi Deodo from the Ministry of Youth after a song of peace performed by the New Hope Choir.

It was a joyous and hopeful occasion well received by the public and covered by national radio, television and the daily "Le Confident" newspaper. Attending were members of FFWPU, WFWP, Baptist Revival Mission Church, and a team from the Central African Cycling Federation.

