

## Peace Day

Milano, Italy, 19. September 2012

Hi-Seung Paolo D'Alberti

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The traditional event of the International Day of Peace established by the United Nations took place in the auditorium area of "Società Umanitaria", in the halls of a cloister from the renaissance period. A suggestive place with frescoes giving a deep universal meaning searched for by all: Peace.

This event was organized with the partnership of Lega Internazionale dei Diritti Umani – LIDU (the International League of Human Rights) and with the Consulate of Senegal in Milan. The theme was "Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future". The meeting had high level speakers in a tangible moment in which the word peace could find its real meaning, offering a New Vision in this time of deep financial and ideological crisis. Peace in all its forms and aspects was the running theme that inspired each part of the conference.

Talking about peace, you cannot just consider the relationship between peace itself and human rights, and our responsibility for their actual completion. This concept was shared by the National President of LIDU that began the conference with his welcoming remarks.

Antonio Stango, General Secretary of the Italian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, moderator of the conference, began the conference referring to the Universal Declaration of human rights that represents the first founding document. This declaration, even though it's not a treaty, so not in itself an obligation for the participating states. It is however considered by the International law as an existing right. The awareness that every human being is born with these rights. Stango introduced one aspect of peace that was then taken up also by the other speakers: freedom and responsibility. This concept is rooted in the German word peace that comes from freedom. Peace is created by common accord but it exists and is complete only with freedom that lets us live in safety and stability. In the neo-Latin language peace comes from 'da pactum' and is given by common accord between people that are or have been in conflict. Vittorio Robiati Benduad from the Maimonide Foundation, spoke about the concept of human responsibility that together with freedom represents two aspects of peace. He explained briefly the concept of freedom in Hebrew tradition: "To be Free From" and "To be Free to". To be free from – represents a negative freedom, to be free from an oppressor, while as to be free to, is positive, and needs a responsible attitude.

A similar concept was expressed by the Indian General Consulate, Sanjayn Kumar Verna: rights and freedom come together with obligations and responsibility.

Honorable Lama Khenrab Rinpoche, resident master of the Ghe Pel Ling of Milano, introduced a very important and deep aspect connected to peace: The culture of peace.

Emy Blesio, Suryanagara President and The World Community of Indian Culture and Traditional Discipline, spoke about Gandhi's life example, that through 'Non Violence' was able to free his people from the powerful country of England. Emy Blesio encouraged all of us to bring out the Gandhi that is within everyone. She encouraged to love our neighbor, humanity and the differences that become a spring of richness and renewal.

The conference concluded with the representatives of two associations, Dr. Angela Comelli, Coordinator of Mani Tese, and Dr. Diego Cassinelli, educator of the slum Bauleni Lusaka, from In&Out, each presenting the work done by the associations they are a part of.

In this framework great potential was shown by the new "Inter-Religious Youth Peace Council". Hi-Seung Paolo D'Alberti introduced this initiative, the history and the CIG goals. Then the representatives of the Youth Council read the shared declaration "The contribution of Faith for the Promotion and Renewal of Family". It was a particularly moving moment to see youth from different faiths together and aware that they represent a bridge, at times the only one, between society and

their families. In their desire to bring forth this project, proving that integration and cooperation among different faiths and religions are possible.

Universal Peace Federation Milan wished to express the new needs and reference points of our day, following the encouragement of the United Nations. UPF can make a concrete contribution, as Vice President Dr. Carlo Zonato expressed in his welcoming remarks, by reading the Declaration of Intent that UPF promoted for the International Day of Peace 2012.

In what way can the Universal Peace Federation contribute in this time in history? Inspired by timeless values, shared by all cultures in an international, intercultural, interreligious and interdisciplinary perspective. Politics, economy and religion need to be illuminated by a new common goal: Social Well Being.

Carlo Zonato, in conclusion, reminded everyone of the passing of the founder Rev. Sun Myung Moon that spent every second of his earthly life working to complete this ideal so longed for by the whole of humanity. His principle of "One Family Under God" was the inspiring principle behind all of his accomplishments. This meeting was in honor of a man that left a mark that will remain forever.

Thank You Rev. Moon.



More pictures:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/118274111050947446360/ConferenzaMilanoGiornataDellaPace2012?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCIW8yqORtleFzAE&feat=directlink>