

october 2, 2011, 5TH international day of nonviolence, gandhi's birthday

Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace

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MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI 1869-1948

Gandhi was born October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, India as a Hindu. Later in life when asked if he was Hindu, he replied "Yes I am. I am also a Christian, a Muslim, a Buddhist and a Jew." He was a prominent figure of the [Indian independence movement](#). He promoted the philosophy of [satyagraha](#) (resistance to tyranny through mass [civil disobedience](#)) and [ahimsa](#), or total [nonviolence](#). He believed that public servants should lead a [simple life](#). He renounced the western lifestyle he had led in South Africa, where he had enjoyed a successful legal practice. He was a strict vegetarian and wrote *The Moral Basis of Vegetarianism*. He believed the spiritual principle that knowledge and work are not separate, and promoted an educational curriculum based on [Nai Talim](#) (basic education for all). He was a self-described [philosophical anarchist](#). He explains his philosophy and way of life in his autobiography [The Story of My Experiments with Truth](#). Other writings are published in *The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*.

In 1930 Gandhi led his followers in the [Non-cooperation movement](#) protesting the British-imposed salt tax in the [Dandi Salt March](#). In 1942, with the Congress Party, he launched the [Quit India](#) civil disobedience movement, the most definitive revolt aimed at securing the British exit from India. He was the first to apply the principle of nonviolence in the political field on a huge scale.

October 2, Gandhi's birthday, referred to as [Gandhi Jayanti](#), is a [national holiday in India](#) and in 2007 was declared the [International Day of Non-Violence](#) by the [United Nations General Assembly](#). Schools in many countries honor Gandhi when they observe the [School Day of Non-violence and Peace \(DENIP\)](#) on January 30, the anniversary of his death. He was runner-up to Albert Einstein as [Person of the Century](#) in 1999.

The [Government of India](#) annually awards the [Mahatma Gandhi Peace Prize](#) to distinguished social workers, world leaders, and citizens.

Gandhi was senselessly assassinated in 1948. His life was portrayed in the 1982 Academy Award winning film [Gandhi](#).

"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent."-- [Mahatma Gandhi](#)

Source: Wikipedia

Further reading:

The Moral Basis of Vegetarianism:

<http://www.southerncrossreview.org/22/gandhi2.html>

International Vegetarian Union (IVU): <http://www.ivu.org/history/gandhi/>

[The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi](#) (incomplete): Wikipedia

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International Day of Non-Violence

Quick Facts

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is a globally observed on October 2 each year to promote non-violence.

Local names

Name	Language
International Day of Non-Violence	English
Día Internacional de la No Violencia	Spanish

International Day of Non-Violence 2011

Sunday, October 2, 2011

International Day of Non-Violence 2012

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

[List of dates for other years](#)

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is a global observance that promotes non-violence through education and public awareness. It is annually held on October 2 to coincide with renowned Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

The International Day of Non-Violence promotes non-violent methods to achieve positive outcomes.
©iStockphoto.com/Dan Brandenburg

What do people do?

Many people, governments, and non-government organizations around the world observe the International Day of Non-Violence through various events and activities such as:

- News articles and broadcast announcements promoting the day.
- Public lectures, seminars, discussions, and press conferences about non-violence.
- Photo exhibitions highlighting issues, such as the dangers of the illicit trade of small arms.
- Street awareness campaigns.
- Light ceremonies promoting non-violence and peace.
- Multi-faith prayer meetings.

The International Day of Non-Violence has strong connections with the works, beliefs, and methods of peace leader Mahatma Gandhi, who is known as India's "Father of the Nation".

Public life

The International Day of Non-Violence is a global observance but it is not a public holiday.

Background

The principle of non-violence, also known as non-violent resistance, rejects the use of physical violence to achieve social or political change. Many groups throughout the world use this method in social justice campaigns. There are three main categories of non-violence action:

- Protest and persuasion, including marches and vigils.

- Non-cooperation.
- Non-violent intervention, such as blockades and occupations.

The UN recognizes a philosophical connection between the human rights principles in its universal declaration and those that Mahatma Gandhi used. Gandhi was born in India on October 2, 1869. He is remembered today for his contributions towards India's freedom and for sharing with the world a doctrine for dealing with injustice and disharmony. He taught people the philosophy of **Ahimsa**, which encourages the use of non-violence as a tool for the peaceful resolution of differences. India gained its freedom on August 15, 1947, through Gandhi's efforts. He was assassinated on January 30, 1948.

The UN General Assembly came up with a resolution in 2007 to establish the International Day of Non-Violence. The day aimed to spread the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness, around the world. The resolution reflected universal respect for Gandhi and his philosophy. October 2, which is Gandhi's birthday, was allocated as the day's date. The first International Day of Non-Violence was on October 2, 2007.

Symbols

The UN logo is often associated with marketing and promotional material for this event. It features a projection of a world map (less Antarctica) centered on the North Pole, inscribed in a wreath consisting of crossed conventionalized branches of the olive tree. The olive branches symbolize peace and the world map depicts the area of concern to the UN in achieving its main purpose, peace and security. The projection of the map extends to 60 degrees south latitude, and includes five concentric circles.

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Gandhi Tour TV Global live Broadcast celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday

- [Added by Music 4 Peace / Tobias Huber](#)
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Event Details

Time: [October 2, 2011](#) to [October 3, 2011](#)
 Location: [World wide](#)
 Website or Map: <http://www.gandhi-tour.com>
 Event Type: [global](#), [live](#), [broadcast](#)
 Organized By: Music 4 Peace / The Gandhi Tour
 Latest Activity: **Sep 15**

- [Export to Outlook or iCal \(.ics\)](#)
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Event Description

Music 4 Peace presents the Gandhi Tour TV celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's 142st birthday on Oct 2nd 2011, the United Nation's International Day of Nonviolence, with a global live broadcast on Gandhi Tour TV, that is supported by Peace Day TV, the official broadcaster of the United Nation's International Day of Peace.

The Gandhi Tour TV combines the power of music, art and media to call for peace and a culture of nonviolence with featured celebrities, local artists and well known International stars from around the globe. Music 4 Peace - Gandhi Tour TV's main goal is to stop extreme poverty by providing clean drinking water. The Music 4 Peace projects are supporting the achievements of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The Gandhi Tour is a touring peace concert and a global music festival built up with the intent to arise social change by uniting people through the universal language of music. This global music event creates a platform for cultural dialogue relating to all cultures and religions inspired by the life of Mahatma Gandhi with the support of Dr. Arun Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson.

www.gandhi-tour.com

Gandhi Tour TV Partner:

www.music4peace.com

www.peaceday.tv

1. [Song for Mahatma Gandhi's birthday - YouTube](#)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOtoFklyfCQ
Aug 10, 2011 - 2 min - Uploaded by GreatLakesGeek
Uploaded by GreatLakesGeek on Aug 10, **2011**. A favorite song of **Mahatma Gandhi** sung by Mala Garg at Gandhi **birthday** at Cleveland ...
2. [More videos for Mahatma Gandhi Birthday 2011 »](#)

“President Barack Obama leads Mahatma Gandhi birthday tributes,” *The Telegraph*, Sept. 28, 2011

President Barack Obama has honoured Mahatma Gandhi on the Indian leader's birthday, saying his teachings transformed American society.

Mahatma Gandhi 'transformed American society' Photo: REUTERS

By Tom Chivers

2:13PM BST 02 Oct 2009

Gandhi's birthday, or Gandhi Jayanti, is celebrated every year as the International Day of Non-Violence. The Mahatma, who was born on 2 October 1869, would have turned 140 this year.

[Mr Obama](#) said: "Gandhi's teachings and ideals, shared with Martin Luther King Jr. on his 1959 pilgrimage to [India](#), transformed American society through our civil rights movement.

"The [America](#) of today has its roots in the India of Mahatma Gandhi and the nonviolent social action

movement for Indian independence which he led.

"We must renew our commitment to live his ideals and to celebrate the dignity of all human beings."

The praise comes a month after Mr Obama said that Gandhi would be his ideal dinner guest. Speaking to pupils at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Virginia, he was asked what person, alive or dead, he would like to dine with.

He said: "I think it might be (Mahatma) Gandhi, who's a real hero of mine.

"It would probably be a really small meal because he didn't eat a lot."

The President has been given a book of Gandhi quotes to mark the anniversary. The author of Quotes of Gandhi, Shalu Bhalla, had a copy of the book delivered to Mr Obama after she heard about his comments at Wakefield.