OMNI NEWSLETTER ON UN WORLD FOOD DAY OCTOBER 16, 2008,
Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace

OMNI CELEBRATES OCTOBER 16, 2008 World Food Day and looks forward to October 24, UNITED NATIONS DAY.

University of Arkansas to Host 2008 World Food Day: Choices for a Hungry Planet
The University of Arkansas will host the 2008 World Food Day Teleconference from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, in the First Security Auditorium at Willard J. Walker Hall. The theme of this year’s conference is “Choices for a Warm and Hungry Planet.” Participants will explore the impacts of climate change on food supplies and the impending food crises that could threaten global peace and security. Lunch is free for all participants. [If you attend, send Melanie a report for our Newsletter.]

--Patel, Raj. Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System. Interviewed Democracy Now (July 31, 2008). Worldwide destruction of small farmers by WTO, NAFTA, and other international organizations in which nations support their most powerful food companies. For example, subsidized US rice reduced Ghana’s rice production from 60% to 20%. (from OMNI’s Bibliography #31)

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1. Sponsored Links
   Become an
2. **Donate and Fight Hunger**
   World Hunger Relief 2008
   Join a movement to end world hunger
   www.FromHungerToHope.com

3. **Global Food Crisis**
   "We are heading for a cascade of hunger the world over." Learn more.
   www.crs.org

4. **End World Hunger**
   Help The World Food Program
   Feed Hungry Children Worldwide
   www.friendsofwfp.org

Sponsored Link

1. **World Food Day - Oct.16th**
   www.globalcitizencorps.org Join young leaders around the globe taking action against hunger!

**Search Results**

1. Image results for world food day

2. **World Food Day 2007: WFD Home**
   The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded ...
   www.fao.org/wfd/ - 19k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

3. **Get Involved: World Food Day**
   World Food Day provides an occasion to once again highlight the plight of 923 million
undernourished people in the world. Most of them live in rural areas...

World Food Day was proclaimed in 1979 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It marks the date of the founding of FAO in 1945.

5. **UN Conferences and Events**


6. **World Food Day USA**

World Food Day, October 16th, is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger.

7. **2008 Teleconference - World Food Day USA**

Single reproducible copies of the Teleconference Study/Action Packet, prepared by the U.S. National Committee for World Food Day, will be available in early...

8. **More Than Burnt Toast: World Food Day Event Announcement**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has celebrated World Food Day each year on October 16 since 1945.

9. **Augustinians Support World Food Day 2008**


World Food Day 2008. UMCOR’s Sustainable Agriculture & Development Program is addressing the root cause of hunger and poverty by investing in farmers.

11. **allAfrica.com: Africa: High Food Prices Put World Food Day 2008 in...**

Rarely has World Food Day assumed greater meaning than at the present time, ... In connection with World Food Day, from 14 to 17 October 2008, FAO will host ...

12. **Blog posts about world food day**

An invitation for World Food Day: fair food distribution in a... - food ethics council - an independent champion ... - Oct 1, 2008

Editorial

Hungry, hungrier
Grim. That, in a word, sums up the tidings of the second-quarter Social Weather Survey by the poll group Social Weather Stations (SWS). Our chief concern is not with the increase in households in the country that experienced “involuntary hunger” at least once in the three months covered by the survey, although that is worrisome enough. It is with the explosion in the number of families suffering from what SWS classifies as “severe hunger.”

From 570,000 families in March, the total number of households reporting severe hunger rose by almost 200,000 to 760,000 in June—a sure sign, an unmistakable symptom, of a slowing economy. In the SWS terminology, severe hunger refers to “those who experienced it ‘Often’ or ‘Always’ in the last three months.”

The increase in the number of families that went hungry at least once in the three-month period “due to lack of anything to eat,” from 15.7 percent in March to 16.3 percent of the total population in June, is not unexpected; the unstoppable rise in fuel and especially food prices in the last several months is a daily economic reality. To be sure, the proportion is still lower than the high of 21.5 percent recorded in September 2007, but the current total of 2.9 million families should give all of us, and especially President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her economic managers, serious pause.

The high-profile feeding or food subsidy programs launched or redoubled by the government in the last few months do not seem to have had any appreciable effect. It is possible that the spike in involuntary hunger rates would have been sharper, if not for the government programs. But other results from the same SWS survey show that the programs, and in general the way the Arroyo administration has handled the oil and rice emergencies, have failed to lift the President’s popularity or performance ratings.

The hunger results for Metro Manila, especially, should send chills down Malacañang’s spine. According to the survey conducted June 27-30, hunger in Metro Manila is now back at a record high, rising by almost half to 22 percent of the population. A full 6 percent of Metro Manila’s population is now classified as having suffered from severe hunger….

A WORLD FREE OF HUNGER, WAR AND THE THREAT OF WAR, A SOCIETY WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON’S POTENTIAL MAY BE FULFILLED, AN EARTH RESTORED. GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE, WORLD PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS (RIGHT TO FOOD), SOCIAL and ECONOMIC JUSTICE (SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR ALL), ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROTECTING SPECIES AND THE EARTH (RECOGNIZING THE CONNECTIONS OF FOOD, WAR, AND CLIMATE). These are OMNI’s ideals. Read our brochure and our newsletters, attend our Steering Committee, become an active member of one or more of our committees, participate in our dozens of activities to see how these broad goals are realized in action. There is nothing vague about Building a Culture of Peace, and the more you participate the more meaningful and enjoyable it is.

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