DECEMBER 1, 2012, PRISONERS FOR PEACE DAY. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace and Justice.

OMNI National/International Days Project

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Since the 1950s, 1 December is celebrated as **Prisoners for Peace Day**, to highlight the plight of those who face imprisonment for the nonviolent actions for peace - be they conscientious objectors or direct action activists.

While WRI has a permanent **Prisoners for Peace list** on its website, we make a special effort to update it for Prisoners for Peace Day, and call on everyone to write cards or letters to prisoners.

We ask you to:

**Support Prisoners for Peace**

14 Nov 2011
English

Dear friend and supporter of War Resisters' International,

The traditional work of War Resisters' International on supporting imprisoned conscientious objectors and other prisoners for peace may perhaps appear routine and grey, but it is as indispensable as it is challenging. As one who once was on WRI's Prisoner for Peace list, I can testify to the importance of the scores of support messages I received from people all over the world, and which lifted my spirit when I was behind bars. Often, the stakes are set higher. This is the case with Egyptian conscientious objector Maikel Nabil Sanad, who is currently imprisoned for publishing an article criticising the Egyptian military on his website. He has been on hunger strike since August the 23rd - that's 84 days in total.

For more than 50 years, War Resisters' International has publicised the names and stories of prisoners of peace on 1 December - Prisoners for Peace Day.

**Action**

- On 1 December, put aside at least one hour and write at least four cards to prisoners;
- Get your peace group or class or meeting place to organise a card-writing session;
- Set up a stall in your town centre, perform a bit of street theatre, or do whatever else it takes to attract attention and interest.
History repeats itself, the same way I objected to compulsory military service last year, this year I boycott litigation before the military officers.

Mr Officers... I say Mr Officers and not Mr Judge, because the judge before anything has to have the characteristic of independence, whereas military officers are a branch of the executive authority. That’s why you are an officer, not a judge, no matter what names, titles or descriptions you were called.

When I started my hunger strike since nearly 40 days, many people tried to convince me to end my strike... Of the most opinions I heard was the religious point of view, which is summarized for: the hunger strike is a type of suicide, the one who commits suicide is an infidel, the church doesn’t make a prayer on strikers if they died, their destiny is eternal torture... It’s funny that the religious Christians and religious Muslims, together, had the same point of view.

Since 23 August, imprisoned pacifist blogger and conscientious objector Maikel Nabil Sanad is on hunger strike in protest against his continued imprisonment. On 30 August, he escalated his hunger strike to include a thirst strike.

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In September 2001, when I demanded that the Serbian authorities recognise my right to CO there were 12 religious COs imprisoned in Serbia. Thanks to the campaign organised by the WRI and other peace groups, not only was I not jailed, but also these 12 imprisoned objectors were released in following months.”

Igor Seke, conscientious objector from Serbia

We ask you to support our efforts to support conscientious objectors and Prisoners for Peace. Take some time on 1 December – Prisoners for Peace Day – to write letters to prisoners (see the included list). And – for us to be able to continue our work – give generously to support WRI's work in support of Prisoners for Peace.

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Support War Resisters' International's work on nonviolence in Turkey

War Resisters' International has been working with Turkish war resisters since the early 1990s. Besides support to conscientious objectors facing imprisonment, WRI worked closely with nonviolent activists in developing nonviolent alternatives in Turkey.

"I would like to end with a few words to the […] activists, who showed me their solidarity throughout these years.

Osman Murat Ulke
1. **1 December: Prisoners for Peace Day | War Resisters' International**
   www.wri-irg.org/node/20142
   1 December: **Prisoners for Peace Day.** 02 Aug 2012 — warresisters. Since the 1950s, 1 December is celebrated as **Prisoners for Peace Day,** to highlight the ...

2. **1 December: Prisoners for Peace Day | War Resisters' International**
   www.wri-irg.org/node/13997
   Nov 3, 2011 – For more than 50 years, War Resisters' International has publicised the names and stories of **prisoners of peace** on 1 December - **Prisoners for ...**

3. **International Prisoners for Peace Day**
   www.nukeresister.org/static/nr131/131prisoners.html
   December 1 has long been recognized as International **Prisoners for Peace Day,** a time to remember imprisoned conscientious objectors (COs), military refusers ...

4. **Prisoners for Peace day, 1st December 2005 ... - For Mother Earth**
   Dec 1, 2005 – Case Hermaja: support Finnish conscientious objectors. There is still a very extensive conscription system in Finland. About 80% of all male ...

5. **Cross-curricular resources: Prisoners for Peace Day - resources - TES**
   www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6138988
   Nov 23, 2011 – A US soldier suspected of leaking state secrets to WikiLeaks and a long-term hunger striker in India will soon have something in common.

6. **Prisoners for Peace Day | Facebook**
   www.facebook.com/events/298982680133939/
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### 7. News for Prisoners for Peace Day

1. **Prisoners for Peace Day** to remember war resisters around the world

Ekklesia - 35 minutes ago

People around the world are preparing to mark "**Prisoners for Peace**" day on Saturday (1 December). War Resisters' International (WRI) have ...

### 8. Peace and Justice Events, Seattle Area - December, 2012

[www.scn.org/activism/calendar/dec.html](http://www.scn.org/activism/calendar/dec.html)

SAT DEC 1, annual **PRISONERS FOR PEACE DAY**, a way to support those imprisoned for their stand against war and war preparations, by sending greeting ...


[www.wiser.org/event/view/d9523909c76f687e9fadcb1d1bc7c2bc](http://www.wiser.org/event/view/d9523909c76f687e9fadcb1d1bc7c2bc)

Sep 4, 2012 – Annual **PRISONERS FOR PEACE DAY**, a way to support those imprisoned for their stand against war and war preparations, by sending ...

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