OCTOBER 2, 2013, 7TH UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE, GANDHI’S BIRTHDAY. OMNI NEWSLETTER

COMPiled BY DICK BENNETT FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.

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Gandhi Jayanti is one of the three Indian National Holidays. Know more about it with this article.

Festivals of India: Gandhi Jayanti

Gandhi Jayanti

On October 2nd each year the nation pays homage to "Bapu" otherwise also known as the "Father of the Nation" who played a significant role in Indian Independence. Mohandas Karamachand Gandhi also referred as 'Gandhiji' was an iconic figure in India and around the globe for his unique practices of non-violence or ahimsa. He believed in the power of non-violence and in the philosophy of truth known as "Satyagraha" and adopted these beliefs in his leadership that helped in achieving India's Independence. With his strong philosophy on non-violence and truth he proved the world that the path ahead may not be the easy, but it is certainly the most effective methods of achieving the goals. It was this belief that got him noticed and appreciated by historians as one of the greatest freedom fighters that the world had ever seen. As such, India observes a national holiday on this day to pay reverence to this great soul. Besides his contribution towards the country's freedom struggle, Gandhi will always be remembered around the globe for his distinctive ideologies that inspired many great leaders, such as Martin Luther King, James Lawson, Nelson Mandela, all of whom drew inspiration from Gandhi's non-violence theory.

History

When Gandhi was in South Africa during the 1890's, he was subjected to the injustice of the colonial imperialism in the nation. He was a victim of racial discrimination and social bigotry that plagued the nation that had not only impacted him, but also led to his social activism. In 1894, he was responsible for forming the Natal Indian Congress in South Africa with the help of the Indian community which later, molded into a strong political party in the country. In 1906 when his political members conducting a peaceful protest were subjected to harsh and violent treatment by the local government, he formed the idea of "Satyagraha", meaning the force of truth. When he left for India, Gandhi witnessed similar treatment in the country and carried out his work to help protest against the dominance of the British Raj. In the years to come his non-violence principle was witnessed, first in 1920 when the Non-Cooperation Movement took place and later seen in the Dandi March in 1930 as well as in the The Quit India Movement. Gandhi may have not been a martyr in the true sense but he dedicated his entire life to attain
freedom by resisting violence. Thus, Gandhi Jayanathi is an important day for all Indians.

Celebrations and Rituals
Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869 in Porbandar. A legendary leader, he revolutionized the meaning of freedom fighting around the globe. On this day, people in the country hold several prayer services and community functions to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation. Art lovers hold exhibition that reflect the Gandhian principles of life and freedom, an interpretation of Gandhi’s ideologies on canvas. This way, they honor his contribution towards India’s freedom struggle in an aesthetic manner. In some places awards are given away to non-violence projects or acts in honor of him. Special speeches are given addressing his life and work of Gandhi with the view to educate young minds on his ideas and beliefs.

Commonly Celebrated
Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated each year on October 2nd in India. The day has been declared as a national holiday. Schools, colleges, offices and institutions remain close on this day. Lately, October 2nd has also been honored as the International Day of Non-Violence by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The idea was first propagated by Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi, before it was accepted by the Indian National Congress and the United Nation.

GOOGLE SEARCH OCT. 17, 2013, GANDHI’S BIRTHDAY, PAGE ONE
1. Gandhi Jayanti - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gandhi_Jayanti
Gandhi Jayanti is a national holiday celebrated in India to mark the occasion of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the "Father of the Nation" (though not officially).

2. Mahatma Gandhi - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi
Eschewing the official celebration of independence in Delhi, Gandhi visited the affected... His birthday, 2 October, is commemorated there as Gandhi Jayanti, ...

Nathuram Godse - Assassination - Devdas - Ramdas
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3. Images for Gandhi’s Birthday Celebrations
- Report images

4. Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti in India - Time and Date
www.timeanddate.com › Calendar › Holidays › India
Many people celebrate Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday across India. Events include: Prayer services, commemorative ceremonies and tributes at locations all over ...
5. TIME's Photo of the Day: Indian children celebrate Gandhi's birthday...
lightbox.time.com/2013/10/02/happy-birthday-gandhi/
Oct 2, 2013 - Oct. 2, 2013. School children dressed as Mahatma Gandhi participate in celebrations marking the 144th birth anniversary of Gandhi, in the ...

publicholidays.in/mahatma-gandhis-birthday/
Gandhi Jayanti, or Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, is celebrated in India on 2 October. The date is the birthday of Mohandas (Mahatma) Karamchand Gandhi in 1869 ...

7. Gandhi Jayanti Celebration - Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi -
Indian ...
festivals.indobase.com/gandhi-jayanti/
Gandhi Jayanti is one of the three Indian National Holidays. Know more about it with this article.

8. PHOTOS: Mahatma Gandhi's birthday celebrated in India
photos.denverpost.com/.../photos-mahatma-gandhis-birthday-celebrated-..
Oct 2, 2013 - Mohandas Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 under British rule in India and became one of the most iconic civil rights leaders in the world.

9. News for Gandhi's Birthday Celebrations

1. Montclairite organizes first annual Gandhi's Birthday Party concert for peace
NorthJersey.com - 1 day ago
The first annual "Gandhi's Birthday Party" concert for peace will occur on Saturday, Oct. 19, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, from 7 to 11 p.m. at ...

10. EVOLVE Gandhi Birthday Celebration | Evolve Movement
evolvemovement.com/blog/gandhi-birthday-celebration
Around 75 yogis came together at EVOLVE on October 2nd to celebrate the love and life of Mahatma Gandhi, a man who dedicated his life to advocating for ...

11. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush: Celebrating Gandhi's Birthday by ...
www.huffingtonpost.com/.../celebrating-gandhis-birthday_b_990537.ht...
Oct 1, 2011 - Nonviolence in the Middle East sounds idealistic to be sure; and to some, dangerously naive. But think of the alternative.
On International Day, Ban calls on world's citizens to practice non-violence everyday

"Non-Violence," a sculpture by Karl Fredrik Reutersward, sits permanently outside UN Headquarters in New York

2 October 2013 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called on people all over the world to have the courage to turn their backs on violence and stand up for peace and justice, marking the International Day of
Non-Violence.

“I call on global citizens everywhere to be inspired by the courage of people like Mahatma Gandhi. Turn your back to division and hatred; stand up for what is right and just. Work with your fellow women and men for a world of lasting justice, peace and prosperity for all,” Mr. Ban said in his message for the Day.

The International Day of Non-Violence marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of India's independence movement, whose non-violence philosophy and tactics have been adopted by leaders around the world. It was established by the General Assembly as an occasion to “disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness,” and has been observed annually since 2007.

Mr. Ban noted that non-violence is “neither inert nor passive,” and stressed that it requires resolve to stand against injustice, discrimination and brutality and to demand respect for diversity and fundamental human rights.

“It also requires courage to move from conflict and embrace peaceful negotiation. Non-violence needs leaders – across nations and in communities and homes – backed by an army of brave people prepared to demand peace, freedom and fairness.”

Mr. Ban added that ending violence starts with individual actions in homes, schools and workplaces, and that once someone takes action, peaceful dialogue can be contagious.

He also pointed out that an essential component to end violence is to combat poverty, making it vital to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which seek to slash poverty, hunger and other social ills by 2015.

“Poverty is a fertile ground for violence and crime; it is inherently violent to the needs and aspirations of the world’s most vulnerable people. That is why we place such emphasis in fulfilling the promise of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and setting a new development agenda with poverty at its core and sustainable development as its guide,” Mr. Ban said.

“As we set sights on a sustainable future we must be guided by the imperative to 'do no harm' to people or the planet.”

News Tracker: past stories on this issue
At high-level forum, top UN officials stress importance of individual in ‘culture of peace’

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Ban strongly condemns ongoing violence in Egypt
Egypt: Ban appeals for peace, non-violence ahead of planned mass demonstrations

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Evoking Gandhi’s Legacy of Non-Violence, Secretary-General Calls for World-Wide Efforts towards ‘Lasting Justice, Peace and Prosperity for All’

Non-Violence Needs Leaders Backed by Army of Brave People Prepared to Demand Peace, Freedom, Fairness, Secretary-General Says in Message
Secretary-General Urges All Parties in Egypt to Remain Non-Violence, Uphold Law, Stressing Right to Demonstrate Peacefully
UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE

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1. International Day of Non-Violence - 2 October - the United Nations
www.un.org/events/nonviolence/

"There are many causes that I am prepared to die for but no causes that I am prepared to kill for." Mahatma Gandhi The Story of My Experiments with Truth, 1927.

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2. United Nations News Centre - On International Day, Ban calls on ...
www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46169...non-violence...

2 October 2013 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called on people all over the ...The International Day of Non-Violence marks the birthday of Mahatma ...

www.un.org/events/peace

"On this International Day of Peace, let us pledge to teach our children the value of tolerance and mutual respect. Let us invest in ... Peace Day 2013 Poster ... which established 21 September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire.

4. International Day of Non-Violence - Time and Date
www.timeanddate.com › Calendar › Holidays

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is a global observance that promotes non-violence through ... Wednesday, October 2, 2013 ...

5. United Nations International Day of Non-Violence 2013 | UNIC ...
manama.sites.unicnetwork.org/.../united-nations-international-day-of-no...


6. International Day of Non-Violence - 2 October 2013 - Resources
www.educationscotland.gov.uk/.../internationaldayofnonviolence.asp

Resources to support the UN International Day of Non-Violence, held on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and ...

7. UN International day of Non Violence in honour of Mahatma Gandhi ...
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfvfWx_ihus

Oct 4, 2013 - Uploaded by GIISHeadquarters

GIIS and GOPIO Singapore commemorated UN International Day of Non-violence 2013 to mark ...
8. Celebrations of the UN International Day of Non Violence, 2013
www.yogaindailylife.org/.../celebrations-of-the-un-international-day-of-

9. GIIS and GOPIO commemorate the UN International Day of Non ...
www.globalschoolsnews.org/.../GIIS-and-GOPIO-commemorate-the-UN...
Oct 8, 2013 - High Commissioner of India to Singapore, HE Ms Vijay Thakur Singh presides as Guest of Honour. UN International Day of Non-Violence 2013 ...

10. Commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence. 2013 | UN ...
www.unescap.org/.../commemoration-international-day-non-violence-20...
Commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence 2013. Date: 2 Oct 2013. Location: Bangkok, Thailand. Organizers: ESCAP ...

NONVIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

GOOGLE SEARCH, Oct. 17, 2013, page one

1. Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy: Home
mendonline.org/
Welcome to Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy " The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to

2. Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy - Wikipedia, the free ...
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East_Nonviolence_and_Democracy
MEND (Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy) is a NGO which aspires to establish a non-violent Palestinansian civil society. The organisation was founded ...

3. MEND - Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy | Nonviolent ...
www.nonviolencepeaceforce.org/mend-middle-east-nonviolence-and-dem...
Established in 1998, Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (MEND) is a dynamic Palestinian institution addressing issues related to nonviolence and ...

4. Nonviolence in the Middle East - Common Ground News Service
www.commongroundnews.org/article.php?id=21074&lan=en&sp...
The grandson of Mahatma Gandhi explains his grandfather's interpretation of nonviolence and how it can apply to the Middle East, particularly the ...

5. Imagining Nonviolence in the Middle East - Huffington Post
www.huffingtonpost.com/.../celebrating-gandhis-birthday_b_990537.ht...
Oct 1, 2011 - Nonviolence in the Middle East sounds idealistic to be sure; and to some, dangerously naive. But think of the alternative.
6. Nonviolent resistance key to Middle East breakthrough – Global ...
globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/.../nonviolent-resistance-key-to-middl...

Mar 18, 2013 - By Ibrahim Sharqieh, Special to CNN Editor's note: Ibrahim Sharqieh is deputy director of the Brookings Institution's Doha Center, and an ...

7. A Nonviolent Muslim Brotherhood? | Middle East Institute
www.mei.edu/content/nonviolent-muslim-brotherhood

Oct 4, 2013 - Three months after the ousting of President Mohamed Morsi, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood remains in shock. In two and a half years, the group ...

8. A Study in Middle East Nonviolence - The New York Times
www.nytimes.com/2010/10/08/movies/08budrus.html

Oct 7, 2010 - Julia Bacha's "Budrus" looks at how one West Bank town took on the Israeli military.

9. United Nations News Centre - Wave of change in Middle East shows ...

Sep 30, 2011 - The political transitions over the past year in various Middle Eastern and North African countries are examples of the power of non-violent ...

10. Nonviolent Activism Is Middle Eastern | MichaelMoore.com
www.michaelmoore.com/.../nonviolent-activism-is-middle-easte...

by David Swanson - in 441 Google+ circles

Feb 9, 2011 - Nonviolence is also the dominant tool of resistance in the Middle East -- resistance to local corruption and to foreign occupation alike.

END GANDHI’S BIRTHDAY, UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE 2013

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Dick Bennett

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