
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2015/05/un-international-day-of-un-peacekeepers.html

Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace, Justice, and Ecology

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What is UN Peacekeeping and What and Why Is the DAY?
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International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

29 May is the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

The day was established to:

- Honour the memory of the UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace;
- Pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage.

Peacekeepers Day 2015

On 29 May, UN offices, alongside Member States and non-governmental organizations, hold events to honour fallen peacekeepers. Since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 until April 2015, 3,358 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.

'Together for Peace'

As this year’s International Day of UN Peacekeepers falls during the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we are reflecting on the past, present and future of UN Peacekeeping and reaffirm our commitment to working 'Together for Peace'.

Since its inception in 1948, the UN has established 71 peacekeeping operations – in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The number of people who have been UN peacekeepers — more than 1 million — far surpasses the total number of staff who had worked for the UN in all other capacities worldwide.

Today, some 125,000 women and men serve in 16 peacekeeping missions across the globe. Our peacekeepers are deployed in some of the world's most challenging and austere
environments and mandated with increasingly complex and difficult tasks. Over the decades, UN Peacekeeping has implemented a series of reforms to be both 'fit for purpose' and innovative in the management of our field operations. We continue to strive towards greater performance, efficiency and cost-effectiveness, introducing new technologies and strengthening our partnerships worldwide.

Download and share this year’s poster below:

**Events around the world**

At the UN Headquarters in New York, the Deputy Secretary-General on 29 May presides over a wreath-laying ceremony in honour of all peacekeepers who lost their lives while serving under the UN flag.

In addition, the **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal** is awarded posthumously to the peacekeepers who have fallen while serving in the cause of peace, during the preceding year.

UN **peacekeeping operations** mark the Day by strengthening bonds with the local populations that they have been deployed to serve. For example, by holding sporting events, school and orphanage visits, art and essay competitions, photo exhibits, neighbourhood clean ups, tree plantings, concerts, and conferences and workshops on peace issues. Events around the world will be shared through the tag **#Together4Peace**.

**Previous Peacekeepers Days**

The UN General Assembly designated Peacekeepers Day in 2002 [A/RES/57/129]. In recent years, we have encouraged the celebration of the Day under a common theme:

- **2014: A force for the future** – focusing on how UN Peacekeeping is evolving to meet new challenges
- **2013: Adapting to new challenges** – exploring the changing needs of international peace and security
- **2012: Peacekeeping is a Global Partnership** – highlighting the variety of partnerships we have at every stage of our work.
- **2011: Law. Order. Peace** – focusing on our efforts to strengthen rule of law.
- **2010: Ayiti Kanpe (Haiti Standing)** – remembering the earthquake in Haiti that resulted in the death of **102 UN personnel**, including 97 peacekeepers;
- **2009: Women in peacekeeping** – the important role of women peacekeepers;
- **2008: 60th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping**.
International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29, Google Search, May 25, 2015

1. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers to Be ...  
United Nations  
3 days ago - The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers will be observed on Friday, 29 May, marking the seventh successive year in which the ...  

2. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers to Be ...  
United Nations  
May 27, 2014 - The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers will be observed on Thursday, 29 May, marking the sixth successive year in which the ...  

In the news

3. UN to give posthumous awards to 5 Pakistani peacekeepers  
The Express Tribune - 4 hours ago  
The ceremony will take place on May 29, marking the annual International Day of UN ...  

4. In the service of peace  
OUPblog - 12 hours ago  

5. 2 Indians Among 126 Peacekeepers to be Awarded Prestigious UN Medal  
NDTV - 3 days ago  

More news for International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29

6. International Day of UN Peacekeepers: 29 May 2015 ...  
www.greeningtheblue.org › Events  
The United Nations General Assembly designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The day has two purposes: to honour the ...  

7. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers  
www.timeanddate.com › Calendar › Holidays
On December 11, 2002, the UN General assembly designated May 29 as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The day was first observed on...


Wikipedia

The "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers", May 29, is "a day to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in...

Fri, May 29

Commemorates sacrifice ...

9. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers - 29 May ...

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers - 29 May. 194 likes · 3 talking about this. Reaffirming that peacekeeping continues to be among the key...

10. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2015 ...

Theme : Coming Soon When : May 29, 2015. Where : UN Peacekeeping The day has two purposes: ° to honour the memory of the UN peacekeepers who have ...

11. Do One Thing - UN Peacekeepers Day - May 29

UN Peacekeepers help countries torn apart by conflict create conditions for peace. ...May 29 was designated by the United Nations as the International Day of ...
The UN created the idea of a “Culture of Peace” that can emerge from cultures of violence and war. See: United Nations Day of Peace Sept. 21 and United Nations Day Oct. 24

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING: Ken Payumo

Reminder

Hear an extraordinary story of bravery in one of the world’s most brutal conflicts

Join UNA-USA for a nationwide conference call tomorrow, August 6, 2014, at 2 p.m. ET

Courage Under Fire: An Intimate Look at UN Peacekeeping

with

Ken Payumo
Chief of the Peacekeeping Operations Support Section for the Department of Safety and Security, United Nations

Wednesday, August 6, 2 p.m. ET

U.S./Canada Dial-in: 866-454-4208
Passcode: 8136862

Please RSVP via email to membership@unausa.org.

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What do you do when you are up against a government trying to harm its own people? As men with guns tried to enter the UN camp in Bor, South Sudan, Ken Payumo, a civilian officer in charge, stood up to the South Sudanese military when 12,000 refugees fled to the UN base for safety. His brave actions are thought to have saved thousands of lives.

Join us for a conversation with Mr. Payumo, who will provide a closer look at the day-to-day challenges of UN peacekeeping and give an update on the current crisis in South Sudan.

About our speaker:

Ken Payumo is currently the Chief of the Peacekeeping Operations Support Section for the Department of Safety and Security. This section is responsible for overseeing
the security of all UN peacekeeping missions. Having more than 14 years of experience in the United Nations, Mr. Payumo’s UN service includes that of Legal and Policy Advisor, United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET); Political Officer, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)/Asia Middle East Division (AMED); Mission Management Officer (DPKO Police Division), and most recently Head of Office for Unity and later Jonglei states, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

Prior to the UN, Mr. Payumo had served as a police officer in the New York City Police Department. Mr. Payumo is a citizen of the United States of America and was born in New York City.

Feb 9, 2011 - Making the **Responsibility to Protect** Operational - Nationwide Conference Call

A Conversation with New Zealand's Ambassador to the UN

UNA-USA Nationwide Conference Call

6:30 PM Wednesday, February 9, 2011

(5:30 PM Central, 4:30 PM Mountain, 3:30 PM Pacific)

Call: 1-888-450-4823 Passcode: 552658

Please RSVP via e-mail to Roger Nokes at Rnokes@unausa.org

As we watch the turmoil in Cote d'Ivoire, find out what can be done to prevent such crises from growing into disasters. The notion that states and, when necessary, the **international community are responsible for the protection of civilians from crimes against humanity** has been promoted by the UN, but now must be made increasingly operational.
On Wednesday, February 9, join Ambassador James McLay, New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and UNA-USA's Executive Director, Edward Elemendorf in a conversation on the **Responsibility to Protect (R2P)**. Under R2P each individual state has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Call in to learn about this important concept and about what it will take to make this promise a reality.

**About Ambassador McLay:**

Ambassador McLay practiced as a barrister before being elected to the New Zealand Parliament in 1975. Ambassador McLay also served as New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

**Responsibility to Protect - the United Nations**


United Nations

Prevention requires apportioning responsibility to and promoting collaboration between concerned States and the international community. The duty to prevent

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**UN: POWER POLITICS BY DIPLOMACY AND PROTECTION**


**UNITED NATIONS AND OMNI’S NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT By Dick Bennett**

Several years ago I began to write about the many days celebrated in the US nationally or internationally. At first I was mystified by the large number of Days identified as “international,” “world,” or merely by the subject (torture, wetlands). Gradually I discovered that most or perhaps all of these Days had been created by the United Nations; such as, UN World Wetlands Day, UN International Women's Day, UN Torture Abolition Day.

Eventually I wondered why the omissions had happened. Was it simple laziness, busy people omitting unnecessary words? The other alternative that occurred to me seemed too
conspiratorial, and lacking evidence. Yet the question lingers. Was it deliberate on the part of U.S. government officials of both parties and therefore by the corporate media pundits? But why would these people not wish to acknowledge this UN leadership? Had right-wing nationalists exerted that much influence? Had fear of “losing national sovereignty” not only blinded so many to the great achievements of the UN but that fear had inspired downright hostility toward the UN to the extent of not acknowledging the origin of world/international UN Days?

The omissions appeared dramatically recently at the local screening of a new film about Tibetan refugees, particularly the University of Arkansas’ excellent TEXT Program (Tibetan Exiles Today), in which students travel to India to interview elderly refugees at Dharamsalam. Not a single mention of the enormous assistance given to the refugees by the UN. I asked the filmmaker, a student at the university, where was the UN in all this? He had no idea, apparently had never thought of how so many people had left their livelihoods to resettle in a very poor country.

There was another omission in the film. India’s also large assistance is absent from the film. Tibetan settlements dotting the map of India today were not the result of magic, but in addition to the UN occurred through the exertions of the national, state, and local governments of India. Perhaps the silences share similar origins. Perhaps they derive from the filmmaker’s sense of the irrelevance of the UN and India to the university’s Tibetan project, the subject of the film. But because of the numerous political attacks on the UN particularly by Republican Party loyalists (Ambassador Bolton openly undermined the UN), one might wonder why the UN deletion is so complete? I do not mean any deliberate intention by the filmmaker, but that perhaps the filmmaker reflected the aggressive nationalism one aspect of which is to dismiss even the manifestly humanitarian actions of the UN. Show the UN to be wrong, mistaken, stupid, counterproductive, and invisible, and the myth of US exceptionalism can flourish unimpeded, except for the mountains of evidence shredding the myth. Especially the flaws in the UN peacekeeping forces are widely supposed and derided, despite the reality of majority success in their operations.

What’s to be done about the erroneous and misleading film? Of course I would not have the film prohibited; its subject is valuable; and I support the First Amendment. But I think the honest reputation of the filmmaker and his sponsors would be to add a correction at the beginning or end of the film.

It’s not only a matter of ethics—of giving credit where due. The United Nations was created in response to two World Wars so horrendously lethal that the century is recalled for its mass slaughters and atrocities. The central purpose of the Charter of the UN, largely instigated and written by US representatives, is to end wars of aggression by nations. That ideal is still urgently important to the world, and although the wars have not been ended, the good provided by the cooperation of nations through the UN is incalculable in suffering diminished and lives saved. During the Cold War both of the belligerents used and
undermined the UN for its own purposes. Today let us return to the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the dozens of extraordinarily helpful UN agencies—as well as to the Geneva Conventions and to the Nuremberg Principles—for building a Culture of Peace for the generations to come.

END International Day of UN Peacekeepers, May 29, 2015

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Dick Bennett

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