

Holy Wisdom

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Editor's Note: The beauty of the sun rays, the morning dew, birds singing and the RAIN FALLEN upon the grass and flowers are all signs of Springtime! Time for transformation within ourselves and around the world. It's time we stand and rally throughout the world for human rights. We must muster the courage not to do the same old things the same old way, which will only give us the same old results. The courage we need to love can manufacture peace that is needed world wide. It is necessary to pursue a peaceful/spirit which in the end is more powerful.

We must whether it is from the sidelines or from the core of the action we must take action to improve our world, community so the end results is justice for all. The essence of life is within each and EVERY ONE of us. Do not be afraid to tap into it, share it, AND BECOME committed to a cause. make a difference! God wants us to face each challenge in life – the kingdom is ours to claim!

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA SPEAKS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO OF HUMAN RIGHTS

What Makes the human condition truly universal, what places us all on an equal footing, is our struggle and limitless commitment in favor of human rights, said the herald of state, recalling the celebration this year of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is a great source of pride for me to represent Argentina and, like an ordinary citizen to hold up my country as an example of respect for human rights, "said the President who highlighted the contribution of the mothers and grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, symbols of the struggle against Argentina's military dictatorship of 1976 to 1983.

"Getting out of this situation has not been easy" admitted President Fernandez de Kirchner, "We have had to make many sacrifices and we received the help of women who have not hesitated to take to the streets to denounce impunity; women in white scarves who demonstrated for the sake of their children and for everybody else."

In short welcome address, the Chairman of the Executive Board, Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai(Baenin) recalled that human rights violations continue to overshadow the peace and development of which all our societies dream. He went on to praise President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner as a committed human rights campaigner.

WORLD CHURCH BODY CONDEMNS VIOLENCE FROM BOTH GAZA

The World Council of Churches' general secretary, the Rev. Samuel Kobia, has expressed "absolute condemnation" of the escalation of attacks on civilians in Gaza and Israel. "Incessant violations of life and of human rights must stop. We call on the government of Israel, the occupying power, to fulfill its legal obligations to the people of Gaza under the Geneva Conventions, Kobia said in a 3Mar statement. "We absolutely condemn these deadly attacks on civilians by the Israeli military on Gaza and by militants firing rockets from Gaza.

US Church Leaders Ask Condoleezza Rice to address the crisis in Gaza:

A group of US Church leaders asked that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice directly address the crisis over the Gaza Strip in her planned visit to the Middle East in March. The leaders of US Anglican, Orthodox, Protestant, Roman and Unitarian Universalist churches and Roman Catholic religious humanitarian groups on February 29 groups , sent a letter to rice. They urged her to take urgent action to address the unresolved Gaza crisis. This crisis, the leaders, said is hindering progress on the peace process and also creates conditions that pose a particular threat to the small Christian community in Gaza.

RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN INDIA CONDEM INTERNATIONAL SILENCE ON TIBET

Deadly attacks on civilians by the Israeli military on Gaza and by militants firing rockets from Gaza.

Right activists in India condemn "international silence on Tibet:

Thrissur, India. Human rights activist in India have deplored what they say is silence from the international community concerning the crackdown of the Chinese government on protesting Tibetans, many of whom look for leadership to the exiled spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism, the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama has come under fire from authorities in China who accuse him of fomenting unrest in the territory for which he is seeking greater autonomy. "The saddest part of the latest tragedy is the silence of the UN and big powers,

Gelek Namgyal, an official of the policy Research Centre of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, based in India, told Ecumenical News International on 20 March. Namgyal said more than 100 Tibetans have been killed in the ongoing Chinese crackdown. The Tibetans have been agitating for autonomy, and some for independence for Tibet, which has been under Chinese rule for half a century

UN'S Top Refugee Official Urges More Support for Uprooted Iraqis

In Syria as part of a weeklong visit to the Middle East, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has appealed to the international community to provide greater support for Iraqis who have fled across borders. Antonio Gutierrez urged help for Iraqis in Syria and Jordan, for more settlement places in third countries and for the Government of Iraq to be more active in supporting those who have been forced to flee.

The High Commissioner met senior leaders in both Jordan and Syria, including Jordanian King Abdullah II and Syria's President Bashar al-assad. He told reporters that he had received assurances from both governments that Iraqi refugees would not be pushed back against their will and that the "asylum space" will be preserved. "This is a very important guarantee," he added, particularly in view of the heavy burden both countries are bearing.

The High Commissioner also asked governments to increase the number of resettlement places for vulnerable

refugees. "Some Iraqi families will not be able to go back to their country because they have been tortured or family members were all killed or because of some other situations," he said. "The number of resettlement opportunities for the most vulnerable is very important."

"They need to feel their government is supporting them and assisting them in the difficult conditions they are facing today," he said. "My appeal to the Iraq government is for stronger engagement with Iraqis in Syria and Jordan and with the governments of neighboring countries."

Mr. Gutierrez said UNHCR had clear global criteria on the conditions needed for the voluntary return of refugees which" are not met by the situation in Iraq now."

The agency is not promoting returns to Iraq in the present circumstances "because we do not believe the conditions are there for it to be possible on a meaningful scale he said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon kicked off a multi-year global campaign bringing together the United Nations, governments and civil society to try to end violence against women calling it an issue that cannot wait."

At least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Through the practice of prenatal sex selection, countless others are denied the right even to exist.

Violence against women impedes economic and social growth, and thus the new campaign will run until 2015, the same target year as the internationally agreed aims known as the Millennium Development Goals. Noting that weapons of armed conflict today include rape, sexual violence and abduction of children to be conscripted as soldiers or sex slaves, The Secretary General recounted

his visits to war-torn areas and his conversations with survivors of violence.

It is a campaign for the women and girls who have the right to live free of violence, today

and in the future, he said, "It is a campaign to stop the untold cost that violence against women inflicts on all humankind." Mr. Ban called on the cooperation of the world's youth, women's groups, and men around the world, the private sector and Member states to help the new initiative to succeed.

FUTURE SCHOLARS, MISSION TRIP TO GHANA 2008

In February a Ph.D Student named Robbin Johnson traveled to Ghana to complete a mission in collaboration with a non-profit organization called Future Scholars, Inc.

The mission is to:

- Build a twelve –room school equipped with a library and a computer center.
- To provide school supplies, uniforms and medical supplies to meet the educational needs
- To develop a well that will produce clean water for the village.

- To assist teachers with the development of the curriculum and lessons plans.
- To provide scholarships to youth in the USA to be able to travel to Ghana and to join the mission.

So often you find that a visit to another country you have the need to provide as much as possible so they can be nourished emotionally, physically and spiritually. When looking through our lens we assume that the people in Ghana but yet they are so rich in unity, perseverance productivity and work ethics to name a

few... So yes Future Scholars provided resources but they provided us with wisdom, courage and values that we have lost!

people in Ghana lack so much but yet they are so rich in unity perseverance, productivity, and work ethics to name a few. So yes we were able to provide resources; but they provided us with wisdom, courage and values that we have lost!

Address By: President of the 62 Session The UN Role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals:

The United Nations— more than anybody— is uniquely placed to take a leading role in achieving the MDG's. But in order to do so, and like any other organization, it must renew and retool itself to respond to emerging challenges.

The panel report clearly states that a one size fits approach is not the way to go.

We need to take a pragmatic and considered approach. One that focuses on substance and the broader strategic issues to ensure that

1. The UN plays its full role in delivering the MDG
2. That development remains at the heart of the UN system activities;
3. And, that the system is performing well enough, not only to maintain current levels of voluntary funding, but also to attract additional resources in the fight against poverty. Now is the time for the General Assembly to deliver as but one!

Ignatius University's Graduate Program in Politics Psychology, Peace Studies/ Conflict Management Organizational Management/ Diplomacy

As we enter into the twenty-first century, it becomes increasingly apparent that more attention should be given to political systems as influencing the well being of individuals, societies and the whole of human kind. The effects of one political system are not self-contained but rather are global in ramifications touching other systems, societies and cultures and in turn affecting the emotional well being of groups, the family and the individual.

Thus we realize that the classical practitioners of mental health such as psychologist, psychiatrist and social workers are not able to handle alone all the complexities, including globalization, which come to bear upon the contemporary human condition. The invitation to take part in the healing endeavor needs to be extended to other professionals, namely social and political scientist and those in related disciplines.

The School of Diplomacy of Ignatius University, offers the Master of Science (M.S.) and either the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or the Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) in Peace Studies/Conflict Management or Organizational Management/Diplomacy. Requirements for the Ph.D. and the Ed.D. are the same.

ANNOUNCEMENT: 61ST ANNUAL DPI/NGO CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 3-5 2008 UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, FRANCE

The 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference titled, "Reaffirming Human Rights: The Universal Declaration at 60." is being planned to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is the first time in the Conference history that it will be held outside of New York.

The conference will provide a forum for diverse actors including:

- More than 2000 International Non-governmental Organization representatives.
- Human rights activists from all over the world
- Government, academia and UN representatives
- Private sector speakers from business and philanthropy
- Education and information technology experts
- Citizen activists and citizen journalists

The three-day gathering of NGOs is organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee as well as NGOs which have consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

As an annual meeting taking place on the eve of the opening of the General Assembly, the Conference has become an established forum for networking and exchange of views, opinions and best practices on relevant issues. Participants will leave the conference with knowledge of measures and goals which can be achieved by working together to counter human rights abuses.

Interfaith Alliance Seeks Summer Counselors:

The Interfaith Alliance is looking for four counselors(2 women, 2 men) for its LEADD (Leadership Education Advancing Democracy and Diversity) program to be held at the National 4-H Youth Center in Chevy Chase, MD. July 27- August 3. LEADD is a program for rising high school sophomores and juniors. Its educational focus is on the

history of and current issues about religious liberty and the First Amendment as well as skills training in advocacy, organizing, messaging, fundraising, and conflict resolution.

Applicants must be college or graduate students, minimum age 20. They need substantial experience with teens such as summer camp counseling, work with faith or community youth groups or religious education activity. A stipend of \$500 is provided.

For an application, please visit their website. For more information, send an e-mail or call Denise Davidoff, LEADD Director at 203-838-381

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