

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **International Day of Nonviolence & Birthday Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi** *Annual Celebration Set For Wednesday, October 2, 2013*

Organizer: Raj Kumar, Ph.D.  
Founder & President of Gandhi International Institute for Peace

**NOTE:** The entire celebration will be broadcast and Web streamed live:

"Pathways to Paradise"  
5:00 PM Channel 49  
(digital cable only) Channel 49

Worldwide web streaming on the internet at [www.olelo.org/](http://www.olelo.org/). Click on the FOCUS live button.

**HONOLULU: SEPTEMBER 19, 2013** -- The Annual International Day of Nonviolence & Birthday Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence, will take place in Honolulu at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2013 at the Statue of Mahatma Gandhi. The internationally admired life-size bronze is located in the small, tranquil plaza on the Makai (ocean) side of Princess Kapiolani Park in Waikiki, adjacent the entrance to the Honolulu Zoo.

The International Day of Non-Violence was established by the 15 June 2007 United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/271. The resolution created a mechanism to "... disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness" and reaffirms "... the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "...to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence" <<http://tinyurl.com/3xw6ggo>>.

Mahatma Gandhi (October 1869 -30 January 1948) was "the preeminent leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India. Employing non-violent civil disobedience, Gandhi led India to independence and inspired later movements for civil rights and freedom around the world."

The term "Mahatma" is Sanskrit for "great-souled" and "venerable" and was first applied to him in 1914 in South Africa. Gandhi is considered the Father of the Nation in India where his October 2nd birthday is a national holiday. The gentle grandfather of non-violent protest, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January 1948 and the entire world wept. In 2011, our Hawai'i event was graced by the presence of Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Arun Gandhi who continues in his revered grandfather's footsteps as an advocate for world peace.

### **Participants in the 1.5-hour Honolulu Celebration are as follows:**

Emcees: Mr. Jeff Gere and Ms. Ayami Hatanaka

Aloha Lei Greeters: Luc Lavatai & Sabrina Gouveia (Students of Iolani school)

- The Royal Hawaiian Band performs the National Anthems of Hawaii, India and the U.S.A. Mr. Clarke Bright, Band Master & Miss. Susan Ishida, Band Manager.

- Blessing by Na Kahuoaloha: Kahu Kauila Clark, Mr. Mike Alana, Mr. Darrell Harada & Miss Tiare Zick - Mariteragi Oprta.

- Welcome by Dr. Raj Kumar.

- Mayor's Proclamation read by Miss Toni Robinson and "Let there be Peace On Earth" performed by The Royal Hawaiian Band with accompanying Hula.
- Peace song by Dr. Noble Turner.
- Keynote Speaker: Ms. Lyla Berg, former member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.
- Taiko Drums: Mr. Jay Toyofuku and students Zach Agcoali, Blayne Nakasone, Kiana, Kelcie Miyakawa, Tom, Megan Vilorio, Koki Atcheson, Bethnay Yoshimura, and Skyler Nishiyama, of Pacific Buddhist Academy.
- Interfaith Leaders for World Peace:  
Rev. Randolph Sykes, President Interfaith Alliances (Christianity), Sister Joan Chatfield, Chair, Institute for Religion and Social Change (Catholic), Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Honpa Hongwanji (Buddhism) and, Dr. Saleem Ahmed, President, President of All Believers Network (Islam).
- Peace and Healing through crystal bowls & flute by Mr. Wallen Ellingson and Mrs. Leigh Ann Phillips.
- Dance by Mrs. Willow Chang Alleon & ensemble.
- Happy Muve Dance to relieve Stress by Mrs. Maggie Kunkell.
- Viapasana Meditation: Mr. Richard Hennessey.
- Human Rights & Equality in America by Combat Veteran Miss. Evelyn Ruby Daniels.
- Universal Peace Dance by Mrs. Valerie Payton, Mr. John Sausedo and ensemble.

Pau.

**MAHALO TO:**

Honorable Governor Neil Abercrombie  
 Honorable Mayor Kirk Caldwell  
 Hawaii Tourism Authority  
 The Royal Hawaiian Band  
 Honolulu Zoo & Park & Recreation staff  
 Waikiki Police  
 Honolulu Civil Beat  
 Honolulu Star-Advertiser  
 KFVE Channel 5  
 KHON Channel 2  
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