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FORUM INTERNAZIONALE AZIONE CATTOLICA
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INTERNATIONAL FORUM CATHOLIC ACTION

PRESS RELEASE

With Pope Francis, a minute for peace SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEETING IN THE VATICAN WITH PERES AND ABU MAZEN

The Tonga Islands will be the first to pray for peace: when, in the capital Nuku'alofa, at 1.00 p.m. of the 8th June, the women of WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Action Women Organisations) will stop in recollection. In Italy, at that time, the new day will just have dawned.

On the second anniversary of the prayer meeting to pray for the gift of peace, requested by Pope Francis, together with the Israeli President Peres and the Palestinian one Abu Mazen, the International Forum of Catholic Action, WUCWO, the Italian Catholic Action, the Argentinian Catholic Action and the National Justice and Peace of the Argentinian Episcopal Conference are once again launching the initiative "A minute for peace".

In answer to the constant appeal by Pope Francis never to tire of praying and working for peace, the promoters of this initiative are asking their members and all men and women of good will to stop for a minute at 1.00 p.m. of the 8th June – at their place of work, in the street, at home – to pray for peace.

"It is a simple proposal which we present to everyone" - Emilio Inzaurraga, IFCA International Coordinator and President of the National Justice and Peace Commission of the Argentinian Episcopal Conference, stressed. "Everyone can pray, there where he happens to be, according to his religious tradition. It is a way of reminding ourselves that each one of us can be an instrument of peace" he adds. He goes on to say: "A minute is truly a very short time, but it is enough for us to choose dialogue and fraternity and to help us remember that we have a heart which the Lord has given us to show mercy".

In Argentina, at 1.00 p.m. of the 8th June, the bells of many churches in the different dioceses will ring to invite the faithful to unite in prayer. Many institutions and organisations, which have joined in this initiative, among these, the Council for Religious Freedom, the Department for the Laity, the Islamic Centre of the Republic of Argentina, the Scouts, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Focolare Movement, the Christian Family Movement, the Federation of Catholic Workers' Circles and the Catholic University of Argentina. The Catholic Action in Argentina has invited the educators, responsible for the programme "Educating for Peace", to take the initiative to make their students read a poem or sing a song and send it as a flashmob on the 8th June.

On the website:

<https://www.facebook.com/unminutoporlapaz/videos/490374467835022/>

one can find the video launched for this initiative.

In Rome, at the general audience in Saint Peter's Square, there will be a group of young people, which symbolically represents all the promoters of this initiative. Then at 1.00 p.m., in the *Chiesa di Santo Spirito in Sassia*, there will be a prayer session, presided over by Mgr. Rino Fisichella, President of the Council for the Promotion of New Evangelisation and Coordinator of the Jubilee of Mercy.

In Bethlehem, the local Catholic Action is organising a prayer session in the Nativity Grotto.

In Medellin - Colombia, young people and adults, as well as the very young, are preparing coloured banners.

In Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, the scene of continual violence during these last months, a meeting of leaders and priest assistants of Catholic Action Movements has just finished. On the 8th June, these will join together in prayer and will also involve the whole population through the radio.

The appeal for peace is this year available in more than 30 languages: besides in Italian, English, French and Spanish, it may also be found in Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Birmanian, in the language of the Guarani Indios of Latin America, in the Hausa language spoken in Mali, the Togo Ewe and the Kikuyu of north Kenya thanks to the collaboration of leaders from the different countries.

"Let us pray for peace - Inzaurraga concluded – and let us pray for the victims of conflicts. This year, in a special way, let us remember refugees and asylum seekers, refugees who desperately flee from wars and knock at the door of our Countries if they succeed in escaping death whilst crossing the sea. Let us accompany them with our prayers so as to tell them that they are not alone and to confirm our commitment to welcome them and to show them solidarity"

For information and material in different languages:

www.catholicactionforum.org

<http://www.catholicactionforum.org/un-minuto-la-pace-2016/>

<http://www.catholicactionforum.org/un-minuto-la-pace-2016/?lang=en>

<http://www.catholicactionforum.org/un-minuto-la-pace-2016/?lang=es>

<http://www.catholicactionforum.org/un-minuto-la-pace-2016/?lang=fr>

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