

Notes about the 'peacemakers' list:

14th Dalai Lama. (1935 -) Known for his advocacy of Tibetans inside and outside of Tibet. Teaches the importance of compassion for a happy life, love, forgiveness and non-violence. Lives in exile in India. A champion for the human rights of the Tibetan people. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

Thich Nhat Hahn (1926 -) Buddhist monk, teacher, author, poet and peace activist now based in France. Instrumental in urging the US government to withdraw from Vietnam. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1967. Influential in the development of Western Buddhism. Continues to be active in the peace movement, promoting non-violent solutions to conflict.

Aung San Suu Kyi (1945 -) Burmese opposition politician and a former General Secretary of the National League for Democracy. After winning the majority vote in Burma's elections in 1990, she was detained under house arrest for almost 15 of the 21 years from July 20, 1989 until her release in November 2010. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. One of her most famous speeches is the "Freedom From Fear" speech, which begins: "It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it."

Mātā Amṛtānandamayī Devī (1953 -) Also known as Amma ("Mother"), a Hindu spiritual leader and teacher, who is revered as a saint by her followers. From a young girl, Amma has embraced people to comfort them in their sorrow has now embraced and brought solace to millions worldwide. She is widely respected for her humanitarian activities, including her world-wide charitable mission to aid the poor and dispossessed. A promoter of meditation, actions such as karma yoga, selfless service, and cultivating divine qualities such compassion, patience, forgiveness and self-control.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931 -) South African activist and Christian cleric who rose to worldwide fame during the 1980s as an opponent of apartheid. Tutu has been active in the defense of human rights and uses his high profile to campaign for the oppressed. He has campaigned to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, homophobia, transphobia, poverty and racism. Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Nelson Mandela (1918 -) President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, and was the first South African president to be elected in a fully representative democratic election. Before his presidency, Mandela was an anti-apartheid activist, in 1967 being arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. Mandela was freed in 1990 after serving 27 years in jail. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

Julia Butterfly Hill (1974 -) American activist and environmentalist. Hill is best known for living in a 180-foot-tall, roughly 1500-year-old California Redwood for 738 days between 1997 and 1999. Hill lived in the tree to prevent loggers from cutting it down. She is also known as a motivational speaker, a best-selling author and the co-founder of the Circle of Life Foundation.

Ay Weiwei (1957 -) Chinese artist and activist. In addition to his art work he has investigated government corruption and cover-ups. He uses the internet to communicate with people all over China, especially the young. On 3 April 2011 police detained him, without laying any official charges for weeks, at Beijing airport.

Leyla Zana (1961 -) Kurdish and Turkish female politician , who was imprisoned for 10 years for speaking her native language of Kurdish in the Turkish Parliament after taking her parliamentary oath and for her political actions which were claimed to be against the unity of Turkey. The Kurdish language, even when spoken in private, had been illegal for decades in Turkey. Recognized as a Prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. In April, 2010, Turkish court sentenced Leyla Zana to 3 years in prison for "spreading terrorist propaganda"

Vandana Shiva (1952 -) Indian philosopher, environmental activist, and eco feminist. She has assisted grassroots organizations of the Green movement in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, particularly in promoting diversity and integrity of living resources and the promotion of organic farming and fair trade.

Dr Helen Caldicott (1938 -) Australian physician, author, and anti-nuclear advocate who has founded several associations dedicated to opposing the use of depleted uranium munitions, nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons proliferation, war and military action in general. She hosts a weekly radio program, *If You Love This Planet*.

Ron Kovic (1946 -) anti-war activist, veteran and writer who was paralyzed in the Vietnam War. He is best known as the author of the memoir *Born on the Fourth of July*. Campaigns for non-violent alternatives to war, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Bassam Aramin Palestinian one-time Fatah militant who was gaoled for seven years for an attack on an Israeli Army jeep, Aramin renounced violence and became a prominent member of two cross-community organizations: Combatants for Peace, which he helped to found and in which former Palestinian gunmen and ex-Israeli soldiers meet to share their experiences and campaign for an end to the occupation by peaceful means; the Bereaved Families' Circle, which brings together families of Palestinians killed in Israeli military operations with those of Israeli victims of Palestinian militant attacks.

Ernesto Cortes Provides leadership training and civics education to poor and moderate-income people across the US and UK. The organizations he has founded have leveraged billions of dollars for poorer communities.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel (1931 -) Argentine sculptor, architect and pacifist. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980. He is noted for leading protests against the Free Trade Area of the Americas and for bringing attention to the act of Argentine police forming children into paramilitary squads.

Rene Ngongo (1961 -) Congolese biologist, environmentalist and political activist. In 2009, he received the Right Livelihood Award "for his courage in confronting the forces that are destroying the Congo's rainforests and building political support for their conservation and sustainable use."

Mother Theresa (1910-1997) Catholic nun of Albanian ethnicity and Indian citizenship, founder of Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta in 1950. For over 45 years she administered to the poor, sick, orphaned and dying. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Martin Luther King (1929-1968) American clergyman, activist, and prominent leader in the African American civil rights movement. In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other nonviolent means. Assassinated on April 4th in Memphis, Tennessee.

Henry Dunant (1828-1910) Swiss businessman and social activist. Inspired the creation of the Red Cross after witnessing the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in modern day Italy. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

Victor Jara (1932-1973) Chilean teacher, theatre director, poet, singer-songwriter, political activist. Member of the Chilean Communist Party. Shortly after the Chilean coup of 11 September 1973, he was arrested, tortured and ultimately shot to death by machine gun fire. His body was later thrown out into the street of a shanty town in Santiago. The contrast between the themes of his songs, on love, peace and social justice and the brutal way in which he was murdered transformed Jara into a symbol of struggle for human rights and justice across Latin America.

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) German theologian, organist, philosopher, physician, and medical missionary. Founder of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, now in Gabon, west central Africa. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

Rosa Parks (1913-2005) African-American civil rights activist, whom the U.S. Congress called "the first lady of civil rights". In 1955, Parks' individual action of civil disobedience by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott. She organized and collaborated with civil rights leaders, including boycott leader Martin Luther King, Jr., helping to launch him to national prominence in the civil rights movement.

Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928) English political activist and leader of the British suffragette movement, which helped women win the right to vote.

Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy during the American Civil War. After escaping from slavery, into which she was born, she made thirteen missions to rescue slaves using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, Kentucky, he was a poet, social activist and proponent of inter-faith understanding. Author of over 70 books, mostly on spirituality, social justice and a quiet pacifism.

Chief Seattle (c1780-1866). Duwamish native American chief. Pursued a path of accommodation to white settlers, forming a personal relationship with David Swinson "Doc" Maynard. Seattle, Washington was named after him. A widely publicized speech arguing in favor of ecological responsibility and respect of native Americans' land rights has been attributed to him.

Jeanette Rankin (1880-1973) The first woman in the US Congress. A lifelong pacifist, she voted against the entry of the United States into both World War I and World War II.

Ken Saro-Wiwa (1941-1995) Nigerian author, television producer, environmental activist. Saro-Wiwa led a nonviolent campaign against environmental degradation of the land and waters of Ogoniland, his homeland on the Niger delta, by the operations of the multinational petroleum industry.

Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association. His public-relations approach to unionism and aggressive but nonviolent tactics made the farm workers' struggle a moral cause with nationwide support.

Chico Mendes (1944-1988) Brazilian rubber tapper, trade union leader and environmentalist who fought to preserve the Amazon rainforest from logging companies. In 1988, Chico Mendes was assassinated by gunshot. In December, 1990, rancher Darly Alves da Silva, his son Darly Alves da Silva Jr., and their ranch hand, Jerdeir Pereira were sentenced to 19 years in prison for their part in Mendes' assassination. Two years earlier, Mendes had launched a campaign to stop Darly Sr. from logging an area that was planned as a reserve.

Petra Kelly (1947-1992) Politician and activist, instrumental in founding the German Green Party. Kelly received the Right Livelihood Award (also known as the *Alternative Nobel Prize*) in 1982 "...for forging and implementing a new vision uniting ecological concerns with disarmament, social justice, and human rights". She was shot dead under mysterious circumstances in 1992.

Rachel Corrie (1979-2003) American member of the International Solidarity Movement. She was killed in the Gaza Strip by an Israel Defence Forces bulldozer while she was kneeling in front of a local Palestinian's home, trying to protect it from demilitation.

Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980) Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador. He spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture and criticized the Salvadoran government because it “legitimized terror and assassinations”. Romero was shot dead on 24 March 1980, while celebrating Mass at a small hospital chapel, one day after a sermon where he had called on Salvadoran soldiers, as Christians, to obey God's higher order and to stop carrying out the government's repression and violations of basic human rights.

Maha Ghosananda (1929-2007) Cambodian Buddhist monk. When the Khmer Rouge seized control of the country, Pol Pot, who had once served in a Buddhist monastery, denounced Buddhist monks as useless pariah, part of the intellectual class, and targeted for especially brutal treatment, "reeducation" and in the end, elimination. In 1978, Maha Ghosananda left his forest hermitage in Thailand, and went down to the refugee camps near the Thai-Cambodia border to begin ministering to the first refugees who filtered across the border, bringing with them stories of apocalyptic horrors. The Cambodian refugees openly wept as Maha Ghosananda chanted the ancient and familiar sutras that had once been the bedrock of traditional Cambodian culture. He distributed photocopied Buddhist scriptures among the refugees, as protection and inspiration for the battered people. His entire family, and countless friends and disciples, were massacred by the Khmer Rouge.

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) Political and ideological leader of India during the Indian independence movement. He pioneered *satyagraha*, resistance to tyranny through mass civil resistance by non-violent means. His philosophy and leadership helped India gain independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. In addition, Gandhi organized protests by peasants, farmers, and urban laborers against excessive land-tax and discrimination and, after assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns to ease poverty, expand women's rights, build religious and ethnic amity, end untouchability, and increase economic self-reliance. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30th January 1948.