



## Soldiers of Peace International Association

---

### NEWS

Dear President, dear companions of the Blue Helmets,

First of all, we would like to apologize for this lack of Newsletter for the past two months. We have been very busy with the organization of the Soldiers of Peace International Day that took place on May 31<sup>st</sup>, with the finalization of this event and the organization of the Peace March which ended today in Paris.

Because of this delay, this Newsletter will be longer than usual and we will share you the most important moments of the international day of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

About the International Day of Peacekeepers, the various commemorations set up in Brussels, London or Paris have been successful. Everyone has honored our comrades in the best way possible. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in organizing these events, but also all the people who were present at these commemorations.

The International Day of Peace Soldiers also took place on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the United Nations Palace. We would like to thank everyone who participated to this day. Once again, we would like to thank in particular the various foreign delegations who came and took part in this ceremony. The following delegations were present with us during the day: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Ecuador, France, Ireland, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, Senegal, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Despite some logistical and organizational difficulties that came from personal requests that our team had to face during this event the day met a great success in our ranks, among the foreign delegations but also to the United Nations officials who told us of their satisfaction and their willingness to renew this day next year.

In particular, we will be returning to the United Nations on June 26 to attend a conference on human rights, and I will normally have the opportunity to debrief with our partner at the United Nations on the day.

This international day was a moment filled with emotions, memories during which old friendships were reinforced, where new friendships were born, especially between the different foreign delegations, old and new.

This international day was also the occasion to launch and reinforce several projects. In particular, we launched the international Young Peacemakers program. This program is

progressing fast. Our team in charge of the project has already made all the activities and projects that will be offered to teachers from different schools.

The March for Peace ended this Friday, June 22 in Paris, at UNESCO Headquarters, after more than 650km traveled. It has also been successful. To make you a short summary of this event which began on June 1st: Jerome and his team, composed of two of our members, Pierrot Loddo and Eric Schenbele, go to meet big cities as small towns. On their arrival, Jerome in walking dress and our two comrades dressed in AISP wearing their blue beret were received by the Mayor or by one of his representatives. The Mayor usually made a speech and then Jerome read the Secretary General's message. Following this, a flag exchange was made: the United Nations flag of the stage was given to the Mayor or his representative. The latter then handed us a flag of their city. Finally, they signed the guest book we will give to the Director General of the United Nations in Geneva, and deliver a message.

The entire SPIA team working at the office in Lyon and myself accompanied them on June 7th during the stage between Dole and Auxonne. It was a very pleasant moment that allowed our three companions to rest a bit and enjoy the company of young students.

This week I was also received in Monaco in the company of Mr. Jean-Luc Pradier, to set up a press conference to announce the holding of the Better World forum in September in Monaco, under the patronage of Prince Albert de Monaco.

Two new articles have also been published on the site and I urge you to read them. One of them focuses on the issue of Iran in the TNP written by our young intern Amaury.

At the office we will now get down to the preparation of the Moto Tour which will start next August 6th. This motorcycle tour will take place over a period of 15 days and will cover a total of 12 different countries: France, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

On the October the 4<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a meeting at the United Nations in order to reconstitute the work of our study groups on the Post Traumatic Stress. During this meeting, we will also make a presentation of our programs ASEO and Young Peace Makers to teachers, directors and inspectors from different school.

Our responsible for the SPIA environmental program, Mr. Humayou Martinez, has traveled to Algeria in order to teach some classes to people other there.

A team has also embarked on a humanitarian aid project in Iraqi Kurdistan aimed at helping young adolescents living in a transitional camp by donating pallets of medical equipment and participating in activities to promote coexistence and cohesion among the different ethnic and religious groups living in this region of the world.

Before closing this Newsletter, I would like to thank with all my heart all the interns working with me at the office, who have invested themselves and have allowed these different events and programs to be a success.

Clara, our intern in communication, is working hard to modernize our website, which is a showcase of our activities to the public. Please send your articles or any information that might be relevant to us to the following email address: [direction@aisp.fr](mailto:direction@aisp.fr).

Provisional Agenda:

**July:**

- 14/07: National Military Parade in Paris.

**August:**

- 06/08: Motorcycle tour.

**September:**

- 06-09/09: 10th Central Europe Soldiers of Peace meeting in Brno.

**October :**

- 04/10: Meeting at the United Nations to reconstitute our research programs.
- 23/10: French soldiers who have served in foreign operations Day.

**November :**

- 30/11 : Concert for Peace.

Best regards,

**Laurent Attar Bayrou**  
**International President of SPIA**