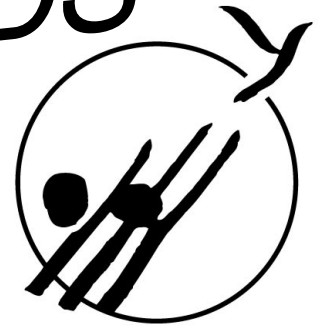


# LETTER TO FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World



International Movement ATD Fourth World  
107, avenue du Général Leclerc - 95480 Pierrelaye - France

MAY 2008 – No. 68

## **Editorial** Coming together and building peace, beginning with people living in extreme poverty

***"What answer can I give to young people from my country who want to risk their lives to look for a future elsewhere?"***

This heartbreak expressed by a woman whom young people were asking about their future pinpoints serious and painful situations. In all countries, young people and adults are faced with impossible choices: to remain forever trapped in unemployment and uselessness, or to seek exile in a distant location, often for a long time, in order to meet the needs of their family and community. The prolonged absence of parents eventually breaks down the family bonds. What sort of future can the children look forward to? In a constantly changing world, what sort of prospects are open to young people deprived of education, training and support?

Because of their extreme poverty, millions of men and women find themselves relegated to an existence where they have no rights and no respect, gradually cut off from any sense of equality with the rest of society. Our societies assign very little importance, protection or recognition to these people who are contributing to our economic, social and cultural development, and also to environmental protection. The lack of any bond with these men and women is eventually seen as a normal and inevitable consequence of the development of our societies. By excluding these millions of people living in extreme poverty from our lives and ambitions, are we not agreeing to live in the present and to plan for the future without them? This is tantamount to creating organised exclusions that are extremely violent.

Building peace beginning with the poorest people means constantly seeking to create bonds between



each other, with respect for dignity and the refusal to accept abandonment and exclusion. This is one reason why 167,000 people from 152 countries signed the Call to Action, a mobilisation tool for the campaign entitled "**Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace**", conducted in 2006-2007.

This edition of the Letter to Friends reports back on this campaign, telling us about the bonds fostered between people from every kind of background and environment, in the remotest villages, huge cities, mayor's offices, cultural centres, associations, universities and even international bodies. On 17th October 2007, from one continent to another, men and women came together as they have done ever since 1987, to enable people living in extreme poverty to have their say and to proclaim together the urgent need to build peace beginning with them.

Let's now strengthen this social movement. Let's encourage others to join it. One meaningful way of expressing our desire to join with the victims of extreme poverty will be to sign and constantly encourage others to sign the message that is at the origin of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:

*"Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty. Joseph Wresinski."*

HUGUETTE REDEGELD  
VICE PRESIDENT

# Examples of mobilization...

## ■ "Signing is a simple gesture, taking action is crucial"

I think it's shocking that for 36 years, in my classes, I've seen the majority of the students suffer at the beginning of the school year for the simple reason that their parents don't have the means to buy them school supplies. I find it shocking that the parents then have to come and apologize to the teachers so that they will tolerate these children without supplies in their class.

I find this situation humiliating for human dignity. And what an injustice to see the association of parents – mostly privileged – penalize innocent children by giving them a few of the lowest-quality supplies! These are children, not objects of charity. They are not responsible for their situation. They are human beings who deserve love and respect, and who have the right to dignity. Extreme poverty is the cause and it is my social and human duty to take action. Raising awareness among young people is also a step towards changing the world. Signing [the Call to Action] is a simple gesture, taking action is crucial. Tomorrow, I will post "October 17th, day of the declaration against extreme poverty" on the school's bulletin board. I will wear a multi-colored ribbon that I will attach to the pocket of my blouse in memory of this day. I will ask my students to make posters saying "Ending extreme poverty is a road to peace." I will sing the Hymn of Friendship by Rossini and I will teach it to them. It has been said that "music is universal." I say: "The struggle for human dignity is even more, because it doesn't have a religion or a homeland." Humanity is our mother who rejects difference and indifference.

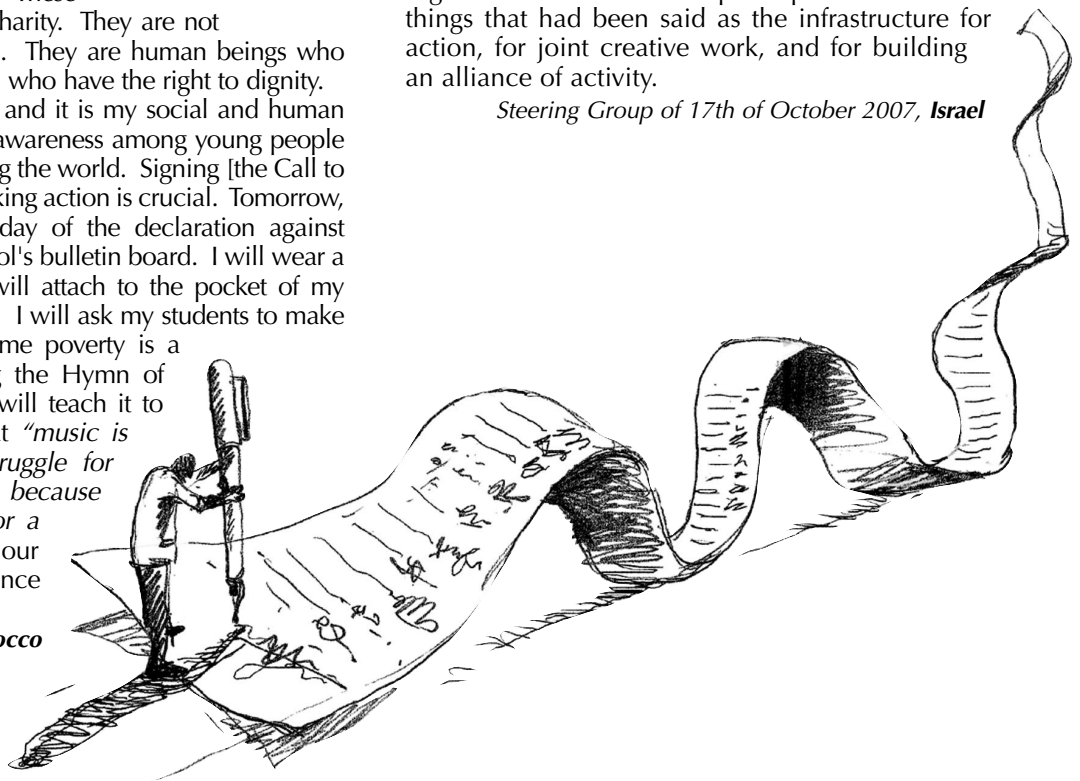
Sadia Z., Morocco



## ■ "An infrastructure for action and for joint creative work"

On October 17, 2007, a day of giving a voice to people living in poverty was marked in Israel for the first time. The main event included a series of meetings and a joint discussion with policymakers, representatives of the social services, media people and shapers of public opinion, social activists, directors of business organizations, representatives of the youth movements, academics, and people living in poverty. (...) One of the speakers spoke about work with a group of single mothers in east Jerusalem. Having become acquainted and learned about each other's lives, the women have become an independently operating empowerment and affiliation group and the women themselves spearhead changes in their families and the wider community. A member of the audience concluded that the great challenges facing the system are how to become the political emissaries of their clients and how to establish a true and honest partnership with them (...) The day was summed up by the conference organizers who called on participants to view the things that had been said as the infrastructure for action, for joint creative work, and for building an alliance of activity.

Steering Group of 17th of October 2007, Israel



## THE CALL TO ACTION: "I believe in it."

Why have so many people, in their own name or in the name of their association, signed the Call to Action? "Because I believe in it," is the answer from one person in Peru. What do others have to say about it?

### I'm signing because...

• ...nobody wants to be poor. We must fight extreme poverty which kills people.

• ...we must end extreme poverty and follow the path to peace.

• ...we must be in solidarity with people living in poverty because, due to it, their human rights are not respected. We must humanize our relations with others.

• ...I am young! If the future belongs to youth, we must make a contribution to guaranteeing a better future for ourselves; ending extreme poverty has become - through the Millennium Development Goals - a worldwide struggle under the banner of the United Nations.

## ■ "To liberate the poor, give them consideration"

My presence at the celebration of October 17th, 2007, is an honor for all those who suffer. I have known suffering (I've slept outdoors with my wife and children). I have been humiliated and held in contempt.

Today I - a poor person displaced due to the war - am participating in an international conference: "What rights for poor people in Ivory Coast?" Here I am sitting next to high-level decision-makers, like government ministers, professors, doctors, etc. I had the right to speak and I said: "It's not good to talk about poor people in their absence." I was listened to and what I said was taken into consideration. The organizers promised that next time, they will do whatever is necessary so that men and women from very poor backgrounds will be present. That changes everything because that means that poor people can make decisions concerning their country. That also means that the country will not be built only with rich people (...). Poor people must be trained, must learn to speak in public so that they can communicate with everyone. What can liberate the poor is to give them consideration. (...) Today, I am slowly starting to hold my head high. I'm using football as a way to meet people who are poorer than me (...).

*Alexis B., Ivory Coast*

## ■ "Broadcast on Radio France International"

I would like to fully support October 17th (...). Hour after hour, I followed what was happening on the day, broadcast on Radio France International, and I was really touched by the many testimonials on poverty throughout the world. I especially listened to testimonials from listeners in Benin, Cameroon, Madagascar, etc, and to the interviews of ATD Fourth World volunteers. It was encouraging and made me want to struggle even more to eradicate poverty in the world. (...) Personally, I brought together about 20 students and we debated for three hours on the causes of poverty and the most efficient way to struggle against it.

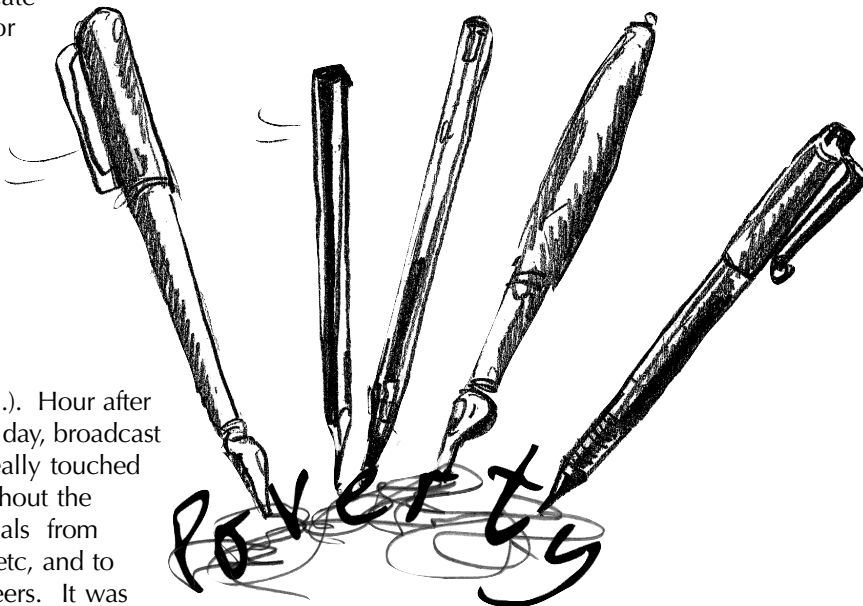
*Banacéma S., Togo*

## ■ "Solidarity signatures"

Starting in March 2007, in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the Union of Christians Emaüs Montero devoted itself to collecting solidarity signatures of the Call to Action.

"To do so, we asked people who have contacts in markets, universities, and neighborhoods to collaborate in spreading the Call to Action's message so that people would know what they were signing. It was not easy to get the message across, because several people had supported political and other campaigns in the past and were disappointed by them. But when they learned that it was something much bigger, that it was for the benefit of the neediest people and for all those who are committed alongside them, they were convinced and signed. Everyone was delighted that we were able to collect 10,200 signatures, all in solidarity for the eradication of extreme poverty."

*Alberto A., Bolivia*



*(continues on pages 7 and 8)*

## ***I'm signing because...***

- *...the world is under construction and I want to make my contribution.*
- *...as defenders of human rights we are called upon to fight social injustices. With extreme poverty we can do nothing to progress towards peace.*
- *...I am the founder of a humanitarian association fighting extreme poverty. My association is in constant expansion. Only the poor can understand the problems of poverty. It is my job to proclaim loud and clear that*

*poverty is not inevitable; let us unite in fighting it.*

- *...the eradication of poverty is the social responsibility of every thinking human being on this planet. We are not alone. We all belong to the same family. We cannot afford to be blind to the needs and suffering of others.*
- *...I believe that if we work together we can have a more just and fraternal world.*
- *...extreme poverty makes us all lose our dignity and attacks us all directly or indirectly.*

*(continues on pages 6 and 7)*



- ⇒ *Imagine the campaign's multi-colored ribbon tied around wrists, braided into hair, and pinned to clothing on people throughout the world...*
  - ⇒ *Imagine the Call to Action passing from hand to hand, sparking discussions and debates, leading more often than not to someone joining their name to the thousands of others...*
  - ⇒ *Imagine voices on Radio France International, reaching individuals in the most remote areas of the world, and speaking of community efforts that change the lives of people living in extreme poverty...*
  - ⇒ *Imagine painting, dancing, singing, poetry and theater, expressing what it means to live in extreme poverty and to work to end it...*
  - ⇒ *Imagine debates and discussions with neighbors, the larger civil society, and decision-makers...*
  - ⇒ *Imagine gatherings at the Commemorative Stone in Honor of the Victims of Extreme Poverty in Paris and at its 31 replicas around the world...*
  - ⇒ *Imagine thousands of cloth silhouettes made by children, bringing joy and vitality to all who see them...*
- ... And there you have a few snapshots of 2007's World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty.*

While international events were taking place at the Plaza of Human Rights and Liberties in Paris and at the United Nations in New York, local and national initiatives were mobilizing people around the world. Innovative and community-based, these initiatives reinforced the meaning and impact of the international events.

**"We have volunteered to be used as change-agents. We have come to listen."**

**October 17th, 2007, 10 AM:** People from many different walks of life converge at the Human Rights Plaza in Paris, **France**, arriving by foot, bus and train. At the same time, people around the world are taking to the road, choosing to travel out into communities the most deeply affected by extreme poverty and exclusion. In Nairobi, **Kenya**, a visit to people living in the city's slums, by Ragot O. and others, creates an opportunity for discussions focused on health, environmental issues and lack of employment. Northwest of Nairobi, Catherine K. begins her day in Njoro with the Ogiek people, an indigenous group dear to her, whom she has lived and worked with.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the continent, young people weed the bushy paths that lead in and out of the farming villages of Ekwankrom and Jukwa, in **Ghana**, and clean the surrounding area. Members of the Trinity Care and Needy Foundation have traveled here to visit and interview people at their homes, in the schools, and at the health post as a

way to hear what issues these communities are faced with, and how they have tried to take on these challenges.

The Three Meals a Day Initiative has also opened its ears today, to the Kok community of **Nigeria**. The founder, Emmanuel E., says: *"Our mission is not only to raise the level of awareness of the scourge called poverty but also to empower the poor to be self-reliant and live meaningful lives. We have volunteered to be used as change-agents to make the lives of the poor better. We totally reject the condition whereby millions of our people have resigned themselves to poverty and do not believe that any positive change can take place in their lives. Today, by meeting with the Kok community, we are adopting the bottom-up strategy in which the poor will feel free to talk to us and tell us how they would want to be empowered to live meaningful lives. This is the first step. We have come to listen."*

Meanwhile, back in Paris, 120 delegates have made their way to the Town Hall, invited by Mayor Bertrand Delanoé and the Director General of ATD Fourth World Movement, Eugen Brand. They have traveled here from 31 villages and cities around the world that host a replica of the Commemorative Stone in Honor of the Victims of Extreme Poverty. Public officials are sitting down with individuals living in extreme poverty and members of associations to explore the theme "Living Commitments, Engraved in Stone," facilitated by a journalist from Radio France International, Claire Hédon. Raul Detona, delegate from the **Philippines** who lived with his family under a bridge for several years, begins to speak: *"I didn't know anything about my rights as a citizen. When my place [under the bridge] got demolished,*

I didn't have any knowledge about the law regarding demolition. All I knew was that it was our fault that we lived there." Today he organizes forums and participates in meetings. "I encourage others to stand up and fight for their rights to have housing and to live decently." From Manila, Mayor Fred Lim sends a message to the delegates gathered at the Paris Town Hall, concluding: "We need everyone's concerted effort not only in education on poverty but to stand by the poorest." Simultaneously, replicas of the Commemorative Stone are being inaugurated in **Poland** (Kielce), **Bolivia** (Coroico), **France** (Libourne and Reims), and **Canada** (Moncton).

### Creativity and artistic expression as a means towards change

**12 PM:** Only a few kilometers away, the Human Rights Plaza is teeming with activity. An embroidery workshop run by Malagasy delegates attracts visitors, while children and adults alike flock towards the various painting workshops and drama performances. Young adults who participated in the European Solidarity Caravans welcome visitors with music, photos and testimonials from their trek around Europe to meet other people working against extreme poverty. Meanwhile, in **Cameroon**, Kids4Peace participates in an exhibition of works done by orphans in Yaounde. Over 7000 kilometers away, the children of Purnodaya in **Sri Lanka** use their paintbrushes to express themselves on the theme "Let us overcome poverty through unity." Their paintings are inspired by the lives of families living under a highway overhead bridge and children living in the streets. Drama and songs performed by the children conclude the day's events. In Munich, **Germany**, a photo exhibit bears witness to people living in precarious conditions who are involved in a solidarity project to support other people in distress (see page 7). In Tema, **Ghana**, students from several Junior Secondary Schools gather together and perform dances and poetry recitals of their own. In **Palestine**, a film made by Nouraldine S. and others portrays children living in difficult conditions. Their objective: to speak with children and professors about the meaning behind the World Day. Meanwhile in **Portugal**, live music - Brazilian, Arabic and Russian - fills a Porto metro station. Habitants descend into the station to paint huge canvases symbolizing unity between peoples and the right to live free of extreme poverty. The next step of this action spearheaded by the Espaço T. association: send pieces of these canvases to officials from



various countries, and representatives of the United Nations and the European Union. While pieces of these canvases carry a message outward, pieces of cloth come together in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, **USA**, to form the "Quilt of Our Lives". Displayed at the Clinchco Senior Center, this quilt tells the stories of the life and struggle of people from the region.

### Economic, social and cultural rights: opening the debate

**2 PM:** The auditorium near the Plaza of Human Rights and Liberties is packed. The debate "Living on Earth, a Right or a Privilege?" has attracted homeless people, families living in public housing, elected officials, and concerned citizens. Meanwhile, in **Israel**, different panels address housing, the labor market, relationships between social services and their clients, and the way the financial media covers life in poverty (see page 2). In **Benin**, students gear up for their own debate, at the center run by The Friends of Don Bosco, on the theme "Getting an education: a barrier to extreme poverty." In Abidjan, a symposium organized by the **Ivory Coast** League for Human Rights (LIDHO) is in full swing, addressing the question: "What rights for poor people in Ivory Coast?" (See page 3.) Their deliberate choice to emphasize economic, social and cultural rights is not isolated. Action for Social Rights, in collaboration with the United Nations in **Sierra Leone**, hosts a live radio panel discussion exploring these same rights. One senior political affairs officer of the UN says: "Peace could not only be defined as the end of war but the end of injustices between people to create a suitable living atmosphere (...) If we want to eradicate poverty, then we need to consolidate peace."

**"Let us demonstrate the political will required to end the scourge of poverty once and for all."**

**4 PM:** In New York, delegates are preparing to meet the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, to present the signatures of the Call to Action and a memorandum with top priority requests. In **Mexico**, Oliver A. has begun his day by handing out copies of the

(Continues on page 6)

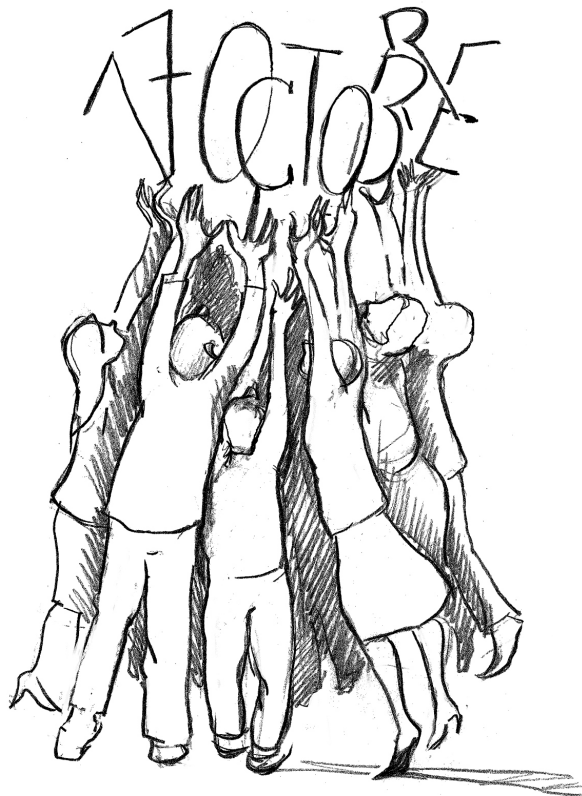
(see pages 4 and 5)

Call to Action leaflet. People in **Uganda, Lebanon, Argentina, Turkey, Pakistan, Algeria, Thailand, Brazil, Ireland**, the **Netherlands** and many other countries have already gone to great lengths to photocopy or retype the appeal for distribution, get it signed by dozens, hundreds or thousands of people and send the signatures back to the international center, in some cases by costly express mail so that they would arrive in time. Delegates in New York have these many efforts in mind as they inform the Secretary-General of the final count: over 167,000 people, associations and unions from 152 countries signed the Call to Action. Even more impressive is the diversity of faces and lives behind the signatures, the depth of their conviction, and scope of their involvement in efforts to overcome extreme poverty.

Delegates at the United Nations in New York are not the only ones determined to remind international institutions and national and local governments of their responsibility, alongside civil society, in ending extreme poverty. In **Malaysia**, the World Youth Foundation launches its campaign week for reform of international institutions, with the eradication of poverty as a main preoccupation. In **Liberia**, Youth For Community Academic and Development Services, active in the Stand Up Campaign, meets with the country offices of the IMF and World Bank, and addresses communications to the President and Houses of Parliament, encouraging political will for attaining the Millennium Development Goals. In **Malawi**, members of Youth Net & Counseling send mobile phone messages to Members of Parliament, cabinet ministers, opinion leaders, and the general public *"demanding action against the current standard of living for over 42% of Malawians."* In **France, Belgium**, and other countries, delegations meet with high-level public officials to present the Call to Action signatures, accompanied by political requests. In **Ethiopia** and **India**, children take to the streets in marches and silent rallies, proudly displaying placards reading phrases like *"We Can End Poverty,"* and explaining the meaning behind them to all those they met. Meanwhile, in countless other communities, youth and adults take an active part in the Stand Up campaign.

The Secretary-General's official message for October 17th gives importance to these many actions: *"...We have to view people living in poverty as agents of change. (...) It requires citizens to actively participate in policy-making, and Governments to become more accountable to their citizens in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals. (...) Today, we join hands with the poor in a collective effort - one which brings in civil society, the*

*private sector, and individuals around the world. (...) On this 20th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, let us stand up. Let us demonstrate the political will required to end the scourge of poverty once and for all."*



**To conclude**, one last snapshot from October 17th, 2007, this time from **Ivory Coast**, where Gilles B. explains: *"We're taking turns wearing the [multi-colored] ribbon. Each of us uses it for at least two days and then passes it to someone else, as a way to really get the message across."* From elsewhere in the country, Mamadou D. writes: *"I have the idea to get young Rotaract club members (...) and also youth from my country to wear the ribbon, much like the red ribbon that is worn during activities dedicated to AIDS.(...) Because all efforts are welcome in the struggle against extreme poverty."*

**Already one idea for October 17th, 2008!**

## ***I'm signing because...***

- ...it is sad to see the conditions of poverty in which people - the equals of my children and me - live. The sea bed consists of millions of little grains; without their unity the sea would not be as it is. We must unite our forces.*
- ...it is our job to support the campaign aimed at the worldwide disappearance of extreme poverty.*

*Doubtlessly, working hand in hand is the solution to many problems.*

- ...I believe in human dignity and in overcoming difficulties by solidarity. If you love life, you should support peace; if you love peace you should support life.*
- ...nobody knows the potential of a society of individuals who are really equal in rights; but I believe that its creation would be an extraordinary step in the right direction!*

# ...Examples of mobilization

## ■ "October 17th, result of a year of encounters"

October 17th, 2007, in Munich was the result of a year of encounters with a large diversity of individuals (people in charge of the Town Hall, heads of associations, and members of the media); meetings with politicians from the "Bayrischen Landtag", the regional government; visits to homes for children and to shelters housing refugees and immigrants threatened with deportation; information sessions in schools; conversations with young people at the prison for minors, etc. They were all invited to take part in the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. And many did.

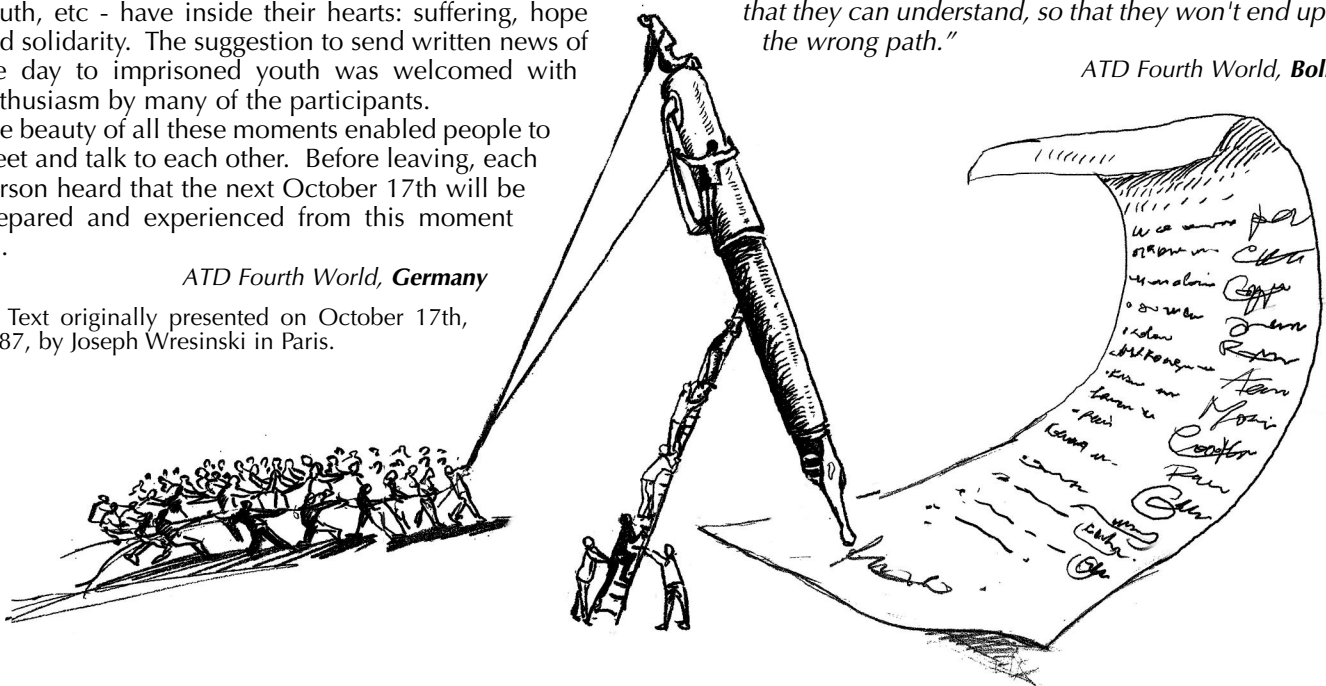
In the courtyard of the St. Bonifaz meeting center, the text "I Bear Witness to You" <sup>(1)</sup> was read by representatives of different religious communities. It was a strong sign of unity. Through an exhibit, a young photographer paid homage to people living in precarious conditions who are involved in a solidarity project to support other people in distress.

And lastly, children from refugee families gave the public courage through a joyful and poetic dance, and through the presentation of expressive silhouettes made by children, young people and adults. They showed what people - poor and non-poor, disabled, imprisoned youth, etc - have inside their hearts: suffering, hope and solidarity. The suggestion to send written news of the day to imprisoned youth was welcomed with enthusiasm by many of the participants.

The beauty of all these moments enabled people to meet and talk to each other. Before leaving, each person heard that the next October 17th will be prepared and experienced from this moment on.

ATD Fourth World, **Germany**

(1) Text originally presented on October 17th, 1987, by Joseph Wresinski in Paris.



## ■ "This Commemorative Stone affirms that human rights are violated"

On October 13, 2007, in Coroico, Bolivia, we inaugurated a replica of the Commemorative Stone in honor of people who live in poverty throughout the world and of the efforts they make to struggle against it. We placed this Commemorative Stone at the public wash-house because it's a place that symbolizes how the poorest people meet and work to live in dignity.

One man said: "The existence of this Commemorative Stone in our community is an important step. It represents our identity. This day [October 17th] helps us come out of the darkness." A woman added: "This Commemorative Stone affirms that human rights are violated, which is true because we are often discriminated against. Let's continue the struggle more and more each day...not only for ourselves but for our children." Another woman, upon hearing this, said: "It was worth struggling for my children. They gave me strength because I have suffered since I was a child. I found the courage to live so that they wouldn't suffer. There must be women who suffer from a disability like I do, women who have been abandoned with their children. I would like to say to them: struggle for your children with tenderness, with encouraging words, so that they can understand, so that they won't end up on the wrong path."

ATD Fourth World, **Bolivia**

## I'm signing because...

- ...an injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere. I'm not part of the problem, I am part of the solution.
- ...I am from a poor family. This is the reason for the creation of my association.
- ..."a chain is only as strong as its weakest link." I try in my own small way to fight extreme poverty, but it is all together that we will succeed.
- ...like all humanity's sufferings, poverty is a scourge

which takes away the pleasure and the joy of living. I am convinced that I cannot enjoy my own happiness if I don't help my neighbour to get out of extreme poverty.

- ...we are perhaps not directly to blame for the exclusion of millions of human beings, but we can become the agents for their inclusion.
- ...poverty is the most striking symptom of our society's sickness, fighting to eliminate it is imperative for social justice.

(continues on page 8)

■ "Access to a quality education for all: the poorest people's perspective"

At the University Cultural Center in Guatemala City, a public forum took place with the objective of opening a discussion between representatives from families living in extreme poverty and from institutions. We know that each child's educational success is a tremendous challenge. We wanted this forum to be an opportunity for those who struggle each day towards this goal, despite their difficult life, to be heard. One mother said: "I could go as far as begging in order to register my children at school because for us, going to school is a luxury."

Each family aspires to their children's school enrollment even if these efforts are often insufficient as real proof of this deep aspiration. We would like their experiences, their life and their opinions to be put at the center of the thinking and discussions on this important subject.

ATD Fourth World, **Guatemala**

■ "They were so proud"

Our celebration of October 17th was a public event and took place at the Town Hall, a very meaningful place in the city center. Key figures were present, as well as many human rights associations. (...) All of the preparations for the day's events were organized jointly.

Street libraries take place in six neighborhoods of the city. We made an enormous banner since ten children were holding hands, wearing magnificent costumes. This banner was on exhibit at the Town Hall on October 17th. The "composers" of the street libraries were so proud.

Sr Rolande M., **Madagascar**

■ "We want these children to realize that they are important"

I work with children living in extreme poverty and every day I see the different injustices caused by economic and human poverty. Through this beautiful yet difficult work, we will make sure these children regain their self-esteem and realise that they are important, that they are human beings with rights, that they can dream and that, thanks to education, they will become productive professionals and agents of change, definitively breaking the vicious cycle of extreme poverty.

In the theme of poverty, one of the main aspects to deal with is housing. We humans need to live in dignity. We need a roof to protect us. Yet these families live in sheds, without water or sanitation and in most cases they share their living space with animals, which causes disease and greater poverty.

I would like to know more about TAPORI. My children could become part of this worldwide movement of friendship, and we adults can continue to work to build a world without extreme poverty.

Ana María A., **Sierra Flor Foundation, Ecuador**

Children, young people and adults throughout the world were active in the campaign "Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace" and in celebrating October 17th, 2007 with creativity and enthusiasm!

Check out how children made their voices heard through the Taporí children's network:

[www.tapori.org](http://www.tapori.org)

Discover how the innovative European Solidarity Caravans brought youth from different social and cultural backgrounds together:

[www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Caravans-](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Caravans-)

The site [www.oct17.org](http://www.oct17.org) is a tool for staying in contact and exchanging information. It can be consulted and enriched all year long.

**I'm signing because...**

- ...we will never know civil, military or psychological peace as long as the scourge of extreme poverty has not been mastered.
- ...I am aware that men and women fight every day on the grassroots level, with and for families in need.
- ...I believe in a world where rich and poor will sit side by side.

- ...I am a witness to the extreme poverty of the children of prisoners in my own country. I would like to make politicians aware of the conditions of a prisoner's child who often finds himself, from one day to the next, faced with all kinds of extreme poverty.
- ...for a fairer, well-balanced, and globally harmonious world. Extreme poverty is a reality which engenders many conflicts. Let us unite in solidarity to participate in its eradication.

The "Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World" is a network of committed people who want to develop friendship and exchange knowledge about what poor and very poor people teach us, i.e. people who suffer from multiple disadvantages in the areas of education, housing, employment, health and culture; those who are criticised and rejected the most. This forum invites people to join a worldwide movement to overcome extreme poverty, to rebuild communities with people living in extreme poverty, inspired by their lives. This movement expresses itself in the **Letter to Friends Around the World**, which publishes the texts written by its correspondents three times a year, in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Permanent Forum is run by the International Movement ATD Fourth World, an international NGO whose headquarters are in Pierrelaye, France. Those who join the Forum do so in their own right, and do not have to become members of ATD Fourth World.

Our e-mail address is: [forum.permanent@atd-quartmonde.org](mailto:forum.permanent@atd-quartmonde.org) Internet : [www.atd-quartmonde.org](http://www.atd-quartmonde.org) Subscription \$8/8 € per annum - Support subscription: \$10/10 € per annum.

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**HÉLÈNE PERDEREAU'S**  
COMMITMENT IS TO  
ILLUSTRATE THE TEXTS  
OF THE LETTER  
ON A FREE-TIME BASIS

PAGE SETUP:  
**LYDIE ROUFFET**