

Peace Festival in Caldas gathered hundreds of participants

On the weekend of 20 and 21 of September, was held in Caldas da Rainha the III Festival of Peace, integrated in the commemorations of the International Day of Peace, which was established by the UN in 1981.

An exhibition, launching balloons with messages of peace, sports and cultural activities were part of the program which took place in Caldas and wants to raise awareness for peace worldwide.

One of the highlights of this Festival of Peace was played on Saturday afternoon at D.Carlos I Park with the launch of 500 white balloons with peace messages that were launched by students of the School Rainha D. Leonor. During the day, 500 flowers were distributed to the participants, also containing messages about peace. All in the name of a culture of peace **"that must begin in ourselves"**, said Maria de Lurdes Esteves, one of the elements of the Friends of Peace of Caldas da Rainha, very pleased with the great support that the party had.

On Saturday evening, the initiative took place in Bowling Caldas that hosted this event with the distribution of natural flowers with messages from world leaders and launch of bright balloons. This event should have had the participation of 250 persons, while the next day, September 21, the celebrations for Peace were held throughout the day at Parque D. Carlos I having had the participation of 500 people.

The green space in the city was the scene of concerts, poetry, painting, presentations of videos, sports, dance demonstrations, martial arts, yoga and also therapeutic massages. One of the participants, the osteopath Jorge Montés, made known his recovery massages.



Um dos momentos altos foi o lançamento de 500 balões

In his view, such events are **"very useful to bring people to the streets and to open many hardened hearts."**

EXHIBITION AT THE LIBRARY

The initiative took off on September 16 with the opening of the exhibition "Peace begins with you" in the Municipal Library which can be seen until September 30. Part of it graphic materials, messages and videos on Peace.

The organizing group used the occasion to present the PEP - Peace Education Program - created by The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF) that will be launched soon in Caldas. One part of it are clarification sessions that the local group wants to take to the schools.

The group challenged Council woman Maria da Conceição Pereira, present at the event, to promote to the Board and Caldas Municipal Assembly the Commitment To Peace, a document signed at the European Parliament in 2011 by his vice-president Gianni Pitella. The Chamber of Cascais, for example, has already accepted and signed this commitment.

The initiative III Festival of Peace, which was also held in Portugal in Lisbon and Rio Maior, happens all over the world in order to mark the International Day of Peace of United Nations on 21 September.

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Flowers were also distributed to the participants in this festival.