

DECLARATION

*In recognition of the Universal Day of Peace and Nonviolence
September 21, called for by the United Nations*

As followers of Jesus Christ, Son of God, whom we recognize as sovereign Lord, we affirm our biblical and historical belief that the way to peace is through active nonviolence and love for neighbor—especially the weak, the poor, the marginalized and enemies.

We will not side with armed proposals for the pursuit of peace. We believe that attempts to compel the entire Colombian population to take sides in the armed conflict, whether by the State or by the illegal armed groups, pose a false choice. They all use the same logic of weapons and violence.

We refuse to participate in armed groups or to pay for others to do so. We oppose the militarization of the economy, and we advocate for everyone's right to conscientious objection to all forms of military service.

We believe that peace is everyone's concern. Therefore, we will continue to work for peace with justice for all, engaging in constructive conversations and actions with whatever group is willing to consider negotiated and nonviolent solutions to the country's problems, directed towards reconciliation.

We encourage the government, the armed groups, and the media to give up their warlike attitudes, and to engage in peace talks and actions in which substantial and fundamental concessions are made towards the building of a new country, a country that fully guarantees the conditions for human dignity within a framework of legal and social justice that includes housing, employment, land rights, security, education, health care and democratic freedoms.

We call on the international community, and especially the citizens of the United States, to stop their contributions in money, weapons, and consultation to the war in Colombia. We call on them to contribute to the well-being of the world by approving and supporting the International Criminal Court.

We invite the Colombian movements for peace, human rights, and nonviolence to set aside their divisions and to take on a more proactive role in fostering peace of our country.

We also invite all Colombian men and women of good will to join in creating a great movement of "One Million Artisans of Life, Nonviolence and Peace".

PAN Y PAZ -BREAD AND PEACE. We invite all citizens to pray and carry out an intentional (non compulsory) fast for peace on Saturday, September 21, and to break the fast at 4 pm in community in a public act at the Plaza de Bolívar in central Bogotá, bringing bread to share. Bread for all, not bullets! Bread for the hungry, not bombs!