WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

Event Title: <u>National Day to Combat Religious Intolerance</u>

Organizer: Interfaith Movement of Rio de Janeiro URI Cooperation Circle

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Country: Brazil

Date: 21 Jan 2018

Short Description: Celebration of the National Day to Combat Religious Intolerance and the Reopening Ceremony of the Outeiro da Glória Monumental Municipal Park.

Start/end time: 3pm to 9pm

Venue: Outeiro da Glória Monumental Municipal Park

Address: Rua do Russel, 90, Rio de Janeiro – RJ – Brazil.

Links:

https://oglobo.globo.com/rio/parque-municipal-do-outeiro-da-gloria-reabre-neste-sabado-22310601

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHAJJ_oLdGw

https://www.facebook.com/pg/MIR-movimento-Intereligioso-do-Rio-de-Janeiro-1433919066899198/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1873810726243361

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.401475986968444&type=3

Event Details:

"I learned not to try to convince anyone. The job of convincing is a lack of respect, it is an attempt to colonize the other". José Saramago

Thanks to Law No. 11,635, January 21 is the National Day to Combat Religious Intolerance in Brazil and for this reason we start our celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week on this day. The date was chosen because it was the death day of Ialorixá Mother Gilda, of the

Terreiro (African Brazilian Religious Temple) Axé Abassá de Ogum (Bahia), who suffered a heart attack after being attacked in newspapers of the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, accused of charlatanism, witchcraft and black magic, in a clear act of religious intolerance, motivated only by the fact that Ialorixá was practicing a religion of African origin. A homage was made to Mother Gilda, where our gratitude and respect was shown.

The patron saint of the city of Rio de Janeiro, St. Sebastian, died anguished for preserving his faith.

KOINONIA - Ecumenical Presence in Service celebrate this date since 2012. This year o 2018 it highlighted the Exhibition "Intolerance has Face, Name, Color and Address". It aimed to show that Religious Intolerance has face, name, color and address. The 12 self-explanatory banners also with phrases of Dalai Lama and Gandhi shows the importance of continuing the process of raising awareness in human people and that we all have the right to practice our faith.

We had the participation of many religious leaders and institutions: Bhaktivedanta, Baha'i, Buddhist, Catholic, Gypsies, Spiritualists, Daimists, Spiritists, Evangelicals, Great White Brotherhood, Hare Krishnas, Indigenous, Jews, Muslims, Native Americans, Native Traditions, Umbandists, Wiccans. Institutions: B'nai B'brith, FIERJ, KOINONIA, MIURA, MUDA, OCA, URI.

Artists that donated their show: Ogan Genário e Zoatabaque, Respeitem Meu Canto, Ás de Ouro, Cocada Carioca, Vacite and Encanto Cigano.

After the reopening OF the Outeiro da Glória Municipal Monumental Park, it have the status of Sacred Site, where all religious traditions can perform ceremonies, artistic and cultural activities.

In the opening ceremony we had around 500 people and a lot of publicity about the event. Everything was possible to accomplish despite the scarce financial resources and infrastructure. But we occupied the Park and spent the days on its gardens, we talked, we sang, we exchanged experiences.

We are convinced that it is not enough to fight intolerance. It takes military in favor of Religious Freedom. Even those who have no faith. The state is and must continue to be a layperson, and each individual should have the right to choose his own path of connection with the divine, of earthly devotion, of agnosticism or of abstention from the religious question.

The Ceremonies in the Outeiro da Glória Monumental Municipal Park were simple, harmonious and beautiful. The purpose of working through interreligious dialogue was to work together among people of different traditions, the characteristic of the religious matrix in Brazil.

EU RESPEITO OS PAJÉS

Sim é possível e acreditamos