



The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

Vote World Parliament

— democratic world parliament through a global referendum —

www.VoteWorldParliament.org

Vote World Parliament President is Jim Stark; Vice President is Ted Stalets

www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com

This site, above, is for the book *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

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(This issue and all previous issues are posted at www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com)

Quotes of the month

Leaders are indispensable, but to produce major social change many ordinary people must also be involved. Anne Firor Scott (From the November 2009 newsletter of Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota)

The future depends on what we do in the present. Mohandas Gandhi (From the November 2009 newsletter of Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota)

This [global referendum] initiative is vital to the very future of humanity. People everywhere must understand the necessity of democratic world government for the survival and flourishing of life on the Earth. Vote World Government brings our one real option for a decent world order to the attention of humanity. God bless this movement. Glen T. Martin, author of *Ascent to Freedom: Practical and Philosophical Foundations of Democratic World Law*

News in brief

What's in a **name**?

We have changed the name of the NGO from “Vote World Government” to “**Vote World Parliament**,” as required by the **change of organizational focus** (from a world government to a world parliament), approved some time ago. The work of making this conversion is quite onerous, and won't be completed for weeks yet. **Ted Stalets** is doing the redesign of the site (the “**under construction**” version can be seen at www.voteworldparliament.org),

and the “switch will be thrown” to do the transfer in the near future. “What’s in a name?” you may well ask. In this case, the foundation and the point of our initiative is described by our name, and we are satisfied that we have fine-tuned it correctly.

Authors’ Campaign to remain as it was

Under the rubric of “it seemed like a good idea at the time,” we tried to find a few authors on our Authors’ Campaign list to form a steering committee. However, we were unable to find anyone to chair (or even co-chair) such a committee. They are all busy professionals, and our global referendum initiative hasn’t quite proved itself yet, so this response wasn’t too unexpected. VWP’s Executive Committee has therefore decided to **leave the Authors’ Campaign as it was**, a list of cosmopolitan authors who may be called upon (individually or as a group) as may seem beneficial from time to time. Certainly it helps just to have all those **impressive names** up there on our site to aid our search for more NGOs to join with us in collecting ballots for the global referendum.

New Author on the list

While we are no longer actively trying to find new authors to join that list, there is a new one to tell you about ... **Troy Davis**, author of *Appel pour une Démocratie Mondiale* and a well-known activist in the field of global democracy. FYI, his decision to join with us is a direct result of our decision to change the emphasis of our initiative, one of several steps forward that have derived from this recent change-of-name.

Poor countries walk out on climate talks

Although we all hope that the negotiations in **Copenhagen** will succeed, we see again the same predictable dynamics that have happened in the past. Instead of marching around and shouting and getting arrested as the demonstrators are doing, or walking out of the talks as the poor countries have done, it might be better if those who understand our dire world situation worked for a positive solution, such as a democratic world parliament. It is recommended that you read this article (URL below), although it may be overtaken by events by the time you read it.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Poor-Countries-Walk-Out-on-Climate-Talks-79207477.html>

Rob Wheeler to take global referendum to People’s Congress

Rob Wheeler, the Chair of the Executive Committee of **WATUN** (the World Alliance to Transform the UN) has offered to propose basically the **same resolution** that WATUN has passed to the **People’s Congress**, to see if they might choose to climb on board the “global referendum express.” The People’s Congress has a listing of **10,000 “registered” world citizens**, and presumably, if they embrace the global referendum strategy, that will turn into at least 10,000 new votes—thousands more if each new voter from the People’s Congress asks a couple of friends to join in.

Heartfelt thanks for doing this, Rob, and best of luck.

[Editor's note: In the new year, Rob will be inviting all 27 member-NGOs of WATUN to get their respective memberships to cast votes in the global referendum. If they all do as requested, the global referendum should acquire "Big Mo" ... significant "momentum."]

Report from Deepak Vyas (from an email dated December 3, 2009)

Our **Global Trust** peace march started in September, 2009. We have covered many small villages, rural areas and a few towns spreading the message of Global Democracy. We will be covering **Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Turkey, Austria, France, the UK** and the countries on the way from India to the USA. Right now, it is difficult to frame a timetable as I am a government employee and I have to go through a lot of formalities in order to be able to leave the country. We will be in constant touch with you, reporting all progress with the march. Your blessings and good wishes will be a great driving force in our ambitious endeavour.

And Global Trust has put a **link** onto their **home page** that reads "**Click here to vote on the establishment of a democratic world parliament.**" We expect other NGOs to follow their example. (See link at www.globalharmony.info/home.html.) VWP now plans to put a similar mini-banner on our home page for other NGOs to download (the redesign of our site is almost done).

Report from Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)

Bhawani Shanker Kusum heads an NGO called **Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)**, and is a player in a network of 200+ NGOs. GBS has started its campaign, and Bhawani's plan is to enlist units of GBS and other NGOs to collect votes. Their objective is **100,000 votes** ... soon, they hope ... and I expect they will far exceed this number, since there are more than a billion citizens of India! GBS also plans to post **letters to 1,000 dignitaries** to get their signatures on an appeal to media outlets in India (and others) to support the global referendum on the creation of a democratic world parliament.

[Note: GBS will also be adding a **link to the VWP ballot on their home page**, becoming the second web site to do so (the first was Global Trust).]

Report from GigaVote

GigaVote, as the name implies, is being set up to collect "millions" of votes from all over the world. The two main GigaVote players there are **Erandi Diaz** and **Jorge Ramirez**, both Mexican citizens. They are creating a "dual mirror portal" that will allow GigaVote (and later, other NGOs) to collect ballots, keep their own tally and run their own show, while all GigaVote ballots will also be tabulated at Vote World Parliament headquarters. Erandi has just started collecting votes, and already has 500 to input ... and **90% are "yes" votes!** He sees the potential of getting up to **800 votes per hour** (!) by using the Internet.

Activity in **Brazil**

Kelvin Paul Scholz is a law student in Brazil. His aim is to launch a “CV” (chain-voting) campaign in the hope that it will go viral in Brazil, and perhaps in Portugal as well (and perhaps elsewhere). See <http://voteworldparliament.org/you-can-help/fast-track/> for more details of this CV plan (that anyone can initiate).

Editorial, by Jim Stark

Obama defends war

Howard Kurtz, host of CNN’s *Reliable Sources*, noted that conservative American media commentators and politicians were delighted with President Obama’s Nobel acceptance speech. Kurtz characterized it as “an impassioned defence of war,” with Obama asserting that war is “sometimes necessary for the defence of peace.”

Obama had a point, to be sure, although what he should have said is that “the *use of force* is sometimes necessary for the defence of peace.” There’s a huge difference.

The use of highly targeted force by police is sometimes necessary to defend the freedoms and rights of citizens, because crime exists. But the Chicago Police, for instance, cannot declare war on and carpet bomb one crime-ridden neighborhood of Chicago and then just lament the extent of collateral damage, meaning those who are killed unintentionally, and whose numbers in modern wars are often greater than those who are killed on purpose.

Obama should get past the part of his job description where he is called on to defend the USA and become, additionally, the “leader of the free world” who finally realizes that war must be criminalized, like theft and rape. Of course to do that he would have to buy into a new mental framework that admits that 200 totally sovereign nations is a perfectly ridiculous way to run a planet.

There would still be periodic wars among modern cities if not for the existence of laws, courts and political machinery that provide for the nonviolent resolution of disagreements within nations. As former U.S. President Harry S. Truman said 65 years ago: “... [if] Kansas and Colorado have a quarrel over the water in the Arkansas River, they don’t call out the National Guard in each state and go to war over it. They bring suit in the Supreme Court of the United States and abide by the decision. There isn’t a reason in the world why we can’t do that internationally.”

The USA often brags about being a “nation of laws,” but its leader plays no useful role in the growing demand for world law, and for a world parliament to make such law, and for a world judiciary to enforce such law when circumstances call for enforcement. This kind of approach is forehead-slapping obvious when seen on the level of a nation, province (or “state,” in the USA) or municipality.

Most people live comfortably under a triple regime of local, regional and national law. It's both amusing and pathetic when otherwise intelligent people wet themselves in their panic to insist that to advocate a world of laws is unrealistic, naïve, dangerous or stupid. That "blind spot" may cost the human race everything, in the end. It is long past time that we, the people of Earth, insisted on global democracy, and demanded far more common sense and courage from all our politicians.

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Jim Stark is the president of Vote World Parliament, an NGO dedicated to launching a global referendum on democratic world parliament (see www.voteworldgovernment.org or www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com; 121 authors support the global referendum; the full list is at www.voteworldgovernment.org/authorscampaign.shtml)