

September 6, 2002

This anniversary week we search for meaning in the madness of violence. Friends, there is an alternative. We make it in our own homes, we create it in our classrooms, we do not wait for politicians to present it to us. Hope is a memory of the future. We can live in that hope.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: Only love can do that."

Dr. Oscar Arias, Nobel Laureate and former President of Costa Rica wrote:

In the category of commemorations that can encourage healing I would place those that provide space for mourning and remembering the victims, and those that take a constructive approach to the future and seek to build peace out of the rubble of war. Many people who have lost loved ones to violence have come to the realization that only by planting the seeds of peace will their loss not have been in vain. These people have made the decision not to contribute to the very cycle of violence that produced their loss by calling for revenge. They rather call for an end to all violence as the best way to ensure that others will not have to endure similar losses in the future.

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