

# International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers Remembrance Ceremony The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London: 1pm, 22 May 2008

**Statement:** David Wardrop, Chairman, United Nations Association, Westminster Branch

**Prayer:** Revd. Donald Prentice, Former Senior United Nations Force Chaplain

**Wreaths will be laid on the North Face**

**IN MEMORY: COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE, 1<sup>st</sup> UN mediator**

**Count Oscar Bernadotte**

**IN MEMORY: COMMANDANT RENÉ DE LABARRIÈRE, 1st UN fatality**

**Colonel Philippe Guidi, Air Attaché, French Embassy**

**IN MEMORY: UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS FROM 118 NATIONS**

**HM Government** Dr Kim Howells, Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office

**Military** Air Vice Marshall C M Nickols, MBE, ACDS, Royal Air Force

**Police** Sir Ian Blair, QPM, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

**Wreaths will be laid on the East, South and West faces**

**Albania** Colonel Zyber Dushku **Algeria** Mr Rabah Toubal **Andorra** HE Mrs Maria Picart de Francis  
**Australia** Lt-Colonel Chris Anderson **Azerbaijan** Mr Jeyhun Novruzov **Bahamas** HE Mr Paul Farquharson  
**Bangladesh** HE Mr Shafi Ahmed **Barbados** HE Mr Edwin Pollard **Belarus** Mr Valery Kurdyukov  
**Bosnia & Herzegovina** Ms Vesna Planinic **Brazil** Ms Lilian Duarte **Brunei** Lt-Colonel Abang Omarzuki  
**Cameroon** Mr Joel Nguenkam **Canada** Lt-Colonel Lee Nickerson **China** Senior-Colonel Tang Busheng  
**Costa Rica** Ms Sylvia Ugalde **Croatia** Ms Maja Erceg **Cyprus** Mr Evangelos Savva  
**Czech Republic** Lt-Colonel Leos Mauer **El Salvador** HE Mr Vladimiro Villalta **Ethiopia** HE Mr Berhanu Kebede  
**Fiji** Mr Semesa Sautu **France** Colonel Philippe Guidi **Gabon** Mr Medard Nze-Ekome  
**Germany** Lt Colonel Carsten Rietsch **Ghana** Brig-General George Adjei **Greece** Captain Markos Tsolekas  
**Guatemala** HE Mr Alfonso Fahren **Hungary** Mrs Klara Breuer-Kudas **India** Brigadier Anil Mehta  
**Indonesia** Colonel A Risdhianto **Iran** Mr Ali Zohrehvand **Ireland** Mr Derek Hannon  
**Italy** Colonel Roberto Comelli **Japan** Captain Hiroyuki Terada **Jordan** Colonel Zaid Negresh  
**Kazakhstan** Colonel Marat Zhumatayev **Korea** Mr Dae-sik Kim **Kuwait** Lt-Colonel Husam Al-Yaseen  
**Malta** HE Mr Michael Refalo **Moldova** Ms Irina Braguta **Morocco** Mr M Oualid  
**Mozambique** HE Mr Antonio Gumende **Namibia** Mrs Hedwig Tjituka **Nepal** Colonel Himalaya Thapa  
**Netherlands** Lt-Colonel Reynauld Vuijk **New Zealand** Lt-Colonel John Boswell **Oman** Brigadier Salim Al-Jhadhami  
**Pakistan** Mr Abdul Basit **Philippines** Mr Reynaldo Catapang **Poland** Colonel Krzysztof Szymanski  
**Qatar** Colonel Mohammed Al-Nuaimi **Russian Federation** Mr Alexander Shoshnikov  
**Rwanda** HE Mr Claver Gatete **Senegal** HE Mr Abdou Sourang **Serbia** Lt-Colonel Branko Milovanovic  
**Singapore** Mr Zainal Mantaha **Slovenia** Lt-Colonel Tomasz Okrslar **South Africa** Brig-General Lindile Yam  
**Spain** Lt-Colonel Alfonso Romero **Swaziland** HE Mrs Mary Khanya **Sweden** Mr Per Augustsson  
**Tunisia** Mr Riadh Ben Sliman **Ukraine** Colonel Sirhiy Strilchuk  
**Uruguay** Captain Jesus Dearmas **United States of America** Colonel Anita Domingo **Venezuela** Mr Felix Plasencia-Gonzalez  
**Zambia** Mr Dickson Sakala

**FOR THE WIDOWS OF UN PEACEKEEPERS: Mrs Renee Linder, War Widows Association**

**ON BEHALF OF UK SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Mr John Cooke, UN Veterans Association UK**

**ON BEHALF OF UK CIVILIAN STAFF : Mr David Irwin, HM Revenue and Customs**

**FOR THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD : Students from the Westminster City School for Boys**

**Prayer**

**Iman Azim Hafiz, Muslim Chaplain to the Armed forces**

**Closing Statement**

**David Wardrop**

**The Band of the Grenadier Guards will provide musical support during the ceremony.**

**Students from Westminster City School for Boys will serve as marshals throughout the ceremony. The school is located in Palace Gate, close to Victoria.**

# **A Guide to today's ceremony to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**

## **United Nations peacekeepers: helping to bring failed States back to life.**

Today, there are more than 88,000 UN peacekeeping troops including 11,000 police from 118 nations serving in 22 UN operations on four continents. They are joined by about 5,000 international civilians and more than 11,000 local civilian staff. Women peacekeepers serve in the military (1%), police (4%), international civilian staff (30%) and nationally recruited civilian staff (28%). The UN is the largest multilateral contributor to post-conflict stabilization worldwide. Only the US deploys more military personnel to the field. In 2005, UN peacekeeping operations involved 161,000 military and police personnel using 864 flights on 200 long-term charter aircraft, moving in all 700,000 passengers to various missions. In that year, the UN deployed 220 medical clinics and 21 military hospitals, all in the name of humanity.

## **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**

A total of 2,468 peacekeepers from 118 nations have lost their lives in service. Of these, 98 were British. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was first observed on 29 May 2003, the date in 1948 when the first UN peacekeeping mission, its Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine. On this day, we pay tribute "to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations, as well as to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace."

## **The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal**

The Medal is a posthumous award to members of UN peacekeeping operations who have lost their lives in service under the control and authority of the UN. The 3" x 2", clear glass crystal ellipsoid is grit-blasted with the name and date of death of the recipient, the UN symbol and the inscription "The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal. In Service of Peace" in English and French. Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary-General (1953-1961) died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo.

## **Count Folke Bernadotte**

Count Folke Bernadotte served as head of the Swedish Red Cross during World War II. In its final months, he led a Swedish relief expedition to Germany with his famous "white buses.", saving about 30,000 concentration camp prisoners, bringing them to Sweden. In 1948, he became the UN's first official mediator, in Palestine. He achieved a truce in the first Palestine war and set up the UN refugee relief organization. He proposed a political solution to the Palestine question but on 17 September, 1948, a few days before his plan was to be presented to the UN, he was assassinated in Jerusalem. At a meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1998, his family received the Dag Hammarskjöld medal. Today, the wreath to his memory will be laid by his eldest grandson, Oscar Bernadotte.

## **Commandant René de Labarrière**

The French officer, Commandant René de Labarrière, was the first peacekeeper to lose his life in a United Nations peacekeeping operation. He was serving as a Military Observer in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Palestine when he was killed by a landmine on 6 July 1948. At the same meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1998, his family received his Dag Hammarskjöld medal. Today, the wreath to his memory will be laid by Colonel Philippe Guidi, Air Force Attache at the French Embassy.

## **The Band of the Grenadier Guards**

From its formation in 1656 as "The First Regiment of Foot Guards", the Grenadier Guards have marched to the accompaniment of drums and fife. In 1685, the Band was expanded to a baroque ensemble and George Frederick Handel presented it with the march 'Scipio', now the regimental March. In 1815, the regiment entered Paris in triumph, was renamed the Grenadier Guards and gained the now world-famous bearskins after capturing them from Napoleon's Imperial Guard. In 1872, the band became the first uniformed British soldiers to enter the United States since the War of Independence. Since then, the Band has visited many countries worldwide. The 49 strong band, when mobilised, operates with the Army Medical Services in a chemical decontamination role. It appears today with the kind agreement of Major Barry Wassell ATCL

## **The United Nations Association in the UK**

UNA-UK ([www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)) is the UK's leading independent authority on the UN. Independent of the UN system, we can be critical of its decisions and activities if needed and can call for its reform so that it is better equipped to fulfil its fundamental functions; to maintain international peace and security, to promote development and to uphold human rights around the world. Today's International Peacekeepers Day conference and remembrance ceremony have been organised by its Westminster Branch. See [www.unawestminster.org.uk](http://www.unawestminster.org.uk)