

Collective Global Performance

## *turn MISSILES into CRANES*

An artistic chain reaction against a nuclear crisis



September 26 is the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*.

It was declared such by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2013 in memory of what did not happen on that date in 1983. Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Petrov was on duty when the Soviet Union's early-warning system signalled a missile strike from the United States. He should have reported it straight away to his superiors, who would have acted on the information, probably by retaliating. However, in his capacity as an analyst he interpreted it as a system malfunction, which turned out to be true. Thus a nuclear counter-attack by the Soviets, and perhaps worse, was avoided.

Despite the adoption of the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* at the UN last July, which has already been ratified by 50 countries, the level of tension in the world keeps rising to that of various critical moments during the Cold War period.

The escalation of the crisis involving the DPRK, perhaps not felt so strongly in Europe as much as in the Pacific zone, could make the single citizen feel powerless, leading to feelings of resignation or desperation.

But are we really powerless? Can we really do nothing but get ready for the worst, maybe hoping for a miracle, Petrov style?

Are we not forgetting, perhaps, the enormous power we possess: that of joining forces for the good of all?

On this day, September 26 2017, which this year is more than ever significant, we wish to invite everyone to take part in an initiative in October, November and December. An initiative which is purely symbolical, but proven.

The idea is that you prepare a sheet of paper 40cms (16 inches) square and decorate it thinking of the kind of world you would like, or of the beauty which the human hand can produce; then fold it into an origami crane, well-known symbol of peace, and send it to somewhere significant for world peace (see our website, details below, for suggestions).

We invite all those who, through art, desire to share their refusal to succumb to feelings of powerlessness in the face of the threat of war.

We commend our hopes to the colourful cranes, that they might awaken, in those who send and those who receive them, love for peace and for our planet, which we cannot allow to be destroyed by missiles and human folly.

Dates: from 20 to 30 October / from 15 to 25 November / from 10 to 20 December

Details at: [missilesintocranes.org](http://missilesintocranes.org) (English) ; [missilesintocranes.org/it](http://missilesintocranes.org/it) (Italian)  
[missilesintocranes.org/ja](http://missilesintocranes.org/ja) (Japanese)

Contact: [cranes@missilesintocranes.org](mailto:cranes@missilesintocranes.org)

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