



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

50,000 TURN OUT FOR PEACE AS PEACE RUN '89 ENTERS LATIN AMERICA

(Tula, Mexico, May 22) -- Crowds numbering 50,000 turned out en mass to celebrate the passing of flaming Peace Torches as the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home PEACE RUN '89, a global torch relay, entered Latin America enroute through 31,000 miles over six continents.

While thousands of runners joined a team of international Peace Runners carrying the torch into Tula, Mexico, vast crowds of singing children and cheering men and women packed the road for five miles -- waving banners and throwing confetti.

"As I looked back, all I saw was a sea of people running behind the torch," reports Charles Maderios, a torchbearer from New York. "It was like being in front of the New York City Marathon. A love affair is happening here between the Mexican people and the Peace Torch."

PEACE RUN '89, a worldwide Olympic-style relay run, will cover 31,000 miles and pass through 71 countries, including 13 Latin American Nations and all 50 US states. Between April 21 and August 7, more than 100,000 people will carry peace torches in simultaneous events in six continents.

PEACE RUN '89 in Latin America kicked off May 21 in Mexico City with gala festivities coordinated through the Olympic Committee and the Mexico City Sports Promotion Department. Olympic gold medalist walker Ernest Canto lit the torch and passed it off to Olympic wrestler Daniel Aceves. The Mexican leg of the event, 674 miles, is being nationally televised and celebrated.

"Peace Run '89 is not for profit and its not political," explains Neil Vineberg, the Executive Director. "People of all ages can carry the torch. We want to make this the largest, and at the same time, the most meaningful event the world has seen. It's for everyone, you don't have to be a runner to take part. Just add your own inner peace to the torch as it passes by."

The run began April 21 in New York with Olympian Carl Lewis carrying the torch. It closes August 7 with a gala run through Manhattan. It is organized by the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team, an international running organization that promotes world peace through athletics.

PEACE RUN '89 is a follow up of the highly successful, 27,000 mile peace run the group organized in 1987, which drew endorsements or participation from such notables as Nobel Peace Prize Winner Desmond Tutu, actress Joanne Woodward, Olympic champion Carl Lewis, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and others.

If you want to run in PEACE RUN '89 when it comes to New York or anywhere in the USA, call 800-888-PEACE for information or send a stamped, No.10 size envelope to The Peace Run, 164-03 85th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432.