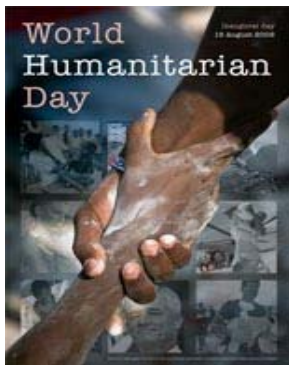




**THE UNITED NATIONS
INVITES YOU TO THE SCREENING OF “SERGIO”
TO CELEBRATE WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY**

On 11 December 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided:



“...to designate 19 August as World Humanitarian Day in order to contribute to increasing public awareness about humanitarian assistance activities worldwide and the importance of international cooperation in this regard, as well as to honour all humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel who have worked in the promotion of the humanitarian cause and those who have lost their lives in the cause of duty, and invites all Member States and the entities of the United Nations system, within existing resources, as well as other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to observe it annually in an appropriate manner.”

“Aid workers are the envoys we send to show our solidarity with suffering. They represent what is best in human nature. But their work is dangerous...”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

PRINCIPALS:

Humanity: Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.

Neutrality: Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial religious or ideological nature.

Impartiality: Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinion

Operational Independence: Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented”.

THE MISSION:

- Humanitarian aid workers strive to provide life-saving assistance to the increasing number of people affected by man-made and natural disasters every year. They reach out to the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable people regardless of where they are in the world or what nationality, social or religious group they belong to.
- Humanitarian aid workers can be international, but most come from the country in which they work. They reflect all cultures, ideologies and backgrounds and they are united by their commitment to humanitarianism.
- Despite this diversity, there is a growing misperception that humanitarian aid is delivered exclusively by Western organizations, or represents one ideological or religious world view. This has resulted in an increasing number of targeted attacks on humanitarian personnel, which in turn harms the poorest and most vulnerable people depending on their aid.
- The targeting of aid workers impedes their access to the beneficiaries of humanitarian aid at a time when the need for their assistance is growing. The best way to ensure that humanitarian workers are respected and not harmed is to improve awareness of the principles of humanitarian aid work: humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELO

Sergio Vieira de Mello was born on March 15th 1948 in Rio de Janeiro. He lived abroad from a young age having had a father who was a diplomat and a historian. Once back in Brazil, Sergio finished his secondary school education in the Lycée Franco-Brésilien in Rio, graduating with a baccalaureate in Classical Literature. In 1966, in an effort to be close to his father, then Consul General in Stuttgart, Germany, Sergio moved to Switzerland to study philosophy at the University of Fribourg. He subsequently moved to Paris to pursue his education, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in 1969 and a Master's degree in 1970, both in Philosophy from the Sorbonne University.



Sergio joined the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as a French Editor when Sadruddin Aga Khan was High Commissioner.

"Sergio", as he was known by the scores of government officials, UN staff members, and others who considered him a friend, was a pragmatic, experienced and widely respected diplomat. During his term with OCHA, he provided strong leadership to humanitarian agencies in a series of humanitarian crises that occurred during his tenure as Emergency Relief Coordinator, inter alia in Afghanistan, in Central America (Hurricane Mitch) and West Africa. He also made important progress on a number of key policy and advocacy issues, notably on the protection of civilian populations. In 1999 he helped forge the United Nations response to the mass exodus of Albanians from Kosovo and was chosen by the Secretary-General to lead a UN mission to Serbia and Kosovo at the height of the NATO air campaign. He was subsequently selected by the Secretary-General to act as his Special Representative at the outset of the UN mission in Kosovo, prior to the appointment of Bernard Kouchner.

In October 1999, he was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Transitional Administrator in East Timor (UNTAET). He stayed in East Timor until the United Nations turned-over the government to the East Timorese in May 2002.

On 12 September 2002, he was appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In May 2003, he was asked by the Secretary-General to take a four-month leave of absence from his position as High Commissioner to serve in Iraq as Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Sergio Vieira de Mello was tragically killed in the suicide bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August 2003 along with 21 UN staff.

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Jonathan Prentice worked with the United Nations for 16 years in a range of policy and field positions. He served at headquarters in both New York and Geneva as well as with United Nations offices and missions in Cambodia, Iraq, and Indonesia. From, 1999 until 2003, he was Sergio's political adviser in East Timor. He has also undertaken missions to Afghanistan, Chad/Sudan and to Haiti. From August 2010 he is senior policy advisor at the International Crisis Group.

