

Concert and Peace Fair ~ Looking Back

In Brisbane City Hall a Concert was held to mark the International Day of Peace 2006. It was complimented with nearly two dozen different organisations having stalls in a 'Peace Fair' held outside the hall. Concert entertainers included world-famous singers and activists Kev Carmody and Margaret Roadknight. In 2007, circumstances prevented the concert from going ahead, but it will be back on the agenda for 2008. The Peace Fair was also moved to another central city location, generous sponsorship was forthcoming from Credit Union Australia (CUA) and the Fair aptly renamed the CUA Peace Fair.



Falah Hussein (age 20): When a U.S. dud bomb suddenly exploded, he lost his right leg. Two years later, he contracted bone cancer that spread to his lung. His doctor predicted he wouldn't survive another two weeks. © Takashi Morizumi



This is a great example of how activities have grown between the two years. Although a formal concert was not able to be held in 2007 a stage was hired and placed in a public area, and for a few short hours bypasses could be entertained by free musical and theatrical performances ranging from spoofs to hip hop to cultural acts. An extraordinarily powerful photo exhibition, *Children of the Gulf War* by Takashi Morizumi, (sample left) provided by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was on public display and drew passers -by towards the fair.

In both years, these fairs provided an opportunity for cultural groups to promote themselves to the public, fundraising occurred for organisations involved in human rights activities, and some organisations which find it difficult to get their message into mainstream media were able to promote their causes.

This Peace Fair was not unique to Brisbane, many were held around the world laying foundations for future years.

Of particular note, an effort of theatre made among the devastation of Iraq is truly inspirational, this Email with the pictures circulated a few short days after the International Day of Peace, 2007.

Dear Friends ...

Greeting ...

Happy Peace Day;

As A group Of Iraqi Youth We At Iraqi Alamal association decided to celebrated peace day in Iraq by celebrating life against death and reconstruction against destruction ,we memorized this day by remembering our victims how had fall in terrorist attacks ,in Baghdad and karkuk ,we organize a gathering of victims families to honor the memory of our relatives who were lost in the attacks on karada at 26 of July ,and terrorist attacks in krkuk , and to send a call for peace , humanity and reconstruction and brotherhood ,we presented a play acted by youth honoring life against death ,and we share the families stories and there memories of there loved ones ,the activity was organize by the help of local NGOs ,city council and almada media institution , hope the pictures will give you a better idea of our work and may peace be spread on our land Iraq and all world.

