



Association Française des Communes,
Départements et Régions pour la Paix



Grigny's International Day of Peace

This year, as part of Mayors for Peace's municipalities, the city of Grigny (France) couldn't miss the organization of the International Day of Peace.

Four main events were organized by our city on September 21st.

Visit of places related with Peace

During the morning, young people from the Municipal Council of College Students and the Municipal Youth Council were sent to Paris to visit places and monuments symbolizing peace: the Wall for Peace, Eiffel Tower, Champ de Mars, Trocadéro and Arc de Triomphe.

It is important for us to make young people of Grigny aware of the culture of peace from an early age and to train them for associative life.

The intervention of Latifa Ibn Ziaten



In the afternoon, at the Youth Space Henri Barbusse, Grigny had the honor to receive the visit of Latifa Ibn Ziaten, founder of the association IMAD. Her son was cowardly killed by the terrorist Mohammed Merah in 2012.

This courageous woman is now actively participating in the promotion of peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue. A moving documentary about her life and this combat was broadcast to many citizens.



After the broadcast, very lively exchanges took place between our guest and the audience. Latifa Ibn Ziaten gave us a powerful message of hope and peace. Then a collective fresco for peace created by two young graffiti artists was signed by Mrs. Ibn Ziaten and most of the people present.



A Nobel Peace Prizes exhibition

Later in the afternoon, the day continued in the gardens of the Ferme Neuve, where portraits of nine Nobel Peace Prize Winners were on display (among them Mother Teresa, Malala Yousafzai, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, etc). A nice exhibition was held there by the municipal council of college students of Grigny.



After a narrator came in the gardens to tell a few tales on the theme of peace, a humorous sketch on a reconciliation was staged by local citizens. Then young students read aloud the presentations of the nine Nobel Peace Prize Winners.



Our lanterns night

To end this beautiful International Day of Peace, we chose to organize on the canal a night of lanterns, in keeping with Hiroshima tradition.

Lots of Grigny children were present to put their lanterns on the canal, while the conservatory choir sang many songs about peace (among them the "One thousand origami cranes" Japanese song, the theme song from "Spirited Away", or "Heroes" by David Bowie...), accompanied by the percussion class.

The canal soon became a glow with many colourful lanterns and the children were amazed by the magical atmosphere.



We were honored to welcome for the evening Iranian writer Maryam Madjidi who received the 2017 Goncourt Prize Winner for her first novel.



September 22nd: A Peace "Race"

The following day, our municipality also organized an all day big race called "Peace Urban Trail". The race gathered many courses in the city over a distance of 15 kilometers.

About 300 persons participated in the race, including children with disabilities who are supported by an association called Soli' Dads.

The profits of the event went partly to this association, but also to UNICEF.

