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## Maha Ghosananda Nominated for 1997 Nobel Peace Prize

For the fourth time, Venerable Maha Ghosananda has been nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The Cambodian Buddhist Supreme Patriarch is currently leading 100s of monks, nuns and lay people through former Khmer Rouge territory on the Sixth Annual Pilgrimage for Peace, or Dhammayietra. The text of the letter of nomination follows:

*Dear Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,*

*I am writing to ask that you consider the Venerable Maha Ghosananda for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997.*

*I recently had the honor of hosting his visit to Yale University. Long known for his tireless efforts working to bring peace and reconciliation to his homeland of Cambodia, this tiny monk has touched countless hearts, awakening the very possibility of peace, not only in and among his own people, but for a generation of others around the world.*

*During his visit, a Cambodian college student was overheard explaining to some other students that "He does not lead by talking. The politicians talk. Maha Ghosananda leads our people by doing. He is our inspiration; he leads us by his example." Afterwards he was seen represented in a painting by a six year old whose kindergarten class he had visited: a tiny figure in orange robes with huge hands spread wide in welcome.*

*I am aware that others have previously placed this monk's name in nomination and that his extensive work on behalf of peace is known to you. May I suggest that his work has become all the more timely. I would encourage you to give him notice yet again as his witness of peace and reconciliation resonates around the world. His work addressing the environmental after effects of genocidal war, striving for the abolition of land mines and fighting deforestation, become emblematic for a new generation attempting to respond to the devastating consequences of battlegrounds from Bosnia to Zaire.*

*Finally, I would ask that you consider Maha Ghosananda for the Peace prize for a reason that is less easily put to words, but is of vital importance to our generation. Maha Ghosananda's person bears witness to a universal message of peace in a very unusual way. His very presence speaks to a dimension of experience that resonates in the heart awakening the possibility of peace and reconciliation, inspiring persons of all traditions.*

*Humbly, and on behalf of those whose lives he touches, I would ask that the Maha Ghosananda's name be placed in nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize, as a witness to what is possible in our time. Thank you for your consideration, and for your work on behalf of peace in our world.*

*Sincerely,  
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