



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

**MEDIA ALERT**

**AMID BOSTON TRAGEDY IMAGINING PEACE CONFERENCE & YOUTH CONGRESS ON PEACE  
OFFER SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH VIOLENCE WITH A PEACE PLATFORM**

***Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche, International Tibetan Lama & Avid Marathon Runner In 2005 Boston Marathon & Chicago Marathons, Speaks Out With Youth & Community Leaders***

**WHAT:** In light of the tragic events in Boston, our society needs a renewed sense of hope and an opportunity to counter acts of violence by taking action to create peace, trust and compassion in our communities and individual lives.

The **Sakyong Jamgon Mipham Rinpoche**, an internationally recognized spiritual leader of peace initiatives and avid marathon runner who ran in the 2005 Boston Marathon and 2006 and 2007 Chicago Marathons and authored the book ***Running With The Mind Of Meditation***, will join representatives from youth advocacy groups, violence prevention organizations, and at-risk youth to address escalating youth violence and build a *Peace Platform* at a **Youth Congress on Peace**. The *Peace Platform* will be presented to Mayor Emanuel and Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

City of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the **Imagining Peace Conference**. Friday features the Sakyong's keynote, *Creating Enlightened Society*, and Saturday's **Youth Congress on Peace** will provide a progressive journey through global issues affecting peace, to systemic issues and community impact, to one's own personal relationship with peace in our families, streets, schools, workplaces, city, and region. Sunday's *Peace Practices* will focus on practices that lead to personal and societal transformation.

**WHO:**

**HOST:**

- Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche

**HONORARY CO-CHAIRS:**

- City of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel
- Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle

**FEATURED PERFORMANCES:**

- Poetry Slam: Youth Poets From "Louder Than A Bomb: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival"
- Closing Theatrical Performance: The Goodman Theatre Workshop
- Featured Student Art Exhibitions: Illinois Council Against Handgun Control; Chicago Military Academy Students
- Video Segments Filmed by Community TV Network-Trained Youth

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS:**

**The World: Global Influences/Local Impact**

- Moderator: Steve Bynum, WBEZ with two youth leaders
- Teresa Cordova, executive director, UIC Great Cities Institute
- Elena Quintana, executive director, Adler Institute on Public Safety & Social Justice
- Fleet Maull, Prison Dharma Network

**Community Impact: Local Solutions For Global Issues**

- The Life Campaign: Jobs legislation campaign
- Alternative Schools Network: Conflict resolution strategies, restorative justice, peace circles
- THE SAFER Foundation: Re-entry solutions into local communities
- CeaseFire: Former gang member transforming the streets & offering alternatives
- La Casa Norte: Importance of affordable housing for community stability
- UCAN: Mental health & family abandonment
- Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence: Art as a tool for violence prevention
- Thousand Waves Martial Arts & Self-Defense Center: Violence prevention, anti-bullying

**WHEN/** *Creating Enlightened Society*

**WHERE:** Friday, April 26th  
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
Rockefeller Chapel  
University of Chicago  
5850 S. Woodlawn Ave.  
Chicago, IL

*Youth Congress on Peace*

Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Malcolm X City College  
1900 W. Van Buren St.  
Chicago, IL

*Peace Practices*

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Malcolm X City College  
1900 W. Van Buren St.  
Chicago, IL

Shambhala is a global network of more than 200 local communities and thousands of individual members founded upon the Shambhala principles of human goodness, genuineness and compassion. The Shambhala Meditation Center of Chicago hosted the Sakyong's world tour and convened the Youth Congress on Peace. For more information, please go to [www.imaginingpeace.com](http://www.imaginingpeace.com) or [www.chicago.shambhala.org](http://www.chicago.shambhala.org).

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