

ACTIVISTS JOIN VOV EFFORT

Arun Gandhi

Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, joined SGI-USA's Vida Sin Violencia (Life Without Violence, the name of VOV in Puerto Rico) project for three days of events in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Lecturing at the University of Puerto Rico, Dr. Gandhi said: "In today's society, justice has come to mean revenge. This is why we are so violent. But true justice is reformation. We must channel our anger at injustice into reforming society."

Dr. Gandhi also conducted numerous interviews for major television, newspaper and radio outlets. During a live interview on the popular talk radio program, "The Nacha Rivera Show," Dr. Gandhi stated: "The Soka Gakkai International has launched the Victory Over Violence program. I would like all the people of Puerto Rico to participate in it and learn a little more about the philosophy of nonviolence. Let us live our religious beliefs."

Lawrence Carter

Dean Lawrence Carter Sr. of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel introduced Victory Over Violence to Caribbean students, scholars and clergy. In a mesmerizing lecture at Carlos Albizu University on June 8, he said: "We have got to affirm each other, irrespective of superficially visible [differences].... Everybody, Dr. King said, is a sacred personality, an autonomous center of value."

Dean Carter spent a lot of time talking with high school and college students one on one; he also visited the Republic of Colombia High School and Sacred Heart University in San Juan.

In St. Maarten on June 11, he spoke to a group of clergy, emphasizing that "the strength to love" must propel an interfaith movement to end violence. "Unconditional love is Soka—the creation of value," he said. "Everyone here is a value creator. We have that chance every moment we breathe."

Orlando Cepeda

Last year, Orlando Cepeda made his homeland of Puerto Rico proud by becoming a Baseball Hall of Famer. When Mr. Cepeda returned to Puerto Rico earlier this month to start the Vida Sin Violencia program, Puerto Rico was all ears.

On June 8, Mr. Cepeda introduced VSV at various events in San Juan. The day began with the Department of Sports and Recreation naming a street in Barrio Obrero in his honor: Avenida Orlando "Peruchin" Cepeda. Mr. Cepeda told several hundred well-wishers who attended the dedication that "there has been so much violence in my life. I thought that was the way to deal with my problems. But I learned from the SGI that there is another way."

Mr. Cepeda also appeared on *El Show de Remi*, a children's TV program, and visited a recreation center in the community of Luis Llorens Torres, where he received a commendation for his work with youth in the neighborhood.