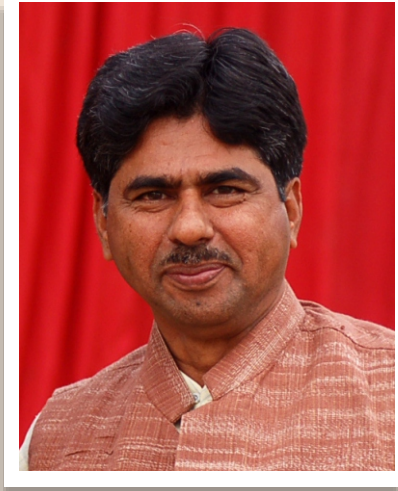


Anuvrat Ahimsa Award for International Peace  
2013  
presented  
to  
Shri P.V. Rajagopal  
A Citation



Shri P.V. Rajagopal, also known as Rajaji, is a nonviolent crusader against the oppression and exploitation of the poor and the landless. He hails from a reputed Gandhian family of Kerala which imparted to him the basic lessons in nonviolence and Gandhian philosophy. His choice of the subjects for study like agricultural engineering in Nai Talim system of education and traditional art and music shows that right from the days of his schooling he had a natural inclination to serve the rural poor. In 1970 at the young age of 22 he became the Secretary of Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram Jaura, Morena, Madhya Pradesh. It gave him an opportunity to test Mahatma Gandhi's concept of active nonviolence. He was one of those whose hard work in the Chambal Valley of India infested with dacoits brought about a change of hearts among the outlaws and as many as 500 of them gave up arms and moved into settled life. It was no mean achievement for a young crusader like Rajaji and it was enough to convince him of the tremendous transformative and healing power of *ahimsa*. Later he moved to Nagaland, a region widely known as a hotbed of violence and insurgency, to bring sunshine into the lives of the strife-torn people there. He realized that the roots of violence lay in poverty, unemployment and repression and Rajaji chose Gandhi Ashram of Chuchuyimlang as the next destination of his experiment in active nonviolence. He created employment for Naga youths by promoting village industries and weaned them off the cult of violence. When he came to know of the immense suffering of the bonded labourers, their abject poverty and subhuman conditions of living he lost no time in launching a campaign which resulted in the liberation and rehabilitation of 6000 bonded labourers in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Shri P.V. Rajagopal continued to arouse the consciousness of the people against injustice and violence by associating himself with various Gandhian organizations and by the mid nineties his work was galvanized into a mass movement. He spent the last year of the 20th century in leading long marches across the country in different states and emerged as a nonviolent champion of the down-trodden and weaker sections of society. In view of his outstanding qualities of nonviolence leadership in 2004 Rajaji was elected President of Ekta Parishad, a mass-based people's organization which operates in four major backward states of India to mitigate the agony of the poor and restore to them the dignity of life. His triumph of moment came at the culmination of his month long nonviolent march of 25000 people from Gwalior to Delhi which attracted the national attention towards the problems of the poor. In 2012 he led another massive march to Delhi involving one lakh people to demand people's control over land and livelihood resources which compelled the Govt. of India to send its minister to Gwalior to sign an agreement with Ekta Parishad under Rajaji's leadership.

Shri P.V. Rajagopal's journey of life is remarkable in that it has inspired the masses for nonviolent struggle and awakened social consciousness. Verily it displays *anuvrat* in action. He has travelled extensively across the world delivering lectures on various aspects of *ahimsa* and educating the people in the strategies of nonviolent resistance. He has also authored many books. In recognition of his significant contribution to the cause of *ahimsa*, the Board of Directors of Anuvrat Vishva Bharati (ANUVIBHA) is pleased to confer on him the 2013 Anuvrat Ahimsa Award for International Peace today the 13th July, 2014 in the benign presence of Anuvrat Anushasta Acharya Mahashraman at Adhyatma Sadhana Kendra, New Delhi. May he live long to disseminate the message of *ahimsa* and *anuvrat* worldwide.

Tej Karan Jain  
President, ANUVIBHA  
New Delhi, 13 July, 2014