

# International Bulldawg Newsletter

December 2007

Volume 2, Issue 12

*Happy Holidays from the Center!*  
*International Education Week*  
*Global Dance Forms*



*Carnival de Mundo & Turkey Trot across the Globe*



## Special Days for the Month



December 2007						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Dec. 1 Portugal Independence Day
- Dec. 2 United Arab Emirates Independence Day
- Dec. 4 – 12 Hanukkah
- Dec. 6 Finland Independence Day
- Dec. 6 Republic of Ireland Independence Day
- Dec. 9 Tanzania Independence Day
- Dec. 10 Human Rights Day
- Dec. 11 South Africa Independence Day
- Dec. 12 Kenya Independence Day
- Dec. 16 Kazakhstan Independence Day
- Dec. 18 Niger Independence Day
- Dec. 19 Eid-ul-Adha
- Dec. 21 Nepal Independence Day
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 26 Slovenia Independence Day
- Dec. 26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa
- Dec. 31 New Years Eve





### Portugal

The red section represents the Portuguese revolution of 1910 and the green represents hope. The white shield consists of five blue shields with five white dots. The blue shields represent the first king of Portugal, Alfonso Henriques I, victory over five Moorish kings and the divine assistance he received to do so is represented by the five dots, which symbolize the five wounds of Christ. Arranged in a cross the shields represent Christianity. The red border featuring seven castles symbolizes the extension of Portugal's territory to include the Algarve. Behind the arms there is a navigational instrument, an armillary sphere. It celebrates Prince Henry the Navigator, who initiated the maritime exploration that led to Portugal's one time colonial empire.



### United Arab Emirates

The flag of the United Arab Emirates is believed to be based on the Arab Revolt Flag which was created in 1916, and flown by Arab nationalists during their liberation struggle against Ottoman (Turkish) rule. Red, white, black and green are called the pan-Arab colors and have been historically linked to the Arab people and Islamic faith for centuries. They stand for Arab unity and independence and can be seen in the flags of many countries in the region. Scandinavian countries.



### Republic of Ireland

The colors of the Irish flag have no official meaning but many legends have risen to account for the colors. One of them states that the Green stripe is represents Catholics, the Orange represents Protestants and the white stripe symbolizes the peace between them. Another one states the orange color is associated with the Protestants in Ulster and those that derived from William III who defeated the Irish Catholics at the Battle of the Boyne in the late 1600s. It was included in the Irish flag in an attempt to reconcile the Protestants with the Irish independence movement.



### Tanzania

The green stripe symbolizes agriculture and the fertility of the land. The black represents the citizens of Tanzania. The blue stripe stands for the Indian Ocean which is on Tanzania's eastern coastline, and the yellow stripe represents the country's mineral wealth.



### South Africa

Although the colors have no official meaning attached to them the South African flag incorporates the colors black, green and yellow of Nelson Mandela's political party, the African National Congress and the former Boer republics flags (red, white, and blue). The Y shape represents the convergence of South Africa's diverse society and the desire for unity. The South African flag is basically made up of former South African flags and the past meanings of the colors were Red for bloodshed, blue of open blue skies, green for the land, black for the black people, white for the European people and yellow for the natural resources such as gold.



### Kenya

The black stripe represents the African people; while the red stands for the struggle for independence. The green represents Kenya's agriculture and natural resources. The thin white stripes symbolize peace and unity. The central emblem represents Kenya's fight for freedom and their preparedness to defend that freedom.



### Niger

The upper orange band represents the northern regions of the Sahara Desert, the center white band represents purity, and the lower green band represents both hope and the fertile regions of southern Niger. The orange circle in the center band represents the sun.



### Kazakhstan

The pattern on the flag represents the artistic and cultural traditions of the old Khanate and Kazakh people. The light blue symbolizes the various Turkic peoples who make up today's population of the country - including the Tatars, Mongols, Uyghurs and others. The blue has a religious significance, representing the Sky God to many of these people. A modern interpretation states the blue background stands for Kazakhstan's broad skies, and for freedom. The steppe eagle and the sun represent freedom and the flight toward greater heights.

(Independence day source: Wikipedia)



### Nepal

The flag of Nepal is the only non-rectangular national flag in the world. The blue border denotes peace and harmony that has been prevalent in the country since the age of Gautam Buddha, who was born in Nepal. The crimson color is Nepal's national color, and it indicates the brave spirit of the Nepalese people. The triangles do not represent Nepal's mountains, but rather denote that Nepal is a Hindu nation. The red triangular flag has been a Hindu symbol of victory since the time of Ramayana and Mahabharata.



### Slovenia

The three stars on the coat of arms symbolize Slovenian independence and were adopted from the arms of the former 15th century Slovenian Duchy of Celje. The duchy unsuccessfully attempted to obtain independence from Austro-Hungarian rule. The two wavy blue lines at the bottom of the mountain represent the country's rivers flowing into the sea. Blue, white and red are traditional Slavic colors and together they make up the pan-Slavic colors.



### Finland

An old poet described Finland's colors as representing "the blue of our lakes and the white snow of our winters." The cross on the Finland flag is common in most Scandinavian flags, and symbolizes Finland's hereditary link to the other

## Events Around the world



### Hanukkah (Dec. 4- 12)

Hanukkah begins December 4th. The Jewish Festival of Lights is an eight-day commemoration of rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians. As it usually falls in December, Hanukkah has become increasingly compared to Christmas in recent years, even though the two holy days are vastly different within their religions.

### Human Rights Day (Dec. 10)

This day is celebrated annually across the world on 10 December. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights.

### Eid-ul-Adha عيد الأضحى (Dec. 19)

This is a religious festival celebrated by Muslims worldwide as a commemoration of Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son Ismael for Allah. It is one of two Eid festivals that Muslims celebrate.



### Christmas (Dec. 25)

Every year more than 400 million people celebrate Christmas around the world, making it one of the world's biggest religious and commercial festivities. In approximately year 300 A.D., the birthday of Jesus was determined to be on December 25, the day that has been celebrated from then till this very day. The celebration on the 25th of December starts with Christmas Eve, the evening of December 24.

### Kwanzaa (Dec. 26 - Jan. 1)

This is a week-long Pan-African festival celebrated primarily in the United States, honoring African American heritage. It is observed from December 26 to January 1 each year. Kwanzaa consists of seven days of celebration, featuring activities such as candle-lighting and pouring of libations, and culminating in a feast and gift giving. It was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, a Black Studies professor.

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