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## Amma keen to travel to Pak to spread message of peace

**News Date:** 8th July 2010

India's Amma Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, or the "hugging saint" as she is called, believes terrorism is a virus that can destroy all human relations, and is keen to travel to Pakistan to spread the message of peace and love.

Currently in the US, where she has met and embraced hundreds of her followers, Amma said every single human being irrespective of nationality or culture, should take responsibility for the brutality in the world today.

"Terrorism is an extremely dangerous virus. Just as a virus can destroy all the files in a computer, terrorism can destroy all of humanity and human relations," she said.

The preacher had earlier been invited to visit

Pakistan, but could not travel to the country.

In Kochi in 2003, in a dialogue called Women Without Borders in which women from India and across the border participated, a group of Pakistani women invited Amma to their country, Swami Amritaswarupananda, a senior disciple said.

Although Amma would like to go to Pakistan there are currently a lot of immigration restrictions, he said.

Amma believes the world is like a flower.

"Each petal represents a nation. If one petal is infested by pests, all the other petals will be affected as well. My message to humanity is peace, love, compassion and selfless service.

"So, if such a visit would benefit both countries and the world as a whole, why not?" she says.

"If need arises Amma will like to help poor Pakistani people too. For her all people are her children," the disciple told PTI in Chicago.

Amma said that the fundamental principle of all religions is love and compassion, be it Islam or Hinduism.

"I have unshakeable faith in love and compassion. It is my firm faith and daily experience that only love can change the world".

Humanity and compassion knows no barriers, she says.

"So, if an opportunity arises, I would very much love to serve the poor in Pakistan as well".

Swami Amritaswarup said this is Amma's 25th year of visits to Chicago. The reception, according to him, is huge in all cities. Many westerners dressed in Indian costumes can be

seen chanting Indian mantras wherever she visits.

Morgan Myers, a college student was a first-time visitor and was almost in tears. "It is overwhelming in a good way. I have been praying to her," Myers said.

Morgan's mother Jean had come from Pennsylvania to see Amma. "It is very moving and I'm kind of anxious to hug her and feel very curious. It is all new to me," she added.

This year Amma is traveling to Washington DC,

Michigan, Santa Fe, New York, and Ann Arbor, besides Chicago.

"We are running more than 100 soup kitchens in the United States," Swami Amritswarup said.

**Source:** GNA