

**A BULLETIN FROM**  
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**Lessima Vuomo, Italian Teen, Speaks At  
Event #1,000 And Becomes Ambassador For  
Entire World Via Her Stunning “Connection  
For Peace”**

By TOM BROWN

**Where has Lessima Vuomo — the pert 18-year-old girl from Castellammare di Stabia, Italy — not been? Whom has she not spoken with? Who has not heard her voice or seen her face? Ever since she announced to her family that she wanted to “shake hands with the whole world,” her journey has become a campaign that seems to know no borders, no constraints, and no enemies.**

Lessima was in Jakarta yesterday morning, speaking to a crowd estimated near 500,000. Just as she has done in country after country, from Iceland to India, Lessima told the friendly crowd “Siamo tutto e le, ora! Dobbiamo venire insieme! Dobbiamo collegare per pace!” Then, her

words echoed forth in multiple other languages via translation: “We are all one, now! We must come together! We must connect for peace!”

With that, the ebullient crowds started to chant, “Vuomo! Vuomo! Vuomo!” The roaring of the crowd continued for more than 30 minutes. While Lessima was escorted by top Indonesian politicians and media celebrities, the crowd nevertheless surged past police lines at several points. All anyone wanted to do, it seemed, was to shake hands — or simply touch — the diminutive Italian teen who has captured the world’s imagination with her “Connection For Peace.”

Although Lessima, an unknown one year ago, is still accompanied on her travels only by her uncle, Romao Campanelli, her itinerary has taken on the look and feel of a major tour by a famous actress, politico, or religious leader. Cities are vying to be added to her list of travel stops, with all expenses paid by some generous donor who wants to underwrite Lessima’s appearances.

To date, Lessima has appeared in 139 cities under the banners of 1,000 separate functions or events. Many of her appearances have been on television or radio; and wherever she is, she insists on using her portable laptop to dialogue with different chat rooms on the World Wide Web.

“Lessima has, I guess, what people would say is a calling,” Campanelli told the International Herald Tribune in a weekend story. “She simply became captivated by the idea that she could — she actually could — be the first person in history to speak to everyone on the planet. She said that technology has now brought everyone together under one umbrella, forever.

“Lessima wants to be the first person, ever, who has been seen or heard by everyone on the planet. She plans to leave no one out. She asks to speak to everyone she meets and, via technology, everyone she can’t.”

Asked whether the rumors were true that Lessima would be transported by military convoy to the major South Pole expedition where 200 people

from four nations are studying cryogenics, Campanelli only would say that he was trying to line up Lessima's calendar throughout the rest of 2011. "The South Pole may not happen until early 2012 -- but Lessima will not stop until she feels that everyone has heard her message. If anyone else asks her to come — anywhere, she will want to go there and meet them."

Campanelli did confirm that Lessima would not be endorsing any commercial products, although at least five separate multi-million dollar advertising offers have been unofficially reported. "Listen," Campanelli said, "This whole thing is about bringing people together. It's not about sneakers."

Strangely, the non-commercial nature of Lessima's travels has seemingly parlayed into more press and more adulation. Hundreds of public awards and citations have saluted her cause. She is in ultra-high demand, and she's hugged and fawned over wherever she goes. Reportedly, she also receives 1,000 e-mails or phone calls per hour (which are now handled by an automated response that includes the downloading of her celebrated voicefile message).

In the recent International Herald Tribune, Lessima outlined what she feels she has accomplished thusfar. "I have been true to what I felt I had to do almost a year ago. When everyone in the world realizes that they are really and truly together, that we are really one people living on one planet — and that one young girl can talk to everyone, everywhere, even if it takes a year or more — then perhaps we will have at last connected for peace."

The people of Jakarta seemed to agree. Just as she has done multiple times every day for the last 14 weeks, her message remains the same on every platform and on every radio or television appearance: "We are all one, now! We must come together! We must connect for peace!"

After introductions which took 20 minutes, Lessima spoke these now-hallowed words to the hushed masses in a little more than 20 seconds. Then the enthusiasm of the crowds broke wide open as they screamed, “Vuomo! Vuomo! Vuomo!” long after Lessima had left the podium and moved to her next engagement.

As night settled over Indonesia, once could hear a sporadic cheer even while driving through downtown streets. “Vuomo! Vuomo! Vuomo!”  
Lessima flies to North Korea in the morning. |<

*digital art by dave pierson*

