

UPF Moscow, Russia's Peace Road Marathon begins with Red Square ceremony

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Moscow, Russia -- Fifty runners began a 1,350-kilometer, two-week Peace Road marathon with a ceremony on Red Square.

The marathon promoting a drug-free, healthy lifestyle started on June 12, 2019, which is the national holiday Russia Day. The start of the run was accompanied by a concert and a welcoming address by the Moscow Police Drug Trafficking Prevention Headquarters.

The distance of 1,350 kilometers (nearly 834 miles) would finish back in Moscow, at the Russian Senate, on June 26, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The administrations of 10 towns on the marathon route prepared accommodations and an encouraging welcome for these Peace Road marathoners.

On the second day, they ran through the city of Kolomna, where they visited a popular historic Orthodox site; the town of Zaraysk with its historic local kremlin; and the town of Ozyory, where they were met by the heads of the local administration and the town's public chamber.

On the third day, in the town of Matyra, children from the social rehabilitation center joined the runners. In the town of Lukhovitsy, accompanied by a police escort, they ran through the center to a monument dedicated to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War (World War II).

In Ryazan, a bigger city, even though it was rainy, officials from the regional drug control department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia welcomed the runners.

A few local newspapers wrote about the Peace Marathon, and Dmitry Samko, the head of the Moscow chapter of UPF, gave an interview to the local TV.

