

# "Global Violence and Remedy For Peace"

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*Many of us take the word "violence" very lightly. But if we think to ourselves about the world, we are actually living in the violence era. This is not something that the world should be proud of. Instead we really need to think about saving the world from the doom. As per WHO (World Health Organization) the term violence is defined as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation." Does that ring a bell? Does it cross your mind that billions and billions of lives have been taken and are still at stake because of violence? Countries like Palestine, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan are afflicted with violence. Death of women, children and men cannot be ignored. The cries that are heard through every corner CANNOT just be forgotten.*

*Violence was first started in the United States in the form of "lynching".*

Lynching, the practice of killing people by extrajudicial mob action, occurred in the United States chiefly from the late 18th century through the 1960s. Lynching took place most frequently against African-American men in the Southern US after the American Civil War and emancipation, and particularly from 1890 to the 1920s, with a peak in 1892. Lynching were also very common in the Old West, where victims were primarily men of Mexican and Chinese minorities, although whites were also lynched. The number of lynching in the South is associated with economic strains: low cotton prices, inflation, and economic stress. It occurred most frequently in areas with large concentrations of blacks, dominated politically by Democrats, and with competition among local churches, as part of the enforcement of white supremacy by whites in the late 19th century following Reconstruction. The granting of U.S. Constitutional rights to freedmen after the American Civil War during the Reconstruction era (1865–1877) aroused anxieties among white Southerners, who were not ready to concede such social status to African Americans. They blamed the freedmen for their own wartime hardship, economic loss, and loss of social and political privilege. During Reconstruction, freedmen and Whites active in the pursuit of civil Rights, were sometimes lynched in the South. In

addition, blacks were intimidated and attacked to prevent their voting, with violence increasing around elections from 1868 into the late 1870s. White Democrats regained control of State Legislatures in 1876 and a national compromise on the presidential election resulted in the removal of federal troops and official end to Reconstruction. There continued to be violence around elections to suppress black voting, particularly with the rise of the Populist Party and some victories by Populist-Republican candidates in the 1890s. From 1890 to 1908, southern legislatures passed new constitutions and electoral rules to disfranchise most blacks and many poor whites, ending election violence by utterly excluding them from politics. The dominant whites enacted a series of segregation and Jim Crow laws to enforce second-class status against blacks. During this period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, lynching reached a peak, reflecting the economic hard times. Lynching peaked in many areas when it was time to settle accounts with sharecroppers.

*From 1882 to 1968, "...nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress, and three passed the House. Seven presidents between 1890 and 1952 petitioned Congress to pass a federal law." No bill was approved by the*

Senate because of the powerful opposition of the Southern Democratic voting bloc. Although lynchings have become rare following the civil rights movement and changing social mores, some have occurred. Adam Hudson suggests that lynching continues veiled under the mask of police brutality and less publicized vigilante actions. In 1981, two KKK members in Alabama randomly selected a 19-year-old black man, Michael Donald, and murdered him, to retaliate for a jury's acquittal of a black man accused of murdering a police officer. The Klansmen were caught, prosecuted, and convicted. A \$7 million judgment in a civil suit against the Klan bankrupted the local subgroup, the United Klans of America. In 1998, Shawn Allen Berry, Lawrence Russel Brewer, and ex-convict John William King murdered James Byrd, Jr. in Jasper, Texas. Byrd was a 49-year-old father of three, who had accepted an early-morning ride home with the three men. They attacked him and dragged him to his death behind their truck. The three men dumped their victim's mutilated remains in the town's segregated African American cemetery and then went to a barbecue. Local authorities immediately treated the murder as a hate crime and requested FBI assistance. The murderers (two of whom turned out to be members of a white supremacist prison gang) were caught

and stood trial. Brewer and King were sentenced to death; Berry was sentenced to life in prison. On June 13, 2005, the United States Senate formally apologized for its failure in the early 20th century, "when it was most needed", to enact a Federal anti-lynching law. Anti-lynching bills that passed the House were defeated by filibusters by powerful Southern Democratic senators. Prior to the vote, Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu noted, "There may be no other injustice in American history for which the Senate so uniquely bears responsibility." The resolution was passed on a voice vote with 80 senators cosponsoring. The resolution expressed "the deepest sympathies and most solemn regrets of the Senate to the descendants of victims of lynching, the ancestors of whom were deprived of life, human dignity and the constitutional protections accorded all citizens of the United States".

*The very famous Holocaust by Adolph Hitler have been cited in most of the history textbooks. The Holocaust (from the Greek holókaustos: hólos, "whole" and kaustós, "burnt"), also known as the Shoah ("the catastrophe"), was a genocide in which approximately six million Jews were killed by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. An additional five million non-Jewish victims of Nazi mass murders are included by some historians bringing the total to*

approximately eleven million. Killings took place throughout Nazi Germany and German-occupied territories. From 1941 to 1945, Jews were targeted and methodically murdered in a genocide, the largest in modern history, and part of a broader aggregate of acts of oppression and killings of various ethnic and political groups in Europe by the Nazis. Every arm of Germany's bureaucracy was involved in the logistics of the genocide, turning the Third Reich into "a genocidal state". Non-Jewish victims of broader Nazi crimes include Gypsies, Poles, communists, homosexuals, Soviet POWs, and the mentally and physically disabled. In total, approximately 11 million people were killed, including approximately one million Jewish children. Of the nine million Jews who had resided in Europe before the Holocaust, approximately two-thirds were killed. A network of about 42,500 facilities in Germany and German-occupied territories were used to concentrate, confine, and kill Jews and other victims. Between 100,000 and 500,000 people were direct participants in the planning and execution of the Holocaust. The persecution and genocide were carried out in stages. Initially the German government passed laws to exclude Jews from civil society, most prominently the Nuremberg Laws of 1935. A network of concentration camps was established

starting in 1933 and ghettos were established following the outbreak of World War II in 1939. In 1941, as Germany conquered new territory in Eastern Europe, specialized paramilitary units called Einsatzgruppen were used to murder around two million Jews and "partisans", often in mass shootings. By the end of 1942, victims were being regularly transported by freight train to specially built extermination camps where, if they survived the journey, most were systematically killed in gas chambers. The campaign of murder continued until the end of World War II in Europe in April–May 1945. Jewish armed resistance to the Nazis occurred throughout the Holocaust. One notable example was the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of January 1943, when thousands of poorly armed Jewish fighters held the SS at bay for four weeks. An estimated 20,000 to 30,000 Jewish partisans actively fought the Nazis and their collaborators in Eastern Europe. French Jews were also highly active in the French Resistance, which conducted a guerilla campaign against the Nazis and Vichy French authorities. In total, there were over a hundred armed Jewish uprisings. Adolf Hitler killed himself by gunshot on 30 April 1945 in his Führerbunker in Berlin. His wife Eva (née Braun) committed suicide with him by taking cyanide. That afternoon, in accordance with Hitler's prior

instructions, their remains were carried up the stairs through the bunker's emergency exit, doused in petrol, and set alight in the Reich Chancellery garden outside the bunker.[1] Records in the Soviet archives show that their burnt remains were recovered and interred in successive locations until 1970, when they were again exhumed, cremated, and the ashes scattered.

It should be kept in mind that these are not the only stories of mass murders and violence. Many more untold, as well as repeated ones can be found in history. Now is the time to take a peek at the ongoing issues of violence around the globe.

The violence in Syria. It began in March 2011. The middle eastern country has been crippled by a brutal civil war. Since then, the United Nations estimates more than 190,000 people have died in the clashes between President Bashar al-Assad's government and rebel forces who want him out. The UN also says more than three million people have fled Syria to neighboring countries, and over half of those refugees are children. In July 2012, the International Red Cross said the violence in Syria had become so widespread that it was in a

state of civil war. But what are the reasons behind the violence? And what is being done to stop it getting any worse?

How did it all start? The trouble began in 2011 in the Syrian city of Deraa.

Locals took to the streets to protest after 15 schoolchildren had been arrested - and reportedly tortured - for writing anti-government graffiti on a wall. The protests were peaceful to begin with, calling for the kids' release, democracy and greater freedom for people in the country. The government responded angrily, and on 18 March 2011, the army opened fire on protesters, killing four people. The following day, they shot at mourners at the victims' funerals, killing another person. People were shocked and angry at what had happened and soon the unrest had spread to other parts of the country.

At first the protesters just wanted democracy and greater freedom.

But once government forces opened fire on peaceful demonstrations, people demanded that the President, Bashar al-Assad, resign.

President Assad refused to step down. As the violence worsened he offered to change some things about the way the country is run, but the protesters didn't believe him. President Assad also has quite a lot of people in Syria that still

support him and his government.

Is something being done to this? No. BUT, The countries have continued to supply aid such as food and emergency supplies, and the US and Britain said they had to stop all other support as they FEARED the equipment would be "stolen" by rebel groups which they did not support. For now, discussions CONTINUE (note the sarcasm) between powerful nations like the US, Russia, Britain and France, to try to work out if there's another way to help Syria achieve peace.

*The Israeli–Palestinian conflict is the ongoing struggle between Israelis and Palestinians that began in the mid-20th century. The conflict is wide-ranging, and the term is sometimes also used in reference to the earlier sectarian conflict in Mandatory Palestine, between the Jewish Yishuv and the Arab population under British rule. The Israeli–Palestinian conflict has formed the core part of the wider Arab–Israeli conflict. It has widely been referred to as the world's "most intractable conflict". As reported by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, since 29 September 2000 a total of 7,454 Palestinian and Israeli individuals were killed due to the conflict. According to the report, 1,317*

of the 6,371 Palestinians were minors, and at least 2,996 did not participate in fighting at time of death. Palestinians killed 1,083 Israelis, including 741 civilians. 124 of those killed were minors. The Israeli based International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism criticized the methodology of Palestinian-based rights groups, including B'Tselem, and questioned their accuracy in classifying civilian/combatant ratios. In a study published by Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, Elihu D. Richter and Dr. Yael Stein examined B'Tselem methods in calculating casualties during Operation Cast Lead. They argue that B'Tselem's report contains "errors of omission, commission and classification bias which result in overestimates of the ratio of non-combatants to combatants." Stein and Richter claim the high male/female ratios among Palestinians, including those in their mid-to-late teens, "suggests that the IDF classifications are combatant and non-combatant status are probably far more accurate than those of B'Tselem." In a study on behalf of the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, Don Radlauer suggested that "almost all Palestinians killed in this conflict have been male – and absent any other reasonable explanation for such a non-random pattern of fatalities – this suggests that

large numbers of Palestinian men and teenaged boys made a choice to confront Israeli forces, even after many of their compatriots had been killed in such confrontations. A comprehensive collection mechanism to gather land mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualty data does not exist for the Palestinian territories. In 2009, the United Nations Mine Action Centre reported that more than 2,500 mine and explosive remnants of war casualties occurred between 1967 and 1998, at least 794 casualties (127 killed, 654 injured and 13 unknown) occurred between 1999 to 2008 and that 12 people have been killed and 27 injured since the Gaza War. The UN Mine Action Centre identified the main risks as coming from "ERW left behind by Israeli aerial and artillery weapon systems, or from militant caches targeted by the Israeli forces." There are at least 15 confirmed minefields in the West Bank on the border with Jordan. The Palestinian National Security Forces do not have maps or records of the minefields.

*How many other stories are still being hidden from the world? People fighting for a few acres of land? But in reality, to Whom does the Heavens and the Earth belong to?*

What are the consequences of violence? The first consequence must have already popped up in your head. Yes, Mortality.

- Mortality is only the tip of the iceberg. As per WHO estimates:

- 1.66 million violence-related deaths (28.8/100,000):

520,000, Homicide; 815,000, Suicide; 310,000, War-related.

Of these 1.66 million deaths:

- 1.51 Low and middle income countries (32.1/100,000); • 0.15 High-income countries (14.4/100,000)

- Morbidity: non-fatal violence

- Hard to quantify:

Stress and psychological impacts, Loss of work, potential and quality of life,

Physical injury not requiring medical care, Culturally “acceptable” violent acts.

All in all, the country's overall development is impaired. Its productivity comes down and the country drops down financially and still fiddles in poverty. It

*destroys brotherhood and peace between other countries. All the weapons cause degradation to the soil and water resources.*

*What about the economic development of violence-stricken countries? Let's take the example of Syria. At the outset of the ongoing Syrian Civil War, Syria was classified by the World Bank as a "lower middle income country". In 2010, Syria remained dependent on the oil and agriculture sectors. The oil sector provided about 40% of export earnings. Proven offshore expeditions have indicated that large sums of oil exist on the Mediterranean Sea floor between Syria and Cyprus. The agriculture sector contributes to about 20% of GDP and 20% of employment. Oil reserves are expected to decrease in the coming years and Syria has already become a net oil importer. Since the civil war began, the economy shrank by 35%, and the Syrian pound has fallen to one-sixth of its prewar value. The government increasingly relies on credit from Iran, Russia and China.*

*The economy is highly regulated by the government, which has increased subsidies and tightened trade controls to assuage protesters and protect foreign currency reserves. Long-run economic constraints include foreign*

trade barriers, declining oil production, high unemployment, rising budget deficits, and increasing pressure on water supplies caused by heavy use in agriculture, rapid population growth, industrial expansion, and water pollution. The UNDP announced in 2005 that 30% of the Syrian population lives in poverty and 11.4% live below the subsistence level.

Syria's share in global exports has eroded gradually since 2001. The real per capita GDP growth was just 2.5% per year in the 2000–2008 period.

Unemployment is high at above 10%. Poverty rates have increased from 11% in 2004 to 12.3% in 2007. In 2007, Syria's main exports include crude oil, refined products, raw cotton, clothing, fruits, and grains. The bulk of Syrian imports are raw materials essential for industry, vehicles, agricultural equipment, and heavy machinery. Earnings from oil exports as well as remittances from Syrian workers are the government's most important sources of foreign exchange.

Political instability poses a significant threat to future economic development. Foreign investment is constrained by violence, government restrictions, economic sanctions, and international isolation. Syria's economy also remains

*hobbled by state bureaucracy, falling oil production, rising budget deficits, and inflation.*

*Prior to the civil war in 2011, the government hoped to attract new investment in the tourism, natural gas, and service sectors to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil and agriculture. The government began to institute economic reforms aimed at liberalizing most markets, but those reforms were slow and ad hoc, and have been completely reversed since the outbreak of conflict in 2011.*

*As of 2012, because of the ongoing Syrian civil war, the value of Syria's overall exports has been slashed by two-thirds, from the figure of US\$12 billion in 2010 to only US\$4 billion in 2012. Syria's GDP declined by over 3% in 2011, and is expected to further decline by 20% in 2012.*

*As of 2012, Syria's oil and tourism industries in particular have been devastated, with US\$5 billion lost to the ongoing conflict of the civil war.*

*Reconstruction needed because of the ongoing civil war will cost as much as*

US\$10 billion. Sanctions have sapped the government's finance. US and European Union bans on oil imports, which went into effect in 2012, are estimated to cost Syria about \$400 million a month.

Revenues from tourism have dropped dramatically, with hotel occupancy rates falling from 90% before the war to less than 15% in May 2012. Around 40% of all employees in the tourism sector have lost their jobs since the beginning of the war.

Let's look at the economic status of Palestine. The Palestinian infrastructure is mediocre, compared to the Israeli, and on the occupied territories, only Jewish settlers have a standard that can be compared to what is found in their homeland.

Over the 6 years of autonomy there has been some growth in the Palestinian industry, motivated by optimism for the future, but this has been halted by lack of funds and uncertainty about what Palestine is coming to. Still the output of Palestine is almost exclusively from the agriculture sector.

The Palestinian areas have not expanded beyond agriculture, small scale industry, workers living in Palestine but working in Israel, and heavy

unemployment.

The living standards are far better in the West Bank than in Gaza, and economic growth is higher here too. The occupied territories had in 1991 3,700 companies, of which 60% had less than 4 employees, and only 8% had more than 10 employees. All these industries worked for the domestic market, producing food stuffs, tobacco products, beverages but there were also some working with wood conversion.

Prospects are that Palestine will depend on foreign aid in many years to come. Palestine economy has for years relied upon using Israeli channels, where produce of Palestine, exported to Israel, is re-exported to other countries.

Jordan is the second most important market for Palestine. These two countries have received 98% of Palestine's export.

Palestine has over the recent years become more and more the victim of corruption and embezzlement at the highest government levels. This has had serious effects on industry and commerce and living standards of ordinary Palestinians.

You should be able to correlate this "Economical" crisis with the other violence-stricken countries also. With all this going on in one part of this world, it is shameful of us to just sit back and relax. What DID we do for the mankind for all these years? What ARE we doing for them? What WILL we do for our brothers and sisters who are suffering?

A very inspiring initiative by a physician named Gary Slutkin trained in infectious diseases is worthy of mention. After his training he moved from San Francisco to Somalia. He landed in a refugee camp with 6 other doctors and thousands of refugees. He dealt with all types of epidemics like tuberculosis and cholera. They had to give medical training to the refugees to create a new group of health workers. After 3 years of working in Somalia he was picked up by WHO and assigned to special epidemics unit. He worked in many places like Uganda , Rwanda, Tanzania and finally in Congo. He worked overseas for 10 years had very little left in his pocket and felt isolated due to constant travelling. He had witnessed great loss and pain among the people who died due to epidemics. He did not know about the epidemics nor any other

problems in America. His friends back home started talking about children who shot other children with guns and the doctor asked what they were doing about it.

There were two main ideas when it came to tackling violence. One was punishment. As he dealt with human behavior punishment was overvalued and never a driver of positive behavioral changes. He compared it to the ancient epidemics like leprosy, plague and how it was misunderstood in the past due to lack of scientific knowledge. People afflicted with these types of illnesses were considered to be bad people and often dragged and thrown into dungeons and isolated.

The other solution included the everything on earth or "EOE" theory. According to this theory we have to fix schools, communities, homes families etc. The doctor felt that sometimes you dont need to treat everything. There was a great gap in this idea and new strategies had to be worked out. This involved something having to do with new categories of workers, behavioral changes and public education. He started with analyzing maps and data of violence in most cities of USA. They could see a clustering similar to

infectious epidemics like cholera. Graphs had a typical wave upon wave pattern as an epidemic which is usually a combination of many epidemics.

This lead them to question what usually predicts a case of violence. It turned out that the greatest predictor of violence was a preceding case of violence. . Like a case of flu which is passed on from one person to another.

Violence is in a way behaving like a contagious disease. Fights, gang wars, civil wars and even genocide are all manifestations and spread of violence. There is a way to reverse an Epidemic.

To tackle this problem there are mainly three steps.

First one is to interrupt transmission.

This is to detect and find first cases. Let us take the example of tuberculosis .We first need to find an active case of TB who is infecting others. For this a special category of workers are designed and trained to detect first cases like angry people.

Second step is to prevent future spread. This is by finding those people who might have been exposed but may not be spreading so much right now like someone with a smaller case of TB or might have been hanging out in the

neighborhood but in the same group and then they have to be managed accordingly. Third part was shifting the norms. That means a whole bunch of community activities remodeling public education and group immunity. Following these three steps they were able to effectively bring down the epidemics in Uganda.

They put this idea together in the year 2000 whereby they trained special categories of workers. First of them were called the violence interrupters. All of it was put into the worst neighborhood of USA. The main features among them were trust credibility and access. They were trained in persuasion cooling people down buying time and reframing. The other category of workers were trained in giving therapy to the affected for 6 to 24 months. With an objective to bring behavioral change. Then there were community activities for changing norms. This resulted in 67 percent drop of shootings and killings. This idea had been replicated in various other cities which helped drop violence from 40 to 60 percent. Through this method faced lots of criticism as for equating violence to contagious disease. Still this is being

embraced by trauma centers and hospitals. Even at an international level this system has been effective.

Conclusion:

**IN EXPLAINING THE "JUST WAR" DOCTRINE, THAT "THE USE OF ARMS MUST NOT PRODUCE EVILS AND DISORDERS GRAVER THAN THE EVIL TO BE ELIMINATED." LATER, IT ADDS: "EVERY ACT OF WAR DIRECTED TO THE INDISCRIMINATE DESTRUCTION OF WHOLE CITIES OR VAST AREAS WITH THEIR INHABITANTS IS A CRIME AGAINST GOD AND MAN, WHICH MERITS FIRM AND UNEQUIVOCAL CONDEMNATION."**

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONDEMN ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE BOTH THE SO CALLED 'TACTIC OR NON-TACTIC' OF EMBEDDING WITHIN THE CIVILIAN POPULATION EVEN-THOUGH THE VIOLENCE STARTED BY A WEAK OR SUPERIOR FORCE IN ANY CONFLICT.**

**THE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER MORAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW TO PROTECT CIVILIANS ARE UNDER THE SHOULDER OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.**

**THE FIGHTING SIDES MUST AT-LEAST FIND THE MORAL COURAGE TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE. THAT SENTENCE IS SO PLAIN AS TO SEEM NAIVE, BUT IN ITS SIMPLICITY IS ITS TRUTH. SECURITY WALLS, BLOCKADES, CACHES OF ROCKETS, TUNNELS AND IRON DOMES HAVE CORRALLED UNRELENTING VIOLENCE, BUT THEY HAVE NOT BROUGHT PEACE.**

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