

NKARC Letter: Dec 2012 - Year ending reflections

From: [Bill Bhaneja](#)

Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 11:24 AM

Subject: Nonkilling Arts Research Committee: **year ending reflection**

Dear friends,

As we are near the end of 2012, let me share some reflections that you sent over past few weeks on what has been happening in Gaza, Pakistan, and USA.

Main concern in your notes was that in the Nonkilling Arts, our work can rise above mere outrage lamentation or sorrow about these tragic incidents. The NK Arts has to be something transformative that would inspire us to seek a better understanding of mindset and structure which transpires such carnage whether by a fanatic, a mentally unstable individual, or a nation-state. This is in hope that such creativity from Nonkilling arts could help in movements for transformative institutions and policy structures for nonviolent peace.

Specifically:

On Palestine and Israel, I received a short youtube which showed the power of graphics in explaining succinctly in just 6 minutes the complexities of why and where we are in Israel-Palestine conflict. Watch: <<http://www.israelpalestine101.org/>>.

Colleague graphic artist Bernard Doctor after watching the above video wrote: "This cartoon was amazing! Historically accurate and simple to follow it is exactly what we need to 'reset' the cultural inequality we have all suffered under for too long. Nothing changes if we keep doing the same things we've always done."

About Gaza, I was touched by a beautiful painting from Human Rights activist artist Julie Mass (see end of this message for her painting). It reminded me about dignity, hope and affirmation of Life in adversity.

Steve Sunderland's poem about 9 year old Malala who was seriously wounded in Peshawar, Pakistan brought a further reflection. Playwright Rahul Varma wrote: "Many powerful people who are in position of power have endorsed Malala's nomination (for a Nobel Peace Prize). I am sure it will encourage her to carry out her work but it may also distract her from being a crusader for girl's education to being an education celebrity. Let's hope latter is not the case. After the attack on her life, media revealed her mission which is why she was targeted. We got to know her. But it would have been more meaningful if the media also reported on her cause in frequency and in detail: the status of girl's education, contribution Malala had made, what her thoughts are, how she worked, who and how many girls she inspired and where do we stand in the midst of all this talk."

"Politicians have all the resources and money to invest in peace but they choose to invest in militarization. Stephen Harper and the Canadian senator alike (who has nominated Malala for the Nobel), had all the power to invest in peace prior to Malala.

Why didn't they? While I support Malala's nomination, and I will sign it myself, I would also prefer if the political leaders who are nominating her, did more than nomination - invested money, policies and in projects for peace such as that of Malala. -- I am for Malala. "

We are now in the Holiday Season of "Peace and Goodwill on Earth" and this week we find ourselves trying to comprehend yet another killing -- this time from the USA involving a man killing 20 elementary school children and 7 staff members and then shooting himself to death. There is already a lot of sorrow, pain, and blame going around looking within US its gun culture. Tendency is for the easiest solution, that is, enhanced security in elementary schools etc. There is however yet little talk about policies and programs for providing educare and other violence prevention task needed as part of building a culture of nonkilling peace.

Colleague linguist poet Francisco from Recife, Brazil sent the following "rhymed reflections" on the Connecticut incident:

Nonkilling Lessons from the Connecticut killings

"The world cries again; innocent lives in Connecticut were sacrificed
and current legislation for gun control and use once more unsufficed

New, effective laws need to be drafted and carefully implemented
for violence perpetrated in all school settings to be prevented
but more than legislation is needed for such killings not to take place
For Programs in Nonkilling Education in schools there should be a space

Along with the Right to Peace and to Nonviolence, the Right not to be killed
should be globally known
and in all languages and, cultures, principles and applications of the
Nonkilling Approach be sown.

From the Connecticut killings other lessons may be taught
but now, life-protecting-supporting actions should be sought
To know about Nonkilling, the Center for Global Nonkilling site please
access
and ways to overcome violence and killing you will creatively be able
to profess."

The above raised some observations: Is pain of American parent different
from that of thousands of children abroad that have been killed under US-NATO
watch? Or grieving for a soldier hero why do the political leadership not mention
the number of innocent civilians they may have killed?

I was also astounded by a note from novelist Mark Frutkin about self-immolation by over
30 youth activists in Tibet struggling for their rights in China, raising questions about this

mode of protest in which the protestor is prepared to kill himself without harming anyone else. Yet, how little reaction this generated in China or in the world media.

My grateful thanks to everyone in the Research Committee for their insightful comments as we have noted that unlike violence, the Nonkilling Creativity's potential is endless.

I hope their comments helped our inspiration to better understand complex world we live in and the common humanity we share.

Wishing you safe holidays and very best in the New Year.

Nonkilling Regards,

Bill

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja

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"Nonkilling is THE measure of human progress."

----- Original Message -----

From: [Gerald and Maas](#)

To: [Gerald and Maas](#)

Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 8:17 PM

Subject: a new painting

about gaza

julie maas
from bart & julie

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