

Dear friends,

From your contributions you kindly sent my way, a key theme emerging is a longing for transformation from killing to a nonkilling nation, society or an individual. A NKARC colleague from London sitting by Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Tavistoc Square recently sent the following quote inscribed at pedestal of the statue. It reads:

"To those who have established and are maintaining the right to refuse to kill. Their foresight and courage gives us hope."

The plaque was dedicated on 15 May 1994, International Conscientious Objectors Day by a NGO in a hope that we can choose life and choose not to kill as a commemoration to men & women conscientious objectors to military service all over the world and in every age.

Nonkilling Narratives 1:

NKARC colleague Bob is a journalist but also a good story teller. He writes 4 columns a month with same poignancy and commitment unraveling our divided souls between war and peace, conflict and reconciliation, spirit and material...in the end speaking as a voice from civil society for the oppressed. I could have picked any of his 3 analytical pieces but due to shortage of space chose his tribute to courageous Jacob George stood out for me as it went on describing the process of how the young soldiers soldiers are turned into a weapon, a process often difficult to reverse with war inside the killer soldiers head raging for ever. Perhaps only way to get over the PTSD trauma of having killed someone is to admit that the act of killing is wrong on all accounts. Bob writes: Getting beyond PTSD or moral injury is right but "one of the most powerful ways of renouncing killing is by counter-recruiting -- telling young people about the reality of war."

See article below:

OUR SOULS TURNED INTO WEAPONS By Robert C. Koehler

"During basic training, we are weaponized: our souls turned into weapons."

Jacob George's <<http://www.operationawareness.org/>> suicide last month — a few days after President Obama announced that the US was launching its war against ISIS — opens a deep, terrible hole in the national identity. George: singer, banjo player, poet, peace warrior, vet. He served three tours in Afghanistan. He brought the war home. He tried to repair the damage.

Finally, finally, he reached for "the surefire therapy for ending the pain," as a fellow vet told, Truthdig.

He was 32.

Maybe another war was just too much for him to endure. Military glory — protection of the innocent -- is a broken ideal, a cynical lie. “Times for war veterans are tough because we know exactly what is going to happen with the actions that Obama talked about in his recent speech,” his friend Paul Appell told Truthdig. “Jacob and other war veterans know the pain and suffering that will be done to our fellow man no matter what terms are used to describe war, whether it is done from afar with drones and bombs or up close eye to eye.”

And wars don't end. They go on and on and on, inside the psyches of the ones who fought and killed. War's toxins hover in the air and the water. Landmines and unexploded bombs, planted in the earth, wait patiently to explode. “

For More: > <http://commonwonders.com/world/our-souls-turned-into-weapons/>

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. Click on for his website at commonwonders.com <<http://commonwonders.com>>.*

For more on PTSD recommend reading Robert Emmet Meagher's “Killing from the Inside Out: Moral Injury and Just War” (2014). Evidence of unique initial efforts toward removing killing from the human condition. Greatest obstacle to this is brain dysfunction of serial killers (who show no remorse) scientifically demonstrated by brain scans by Adrian Rain, in his “The Anatomy of Violence: The Biological Roots of Crime” (2013). Hope is that such studies indicate at the same time need for finding biological bases of violence prevention at an earlier stages in personality development.

Nonkilling Narratives 2:

Stories of individuals whose life-long advocacy and involvement in killing was transformed by a pivotal event to its abhorrence can be powerful. Our new NKARC colleague from Canada Khalid Sohail is a psychotherapist. In last NKARC Letter you read his writings entitled, “The Last Killing” and “Killing in the Name of God”. This time he sent a more in-depth three-part narrative while probing into journey of an American conscientious objector and a former soldier Joshua Key, in the article's first part he sets the parameters of his analysis, in the second an analysis of his subject, while in the third ending it with a poem about an old soldier. Sohail writes:

“Every soldier has a unique story. Of all the stories that I have read and studied over the decades, I chose for this essay that of Joshua Key. His story is narrated by Lawrence Hill in their book *The Deserter's Tale... The Story of an Ordinary Soldier Who Walked Away from the War in Iraq*. (Ref 1) In my opinion Joshua Key's narrative is extra-ordinary because it provides many insights into a violent and a peaceful psyche. In his personal history, Joshua Key shares how he:

- ...developed violent consciousness
- ...joined the army
- ...reflected on his decisions
- ...transformed his violent consciousness into peace consciousness
- ...left the army

and

...applied for refugee status in Canada.

Joshua Key also describes how he and his wife Brandi are raising their children differently than the way he was brought up by his family. Joshua Key's story is fascinating and intriguing because it helps us peer into the psyche of a conscientious soldier.

Please let me know if you are familiar with or writing any inspirational nonkilling narrative. We have books galore on war/battle fighting heroes from old and contemporary history, we need similar inspirational stories of courageous folk and individual who stood their ground nonkillingly for human survival and dignity. Key point is their transformative moment.

For more on Sohail, click on his website: www.drsohail.com

2. Nonkilling Review: the Art of Civil Disobedience

NKARC colleague Sumeet Grover's review in the Huffington Post is about a current exhibition on "the art of civil disobedience" in London. It describes how the women of Chile chose creativity and the arts as a means of protest during the Pinochet dictatorship years when tens of thousands of men had been killed. Sumeet writes:

"In the face of greatest adversity, an ever expansive creativity is born: this is what unfolded in Chile, as women carried out a nonviolent revolution by stitching *thearpilleras* with their stories sewn in the form of patch-work and dolls, and sent out their sorrow to distant shores through international organisations who sold these art-works. As I spoke to Bacic, she explained that whilst their hands were busy stitching, these women were surrounded in the safe company of each other and felt comfortable to weep or share their experiences. These gatherings for making *arpilleras* became the undercurrents of stitching demonstration against the regime, and also for stitching hope towards a secure future for their communities.

For full review article click on:

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/sumeet-grover/chilean-art-of-civil-disobedience-va_review_b_5892330.html

Congrats to Sumeet also for having been named the Second Winner of The Portico Brotherton Open Poetry Prize 2014, Manchester. This year's prize is in recognition of poetry written about human conflicts, examining the condition of the affected people. As he writes he is very happy, but "the thousand-mile long journey to peace is still very new." Just to let him know in that we are all walking together. See his poem under Nonkilling Poetry.

3. Nonkilling photography:

Pritam Rohilla sent photos by two renowned photographers Majid Saeedi & Aref Karimi about life in Afghanistan, in spite of the ravages of a prolonged conflict. Thank you, Pritam.

Photo of The Boat from Africa

There is an interesting to this photo of boat from Democratic Republic of Congo where one of our Nonkilling projects is in action managed by Lucien Mabwe where the Nonkilling boat is used for ferry purposes to partially earn the salary of teachers of Glenn Paige Nonkilling School. A Mennonite couple Margaret and have unhesitatingly championed the support for the school and the boat. For more, click on:

www.goto.gg/7930.

4. Nonkilling Poetry

The commemorations of WW1 will continue with glorification of war and martyrdom, without recognizing the seeds of modern war that it laid touted as the last of the wars (!) and humanity wasted.... Wilfred Owen provides a solution of passing on Ram of Pride, it comes in name of power, partiotism, profits without much consideration of the innocent who must bear the brunt of it all.

Parable of the Old Man and the Young

By Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,
And took the fire with him, and a knife.
And as they sojourned both of them together,
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,
Behold the preparations, fire and iron,
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,
and builded parapets and trenches there,
And stretchèd forth the knife to slay his son.
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,
Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,
Neither do anything to him. Behold,
A ram, caught in a thicket by its horns;
Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.

But the old man would not so, but slew his son,

And half the seed of Europe, one by one.

(courtesy: David Krieger from his NAPF anthology of war poetry: Summer Grasses)

David Krieger <dkrieger@napf.org>

LIFE IS A GIFT

by Rana Ehtisham Rabbani

Soul has no choice

Where and in which family

To be born

It is the SENDER

WHO sends

Life is a blessing

Humankind is the

Best of all creations

Be the best

Not a beast, nor a killer

In thoughts and actions

Show respect

Spread love and affection

Life is a gift

Life is to live

Not to kill any

Not to be killed by any

On any pretext

Wisdom

Treat others

As you wish to be treated

President Peace & Humanity Forum Pakistan
Member Asia Pacific Alliance for Ministry and Infrastructure of Peace
www.humanityworld.com

More poems about No More Killing from Palestine, Israel, Lebanon etc....

"ENCYCLOPEDIA OF QUESTIONS: WEEPING IN THE WINDS"
(to the Palestinians, Israelis, and Lebanese)

By

George Bradford Patterson II

I

Why do the cypresses sigh
around Gaza City in scarlet twilight -
and who they thirst for?

II

Why do the falling leaves murmur
for peace in the winds outside Gaza
City -

and who do they weep for?

III Why do the
children cry like violets

in Jabalya refugee camp -

and who do they pine for in Khan Youness?

IV

Why do the Roses
of Sharon repine
in Beit Lahiya -
and who do they sob for
in Beit Hanoun

V

Why does the Palestinian librarian
weep waterfalls
amidst the rubble of the American
International School in Gaza City -
and who does she grieve for?

VI

Why do the innocents scream

in Rafah at midnight -
and who do they mourn for at Rafah
Crossing?

VII

Why do the palm trees quiver
in Beersheba -
and who do they wail for in Askelod?

VIII

Why do the orange orchards suspire
in Sderot -
and who do they groan for in Netivot?

IX

Why do the olive groves shake
in Nahariyeh -
and who do they moan for in Ashdod?

* The Rose of Sharon is the biblical name of a sacred and mystical rose of
love, peace, and beauty in the Old Testament.

Rockets

By Sumeet Grover

I am watching rockets,
not the fireworks,
fly over Gaza:
they are flying
to find homes,
dig deep beds, and
relax unrepentant.

A peace activist speaks
on the news channel
from his throat,
from his lungs,
from his chest:

*"We urge Israelis
to stop killing
innocent women and children,
we urge them
to save our future."*

The activist
has forgotten
he's a man:
he has forgotten
to save himself and
other men.

Has the activist
become a rocket?
We all become rockets
when we think it is fine
to explode some bodies,
so that others
can be protected.

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COLOURS OF PEACE

By Khalid SOHAIL

There is inner peace and there is outer peace

There is economic peace and there is social peace

There is religious peace and there is political peace

There is local peace and there is global peace

These are all colours of peace

And we need all these colours

To create a rainbow of peace.

October 2014

Nonkilling Door

by Francisco Gomes de Matos

When we hear or read of many innocent persons being brutally killed in current war,

Let's globally plead guilty, for Humankind has become more shamefully destructive than before.

Against such abominable crimes, it is not enough individually or collectively to abhor;

Everywhere citizens should unite and seriously should engage to open a NONKILLING door --

To be used by those who violate the right to live and, instead, decide to kill,

And also by those who, in crying/praying for Peace, will act rather than stand still.

As human beings, co-responsible for the Good on Earth, to a sustainable NONKILLING Peace let's commit,

And show, through globally-taken constructive political actions, that acts of killing we will not permit.

ABrAço

Francisco

By Francisco Gomes de Matos, a peace-NONKILLING linguist, Recife, Brazil
Author of Nurturing NONKILLING: A Poetic Plantation. Honolulu: Center for Global NONKILLING, 2009 -- Downloadable at www.nonkilling.org

Nonkilling Language:

Contextual connotations of peaceable words or terms like liberation, nonkilling & nonviolence, vary, traditionally, by culture & language. Hegemonic denotations of such words or terms fluctuate as well, along practical understandings of force, conflict, coercion, & power, experienced locally & globally...

Check out the columns in the table for *Languages, Nonviolence, World-Planet Reconciliation, Connotations for Nonkilling — Peace-able Liberation, Cultural Meaning*

2014.7-9 Report on Apartheid-Nonviolence 101*

Nonviolence, Nonkilling, and Liberation, By Cultural Language Connotations (Table)
By Paul Heubers

See the pdf article for the table

Nonkilling Tourism:

From: James Dator [mailto:dator@hawaii.edu]

What if every hotel room in the world were to display this multi-lingual "Poster of Peace"?

I pose this question in this special dispatch on Oct 2, universally marked as a Day of Non-Violence in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, whose Ahimsa philosophy of non-violent resistance was at the core of one of the greatest anti-colonial revolutions in history.

I photographed this Poster of Peace (left, first pix on top) on Aug 11, 2014, in "The Room of Silence" at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. The German capital is marking the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall and the end of the Cold War, which eventually led to the reunification of the formerly divided city and country.

Today, as another form of Cold War begins to resurface, along with a number of mini-Hot Wars, it appears that the world has still not learned the lessons of history. The old cycles are repeating themselves, albeit in different guises.

If travel & tourism claims to be an industry of peace, then its legions of roughly three billion international and domestic tourists should be well-placed to become a force for peace and crusaders for Gandhi's philosophy of Ahimsa non-violence.

For more, read :

<<http://www.travel-impact-newswire.com/2014/10/what-if-every-hotel-room-in-the-world-displayed-this-poster-of-peace/#ixzz3EyMACThN>>
<http://www.travel-impact-newswire.com/2014/10/what-if-every-hotel-room-in-the-world-displayed-this-poster-of-peace/#ixzz3EyMACThN>

Two important Nonkilling Books:

Yale psychiatrist James Gilliam in his 2011 book shows an interesting patterns to killings in America since 1900. Suicides and homicides have risen during periods of Republican administrations and declined during Democratic ones. You can read online about this extremely important research via Amazon. Search James Gilligan and see Introduction to **When Some Politicians are More Dangerous than Others** (2011). By similar discovery after finding his book **The Anatomy of Violence: The Biological Roots of Crime** (2013) Adrian Raine reports brains scans of serial killers. Shows that proactive and reactive killers have brains that differ from normal controls. And at the end offers some proposals for social policies to reduce their incidence.

Buddha, Mahavira, Jesus, the Prophet, Tolstoy, Gandhi, and King, et al. were not able not able to think about this in their times. *In 21st century, Glenn Paige notes that CGNK can, must, and does to do so by engaging likes of Adrian Raine and others in investigating neurosciences and nonkilling. This is a unique characteristic that seems to distinguish it from other worthy peace and nonviolent endeavors.*

Poem by Gandhi ji

We were not sure about the poem in the Techno-Gandhian news by Mahatma Gandhi. However this is what we strive for within many a times. It reads as follows:

Poem written by Gandhiji on Independence (Swaraj)

Gandhiji dreamed of his free India in its essentials embodied in a song that was sung at one of his evening prayers in Bhangi Colony, New Delhi. It gripped him. He translated it into English and had it sent to Lord Pethick-Lawrence. It was as follows:

“We are inhabitants of a country
where there is no sorrow and no suffering,
Where there is no illusion nor anguish,
no delusion nor desire,
Where flows the Ganges of love
and the whole creation is full of joy,
Where all minds flow in one direction,
and where there is no occasion for sense of time;
All have their wants satisfied;
Here all barter is just,
Here all are cast in the same mould,
Here is no lack nor care,
No selfishness in any shape or form,
No high no low, no master no slave;
All is light, yet no burning heat,
That country is within you—
It is Swaraj, Swadeshi!
The home within you—
Victory! Victory! Victory!
He realizes it who longs for it.”

You can click the below link to view the full newsletter (August 2014):

<http://bbsystems-citgpnw.webs.com/newsletteraugust2014.pdf>