

## **Nonkilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter - April 2016**

Dear NKARC members and friends,

It has been over two years since we ventured into creating this space for NonKilling Arts through NKARC. The intent was to bring together art creators with a vision of nonkilling society, hoping their contributions would help to build a path for others to follow. Last month, a small NKARC group communicated with Glenn Paige online on the question of parameters of Nonkilling Arts. I provide below a summary of its highlights:

### **Is typology of Nonkilling Arts possible?**

NonKilling Arts is about exploration of the spirit and practice of how to prevent, respond to, and to improve individual, social, and global well-being beyond killing. Is a typology of Nonkilling Arts possible?

The book Nonkilling Global Political Science(NKGPS) provides a four step logic of Nonkilling analysis. Glenn commented that the same could be applied to arts. #1 type: art about killing and its causes. #2: art about nonkilling and its causes. #3: art related to transition from killing to nonkilling, and #4: creative celebration/vision/description of nonkilling individual, local, to global conditions.

Arts of lamentations of atrocities prevail but often become self-defeating unless it is combined with optimism for nonkilling change. To find such possibilities of hope, renowned creators in literature, music and performing arts have had strong inclination using imagination viewing world through nonkilling lens of empathy, dignity, and common humanity. This Letter has provided over past two years examples of such creation which is more challenging than venting.

Artists need to discover the nonkilling heroes and heroines, cultures, movements and actions of past and present-or thinkable creatable futures. For example, celebration of the abolition of the death penalty at various times/cultures or narratives of conscientious objectors, pacifist writers, war resisters. CGNK and similar works can help in understanding of such a paradigm.

Each of the above four Nonkilling Arts typologies provide scope for such creativity. There is even scope for all four to be structured in a Nonkilling concert symphony, opera, or through a play in four scenes/acts highlighting the above aspects of transformation from killing to nonkilling.

Your comments on the above are as always welcome.

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For April Letter, in addition to above musings on the NKARC mandate, you sent poems about International Women's Day, commemoration of peace activist Rachel Corrie, commentaries on nonkilling lexicon and essay on peace memory and poetry, annual

reconciliation day in Ottawa, Judgement at Nuremberg film review, videos of drama as education, reports on nonviolent cities, peace festival, and poem Nonkilling Candle from Bangladesh.....thank you.

### **1. Poetry and Nonkilling**

(a) On the occasion of International's Women Day, two empowering poems from Ada Aharoni:

#### **Cosmic Woman**

They tell us  
 you were first born  
 in warm ocean womb  
 caressed by sun fingers -  
 daughter perhaps  
 of the stormy affair  
 of two unruly atoms in love  
 maddened by the solitude  
 of eternal rounds  
 in the steppes of times  
 And your children,  
 lively descendants  
 of their stellar nucleus mother  
 dropped from the sky  
 in depths of ocean belly,  
 born of green and brown seaweed  
 and the laughs and cries  
 of a blue bacteria

Cosmic woman,  
 when you chose earth  
 as home for your vast roots  
 at the beginning  
 of the great human family,  
 it was for life --  
 not for death!

Cosmic woman,  
 you, who were born of the nucleus,  
 from deadly nuclear mushroom -  
 save your chosen planet  
 save your children!

-- Ada Aharoni

#### **Eve's Defence**

You didn't have to accept  
 That shiny juicy apple  
 Did you Adam dear?  
 Please remove those  
 Musty fig leaves  
 From your memory and ears

And remember Adam dear,  
 You were created  
 From mere earth,  
 Whereas I was sculpted  
 From a much finer substance  
 Finer than ivory  
 Finer than gold.  
 In the rush of your  
 Heart's blood  
 In the throbbing of your temples

Remember Adam dear -  
 I was created  
 From pure human bone  
 Your strong rib-bone  
 Became me - Eve  
 Mother of Life.

Always remember  
 Dearest Adam  
 Free, independent Eve  
 Is - You.

-- Ada Aharoni

Dr. Ada Aharoni is founder of International forum for the Literature and Culture of Peace (IFLAC):

(b) David Krieger marked the International Day of Women with his poem 'Bulldozer' commemorating young American activist Rachel Corrie:

### **BULLDOZER**

In Desert Storm, an American War,  
 the U.S. military put bulldozer blades on its tanks  
 and buried Iraqi soldiers alive in desert sands.  
 This deserves more than a footnote in the annals  
 of human cruelty.

Rachel Corrie, a young American, stood  
 before an Israeli bulldozer that threatened the home

of a Palestinian family. She refused to give way.  
This deserves more than a footnote in the annals  
of human courage.

-- David Krieger

Dr. David Krieger is founder of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation(NAPF)

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## **2. Nonkilling Commentaries**

### **(a) Lexicon of Killings and Nonkillings**

NKARC colleague Professor Emeritus Francisco de Matos has been a regular contributor to this letter through his Nonkilling rhymed reflections. He is a linguist innovator. Reacting to recent killings of innocents in Brussels and Paris, he sent the following insightful piece on Killing and Nonkilling lexicon - the words ending with "-cide". We need to create their antonyms in thoughts, words and actions.

### **Against all types of KILLING. A Checklist on words in -CIDE**

By Francisco Gomes de Matos, a peace linguist is Co-founder and President of the Board,ABA Global Education,Recife,Brazil

One of the most painful,shocking things to hear these days : "In today`s world, killings there will always be" . Notwithstanding that bluntly realistic statement, as co-responsible global citizens, we should nurture/sustain our commitment to compassion, dignity, empathy,equality (especially economiquality), harmony, mutual understanding, and peace and in all of our languages wholeheartedly assert: "One day, one day, all of the following types of killing will disappear from the Earth:

Checklist on -CIDE words :

- 1 - animalcide
- 2- apicide
- 3- arboricide
- 4-- cosmocide
- 5 - ecocide
- 6 - democide
- 7- ethnocide
- 8 - fratricide
- 9- genocide
- 10- herbicide
- 11- homicide
- 12- infanticide
- 14- innocenticide
- 15- linguicide
- 16- matricide

17 - omnicide  
 18 - patricide  
 19 - suicide

Please add to the list, discuss it, translate it into other languages. Help prevent the list from expanding globally.

One day, one day, in a not-too-distant future, -CIDE words will be remembered as acts of killing humankind engaged in or was subjected to. Such destructive past will be transformed in becoming a LIFE-dignifying-enhancing present.

May each of us humbly contribute to making that humanity-transformation come true.

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Echoing Francisco's thoughtful above piece, Prof. Kris-Acheson, Department of Applied Linguistics at Georgia State University wrote that *"that just because a goal is (likely) unattainable doesn't make it unworthy of always working towards"*.

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### **(b) Peace Memory and Poetry**

In his article, "Peace Memory and Poetry", using Nonkilling frame for his five poems describing dastardly events of the past six decades from Hiroshima to Iraq war, David Krieger uses his poetry speaking to Truth. The poems raise critical questions about human dignity, common humanity, and the value of human sapiens lives, regardless of nationality, race, religion or gender.

He writes:

"We are fortunate to live in a time in which we have the possibility to transition from cruelty to kindness, from selfishness to community, from nation to world, from war to peace, from nuclear threat to nuclear zero, and from killing to nonkilling. May the arts, including the poetry of peace, help to open our eyes and hearts, sharpen our senses, and put us in touch with the truth, beauty and responsibilities of our common humanity, so that we may become a part of the solution so desperately needed to our global malaise. In short, may the arts restore and deepen our humanity and make us worthy of the sacred gift of life." For full article, see attachment.

### **(c) 17th Annual Reconciliation Day in Ottawa**

The 17th Annual Reconciliation Day in Ottawa was held on March 13 at St. Albans Anglican Church. This year's event was triggered by a Government of Canada report released in March 2015 admitting its failure on preventing abuse of indigenous children who were sent to residential schools across Canada in the past century, and to correct

the legacy of past injustice. One of the underlying themes of Reconciliation was that "without Truth, there can be no Reconciliation".

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, the First Nation activist in her keynote pointed to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling which stated "unequivocally" that the government of Canada has discriminated against children on reserves. She pointed that to bridge the trust between settler and indigenous communities beyond stereotypes, there was need for government to provide better health care, water, and education overcoming burden of history and colonization. Reconciliation means making a success of plans for reconstruction and development.

The Annual event is an initiative which began on February 11, 2000 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's walk to freedom by Ottawa peace activist June Girvan in league with South African High Commission and North Star Legacy Keepers group of First Nations.

### 3. Movies and Nonkilling

**Judgment at Nuremburg (1961)** written by Abby Mann, director: Stanley Kramer. The film set in 1947 is about four German judges who served on the bench during the Nazi regime face a military tribunal to answer charges of crimes against humanity. Chief Justice Haywood (Spencer Tracy) hears evidence and testimony not only from lead defendant Ernst Janning (Burt Lancaster) and his defense attorney Hans Rolfe (Maximilian Schell).

The New York Times in its review of the movie described the film as a " fine dramatic statement of moral probity" raising the question of how much responsibility and guilt the individual must bear for crimes committed or condoned by him on the order and in the interest of the state. This layered movie is about where judges are being judged for their complicity in a war sending innocent to gas chambers. How does sending of an innocent to gallows rest on the conscience of a judge? Capital punishment continues in 93 countries (As of July 2015, **101** countries had abolished the death penalty for all crimes).

For full review of the film, click on:

<http://www.nytimes.com/movie/review?res=EE05E7DF173EBC2CA34A4CC2B7799D8D6896>

and

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judgment\\_at\\_Nuremberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judgment_at_Nuremberg)

(b) **Body count from movies:** Surprised to find on line statistics on kills and deaths for films, characters, and directors in Hollywood films: E. g. Lord of the Rings (836), Rambo (247). However, there are movies without bodies falling down or killings, yet they end with unforgettable impression of violence (e.g. Hitchcock's Psycho with a single murder). For more on body count in movies: click on:

[www.moviebodycounts.com](http://www.moviebodycounts.com) <<http://www.moviebodycounts.com/>> .

### 4. Cartoon and Nonkilling

Richard Panter sent a cartoon on nuclear warfare from the Union of Concerned Scientists. See attachment

### **5. Video about Drama in Education and Nonkilling**

(a) Drama in Education: Taking Gandhi Out of The Text book. Colleague Dr. Swaroop Rawal sent a video of her drama camp in Surat, India where she uses performing arts to teach Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha to children in their formative years. For this 30 min video, click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJ0vHaO4Rwc>

(b) **Revolution of love song:** a dramatised video about empathy and kindness, the two Nonkilling attributes, For this poignant 7 min. video, click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o2B7j4ZXiA>

### **6. Cities and Nonkilling**

(a) Report on Nonviolent Cities campaign by John Dear

Two international groups pursue a similar vision – International Cities for Peace ([www.internationalcitiesforpeace.org](http://www.internationalcitiesforpeace.org)) and Mayors for Peace ([www.mayorsforpeace.org](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org)), which has 6965 cities committed in 161 countries. John Dear in his article writes about a new campaign aiming for a nonviolent city and its basic principles/criteria. Its first goal would be to work towards a rapid reduction in violence and an end to killing.

John Dear writes:

“the key aspect of “Nonviolent Cities” is that each city will be summoned to address its violence in all its aspects, structures, and systems; to connect the dots between its violence; and to pursue a more holistic, creative, city-wide nonviolence, where everyone together is trying to practice nonviolence, promote nonviolence, teach nonviolence and institutionalize nonviolence on the local level, to really build a new nonviolent community for itself and others. We want not just to undermine the local and regional culture of violence, and end all the killings, but to transform it into a culture of nonviolence.

This means that “Nonviolent Cities” organizers would promote the vision, teach nonviolence, and inspire people at every level in their community to work together for a new nonviolent community and a new nonviolent future. That would include everyone from the mayor and city council members to the police chief and police officers, to all religious and civic leaders, to all educators and healthcare workers, to housing authorities, to news reporters and local media; to youth and grassroots activists, to the poor and marginalized, children and the elderly. Together, they would address all the issues of violence and pursue all the angles and possibilities of nonviolence for their city’s transformation into a more nonviolent community. For full article, click on:

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2016/03/building-new-nonviolent-cities/>

John Dear, is an American Jesuit priest who has been arrested many times for nonviolent disobedience in campaigns against nuclear weapons and research.

#### **(b) 2015 Edmonton Peace Festival - a report**

Last September, Gandhi Peace Foundation held a 12 day peace festival last September in Edmonton celebrating UN International Days of Peace and Nonviolence. See attached an excellent report with photos and text put together by the festival organizers and NKARC colleague Colleen Ring. The report proves that a 12-day peace festival concept on a very small budget is possible with a dedicated team of volunteers.

#### **7. NAPF peace art contests:**

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has announced two peace art contests. Deadline is end of April

1. The Swackhamer Video Contest
2. The 2016 Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards

For more information, click on:

<http://www.peacecontests.org/#contact>

#### **8. LAST WORD**

In March NKARC Letter, we had invited our poet colleagues to take the challenge of writing a ‘Nonkilling’ Anthem(s). The poem below by Rashida Khanam is an example of one such inspiration.

## **We are Nonkilling Candle on Earth**

*We are a Nonkilling Candle on Earth  
to kindle the lamp of Nonkilling Spirits in mind.  
We are a Nonkilling Candle on Earth  
for letting the souls with light of knowledge  
for overcoming pains of humans.  
We are a Nonkilling Candle on Earth  
for practicing the values of dignity and worth.  
We are a Nonkilling Candle on Earth  
for knowing no differences of colour and creed.  
We are a Nonkilling Candle to mould heart  
We are a Nonkilling Candle to enrich mind  
We are a Nonkilling Candle to transform soul  
with the infinite power of Love  
for accomplishing the Dream-  
A Nonkilling Peaceful world  
-- Rashida Khanam*

Dr. Rashida Khanam is Bangla translator of the book Nonkilling Global Political Science  
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Profound gratitude to all who contributed or pointed to the material for this letter.

Looking forward to further inspirations and comments as always.

Nonkilling Regards,  
Bill

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*"Nonkilling art explores the spirit and practice of how to prevent, respond to, and to improve individual, social, and global well-being beyond killing." - Glenn D. Paige*  
== Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress==