

NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: January 2016

Dear NK Arts RC members and friends,

Happy New Year!

Hope you had a safe and peaceful holiday.

Thanks for the kudos you sent to our nonkilling poets for their poems.

This month's letter covers nonkilling contributions on cinema, books, music, poetry, and journalism etc.

1. Books and Nonkilling:

The Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) published two important books last month: *Nonkilling Balkans* and *Diary of Kidnapped Colombian Governor Gaviria*

(a)

Nonkilling Balkans

Edited by Rifet Bahtijaragić and Joám Evans Pim and Pradeep Dhakal

Co-published by the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo

ISBN 978-0-9839862-7-0 (2015)

This book came out of the Nonkilling Balkans Forum held in the summer of 2014 in Sarajevo. The Forum set out to develop adoption and institutionalization of nonkilling, a process that was initiated with the declaration of the town of Bosanski Petrovac as a nonkilling community. It was in fact the first municipality to be distinguished with the "Nonkilling Flag" ensign by the Center for Global Nonkilling. The book contains a rare set of papers with insights on the Balkans and Nonkilling responses underway. It points to alternatives available to Balkans countries in learning from the nonkilling civilian defence arrangements, albeit as a complement to conventional military means, of Sweden, Lithuania, Switzerland and Austria, for example. 27 countries in the world have no standing armies, including Costa Rica or Iceland. Or even from the new developments in nonlethal weapon for police and military use. For the free down load of the book or for information on hard copies, click on:

<http://nonkilling.org/pdf/nkbalkans.pdf>

(b) The full PDF text of *Diary of a Kidnapped Colombian Governor* by *Gillermo Gaviria Correa* (2010) first published in Spanish by *Revista Numero Ediciones* (2005) The Diary mentioned as an example of Nonkilling non-fiction in earlier NKARC letters, records daily thoughts of elected political leader, Governor of six million people in Antioquia, Colombia, kidnapped by FARC revolutionaries on April 21, 2001, killed on May 5, 2002 by the FARC during an unwanted, unsuccessful military rescue attempt. Governor

Gaviria, dedicated to Christian, Gandhian, and Kingian nonviolence, was kidnapped at the end of a five-day, 65-mile, 1,000 person nonviolent peace- and dialogue-seeking march into FARC territory in relief of the besieged mountain town of Caicedo. The book with strong Nonkilling connections can now be downloaded for free from [CGNK's website](#) and paperback copies can be ordered from [Amazon.com](#).

2. Music and Nonkilling Activism

Recently heard the rock band U2 and its song writers Bono and Edge refer to their 'Sunday, Bloody Sunday' song on CNN as an aftermath to Paris killings during an interview by Fareed Zakaria interview. 'Sunday Bloody Sunday' remains one of the most performed contemporary controversial rock songs , it is described as a song which brought solidarity to fight nonviolently in N.Ireland . See below the lyrics and rendering of the song:

I can't believe the news today
I can't close my eyes and make it go away.
How long, how long must we sing this song?
How long, how long?
'Cos tonight
We can be as one, tonight....
<http://www.u2.com/lyrics/127>

Written by Edge sung by Bono
U2 Drummer Mullen said of the song in 1983:

"We're into the politics of people, we're not into politics. Like you talk about Northern Ireland, 'Sunday Bloody Sunday,' people sort of think, 'Oh, that time when 13 Catholics were shot by British soldiers'; that's not what the song is about. That's an incident, the most famous incident in Northern Ireland and it's the strongest way of saying, 'How long? How long do we have to put up with this?' I don't care who's who – Catholics, Protestants, whatever. You know people are dying every single day through bitterness and hate, and we're saying why? What's the point? And you can move that into places like El Salvador and other similar situations – people dying. Let's forget the politics, let's stop shooting each other and sit around the table and talk about it... There are a lot of bands taking sides saying politics is crap, etc. Well, so what! The real battle is people dying, that's the real battle."

[Sunday Bloody Sunday - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday_Bloody_Sunday

o [Cached](#)

"Sunday **Bloody Sunday**" is a song by the Irish rock band **U2**. It is the opening track from their 1983 album War and was released as the album's third single on ...
[Bloody Sunday \(1972\) - New Year's Day - Disambiguation](#)

See below interesting edited excerpts from CNN GPS interview 6 December 2016 - Fareed Zakaria interviews U2 - Bono and Edge following the Paris Killings on November..., related to their older Sunday Bloody Sunday song :

ZAKARIA: I saw somebody, you remember right after the attacks, a guy brings out his piano outside the Bataclan and starts playing "Imagine." And we showed that clip on TV. And you sent me a nice e- mail about it. I saw a couple of people write articles saying how hopeless this is. This is the sign of the West decadence. Is that the response to terrorism, music? I take it you think that is a response.

BONO: That's poetry in music. And humor. Three things. Old fascist organizations are afraid of humor. That's why Hitler outlawed vidatas (ph) and the surrealists. So, you know, violence is their language. When you unseat their sort of male energy and just - and that feminine energy of playing music is beautiful. I mean think about the idea of outlawing music. A child sings before it can speak. It's the very essence of our humanity. This music.

THE EDGE: There's only been a couple of political movements in the history of the world that have targeted music specifically. The Taliban banned music and during Mao's Cultural Revolution, also music was banned. And we think of music as the sound of freedom. We think that rock n' roll has a part to play and - so, going back to Paris is not just symbolic, I think we're actually starting the process of resistance as it were and defiance against this movement.

....

ZAKARIA: You've gone through terrorism, religious extremism, violence.

ZAKARIA: **Sunday Bloody Sunday. Your song.**

BONO: Sunday Bloody Sunday.

ZAKARIA: When a lot of people wonder, is that - were you condemning the IRA, were you condemning - you know, when you've confronted that kind of thing and you use music to respond, what are you saying?

THE EDGE: **I think most importantly it's a song against violence as a tool for politics of any kind. And our experience in Ireland bore that out. Peace broke out as Bono described through dialogue, to compromise when people actually sat down and started to realize that they had a common goal for their, the aspirations of the people they represented. That was far more to be gained by getting together than by continuing in the same cycle of violence and suspicion and mistrust. So, that is the theme of that song is that violence can never create a meaningful solution to anything.**

BONO: **And again, and there's some similarities here about how Christianity had been abused as indeed it had by the crusaders. If you think about it 1000 years ago, they were doing what these Islamists are doing now, which is a perversion of their faith. You know, Islam -- you do know, sorry. It means surrender. Not attack.**

And it's a beautiful though, surrender. The idea of taking up arms for God is the distortion of it. And that's what Sunday, Bloody Sunday was doing, was to point out the cross and Easter in Christ laying down his life for his brothers rather than taking lives.

ZAKARIA: You also must have seen what the effect of various kinds of responses to terrorism were because the way the British responded to a lot of IRA attacks often seem to play into the IRA's hands.

BONO: Well, of course, but it wasn't just in Ireland. When there was bombings in Britain. And I remember instance outside Birmingham where there were roadblocks, vigilante roadblocks. And people with an Irish accent got, you know, got hurt because they must be now part of this conspiracy. And this is the thing to really watch for here in the United States and around the world. You know, the Islamist extremism, particularly ISIS, have a hand book. And they talk about the gray zone. That's their enemy. It's the common place where we get on very well. And so, they seek to destabilize that. Then they've won. This is not just - they're not really after the live. They're not trying to take lives. They're trying to take away our way of life...

[for complete CNN Fared Zakaria CNN interview, click on:
<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1512/06/fzgps.01.html>]

3. Nonkilling on Radio

Mark Shadle's sent a thoughtful and entertaining NPR story about Baboons and violence Thought some members might be interested in this recent NPR Radio Lab show's findings, about how violent baboons change their behavior:

<http://www.radiolab.org/story/91694-new-baboon/>

4. Nonkilling poetry:

Friday's Quiet in Lahore (could be in Beirut or anywhere else), a poem by Maureen Korp. Maureen lived and taught in Lahore for many years.

[28.5.10, Lahore. Pakistan. Attacks on two Ahmadiya mosques]

Friday afternoon

by Maureen Korp

camera crews here, there

tracking telephoto lens

sirens, noises, cries

raucous, crackling shrieks

somatic witness, skin stripped

raw. All gone wrong
gunmen in the mosque
men with bandoliers, and prayers...
bullets. here. young men
with guns, laden with
grenades. Soon the bodies stink
on rugs laid out for
prayer. The arguments
of faith, dismembered reason
flayed, drained dry, giddy
in the summer's heat,
blackbirds, crows wheel about
who will pray for what
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"It's hard to stop thinking once you've started." Mohsin Hamid

For more on fatalities of parishioners in places of worship around the globe, see NKARC colleagues Chaiwath Satha-Ananda and Olivier Urbain's book, "Protecting the Sacred" (2013). For information on their book, click on:

<http://www.transactionpub.com/title/Protecting-the-Sacred,-Creating-Peace-in-Asia-Pacific-978-1-4128-4985-2.html>

5. Film Documentaries and Nonkilling

Three thoughtful documentaries were received from NKARC colleagues Paul Saltzman and Ada Aharoni

(a) Paul Saltzman's two films: **Prom Night in Mississippi** and **The Last White Knight** are released now. PNM is on the controversial topic of an integrated prom in Mississippi and LWK is part of Paul's personal journey of reconciliation with KKK almost a generation later, both docs relevant to Nonkilling transformation. Both films are about how does one move beyond prejudice. The topic of human dignity and reconciliation is a theme that keeps on coming up in NKARC colleagues' work trying to bridge the gaps in our shared humanity created by race, religion, gender and ethnicity.

THE LAST WHITE KNIGHT and PROM NIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI can be found on-line. On Prom Night in Mississippi. After a showing of PNM to 200 police officers, Paul wrote:

"I am still in the glow/resonance of working with the police yesterday. Yesterday was so exciting and exhilarating and stunning. We humans get so blocked and twisted in our emotional bodies, compensate in our mental bodies and when invited back into our hearts we zoom forward with greater wisdom and compassion and love. the feedback yesterday was truly magnificent. for me it's a delight and an honour.

I learned great lesson in my 20s when delving briefly into Buddha's wisdom. he said we have 6 bodies: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, astral, ethereal: and it in the nurturing of each and balancing of each that life becomes so glorious. and it's easy to teach a different, non-violence based path, and people are right there, hungry for relief from frustration and pain. "

For more on Paul Saltzman's work including links to his two docs, click on his Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Saltzman

Congrats and thank you, Paul.

(b) Ada Aharonii' new documentary film: "THE POMEGRANATE OF RECONCILIATION AND HONOR" with English translation was released on November 30. After viewing the film, I wrote: Based on the narrative of the uprooted Jews from Egypt and the other Arab countries. the film highlights the need for reaching peace with Palestinian neighbors, It's a beautiful film, well put together with Ada's authentic nonkilling inspirations. With her background as an Egypt born Israeli refugee it provides an interesting vantage point for the bridge building role she has taken on through her art, seeking reconciliation between Arab and Jewish communities. The concept of '*Sulah*' she uses is well put and the core problem she points out is about is the importance for an Arab regaining his honour personally and nationally. This is a challenging task anywhere we have conflict in the world, especially when perceived asymmetry between two communities in their cultures, sense of justice and history etc. is present or felt. I was glad to see in her model of three floors of Zionist peace building a recognition of the two states solution, the populating of the top floor would require tons of non-patronizing confidence building and empathy with those suffering prior to signing on peace treaties you mention. Hope the film paves way for possibilities of peace between Israeli and Palestinian (and Muslim communities) in general. To watch the movie on youtube, click on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ABi2mPQnXI>

Congrats and thank you, Ada.

(6) Journalism and Nonkilling:

(a) NKARC colleague Bob Koehler writes 4 op-eds every month from the point of view of our shared humanity highlighting unrighteousness of wars, police brutality, or victims of oppression Last month I put aside his thoughtful piece entitled, "The Dynamics of

Compassion” (Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015) for this month as he invited readers to share through his column incidents of compassion they had encountered.

<http://commonwonders.com/world/the-dynamics-of-compassion/> -

However his recent op-ed, **Love South of Heaven**, December 23rd, 2015 was so timely that I chose it instead, click on:

<http://commonwonders.com/peace/love-south-of-heaven/>

Bob challenges us with a quote from Buddhist Vietnamese philosopher Thich Nhat Hanh. “The force of love springs from awareness.” Again I ask, what does this mean? What does it mean in a world where violence is the answer to so many of our problems and a large percentage of the population is angry, fearful — and armed? What does it mean in a war- and prison-dependent economy, stoked by a too-often clueless media with a financial stake in more of the same? What does it mean in a world where cynicism rules?”

Something to reflect on as we step into 2016.

(b) NKARC colleague Koozma J.Tarasoff sent a feature report on the 9th Annual Ottawa Peace Festival:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BqznVUXM7fhgMc-MzqTeHgMQpqf_lhbMrytaL8yZYrE/edit?pref=2&pli=1

Reflections and photos - a report on the world's longest peace festival (Sept 20 to Oct.02)

Last word:

The final word goes to our colleague Ada Aharoni, founder of IFLAC, who just sent this inspiring poem heralding New Year to us the peace people as parents of hope:

YEAR OF HOPE 2016

Despite our wars, despite our tears,

Despite our furtive fears

We welcome the smiling year of HOPE.

The power of women and children for peace is rising,

Democracy and the Internet are spreading,

Global poverty has been cut in half -

Never have ordinary people, like you and me,

Had more power to face challenges

And to decide our own fate of Nonkilling.

We're poised on the edge between

Our oldest fears of terror and war

And our deepest dreams of peace.

We face a choice - to rise to this moment in time

And be the PEACE we want to see -

It all depends on us, for we peace-lovers

Are the largest global community!

War is not democratic, and we have to catch it

By its ugly ears and drown it into

The vast ocean of violent history forever.

We peace-lovers are the parents of hope

And hope is the game changer in life.

Hope is the wing on which we rise

It is the map of how and where to fly

To throw Terror and War from the top of the cliff

Into the historical stormy ocean.

In this New Year, let's hurry to joyfully embrace
The golden sunbeam of Hope gladly waltzing
To the music of a moving Chopin Waltz
Toward twinkling Global Peace.

Ada Aharoni

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Thank you, Ada.

Profound gratitude to all who contributed or pointed to the material for this letter.

Looking forward to your contributions and comments as always.

HAPPY NONKILING 2016!

Warm 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==