

## **NonKilling Arts Research Committee (NKARC) Letter: July 2016**

Dear NKARC members and friends,

June was a month of massacres of innocents in Kabul, Dhaka, Tel Aviv, Istanbul and Orlando.... in these mass murders the cause was essentially revenge, retribution, fanaticism, and intolerance. The month also coincided with a number of thoughtful responses which came in the form of books, articles and publications you sent my way as prose, poetry, music and cinema. Colleague Ada Aharoni in her introductory note for her IFLAC anthology on Anti-Terror and Peace, noted the anthology to be a "courageous idea and project to combat Terrorism with words" as "the fanatical ideology of the Terrorists is made of words, that only words can eliminate it!" Sources and causes of killings we have seen are often multi-tiered resulting from actions and reprisals of non-state and state actors. In Nonkilling. we have always believed once killing is stopped, peace can sprout.

### **1. Literary Writings and Nonkilling**

#### **(A) IFLAC ANTI-TERROR AND PEACE ANTHOLOGY 2016**

The courageous book edited by Ada Aharoni comprises 8 articles, 3 short stories, 2 interviews, and 51 poems interspersed with paintings by 4 artists including submissions on peace for a Haiku contest. The book is written by artists from countries all across the globe. The articles focus on several dimensions of Anti-Terrorism: the psychology of suicide bombers, lethal ideological brainwashing, technology for creating a better world, terrorism as evil, using communication to suppress terrorism, the end of terrorism as a global concern, and creating a just and peaceful world. Contributions in the anthology include works by NKARC colleagues as well.

For the Peace Anthology, see pdf attachment. Kudos to Ada, Vijay and artists for echoing voices of Nonkilling arts!

#### **(B) PEACE CLINIC(s) AND NONKILLING**

This "bio-fictional piece" by Dr. K. Sohail is about a psychotherapist speaker who is addressing a conference on the ideas and ideals of their unique Peace Clinic. The gathering comprises poets and philosophers, students and scholars, artists and mystics, reformers and revolutionaries, government officials and citizens. The speaker along with his colleagues describes the findings of their unique institution to this gathering. At one place, the speaker informs:

"In our Peace Clinic, we created special programs of individual, family and group psychotherapy and developed two programs that became quite popular. The first one was called *Meet Your Enemy*, in which we introduced the politically and religiously motivated militants to the members of the community that they hated. It helped them overcome their feelings of dehumanization. The second one was based on discussions of biographies of world revolutionaries. We chose

four leaders: Nelson Mandela and De Klerk from South Africa and Yasser Arafat and Yitzak Rabin from Middle East. We highlighted how these leaders started their political journey as part of an armed struggle but as they grew older and matured their violent consciousness transformed into a peace consciousness and they gradually became ready to shake hands with their enemies and to create peaceful communities." Then the speaker goes on to share the findings from treatment of violent personalities in the peace clinics. "10 insights about the people we have been serving, and 10 highlights of our therapy methods" related to THERAPY, EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

Difficult to see in this "bio-fictional" piece where the author's fantasy stops, and the bio begins or vice versa? This is a continuation of Sohail's path-breaking work in the rejection of killings by fanatics in Islam. It made me wonder if the insights in Sohail's work have been used to study or for transformation of radicalized fanatics into nonkilling civilians? In fact most victims of such violence have been innocent Muslim women and children bystanders in places of prayer, medicine and education. Kudos to Sohail on this excellent piece of Nonkilling creativity! For complete 'bio-fictional' story, see attachment, Peace Clinics.

(C) Peace and Nonviolence: Anthropological Aspects by Leslie E Sponsel, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, USA published in International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2nd edition, Vol 17. Oxford: Elsevier. pp. 624–630.

A well-researched essay from CGNK colleague Prof. Leslie Sponsel who made me aware that my world view of 194 nation-states was limited and superficial. In fact today's conflicts originate in over 7000 cultures of the world due to problems of exploitation that perpetuate at cultural level.

Sponsel writes: "The accumulating scientific evidence proves beyond any doubt that nonviolent and peaceful societies not only exist, but are actually the norm throughout human prehistory and history. This article demonstrates and elucidates this scientific fact through a historical inventory of the most important empirical documentation and a summary of the most seminal cases. Next it reveals the significance for anthropology of the provocative new perspective and possibilities of the conceptual framework of nonkilling and of the transformation toward that ideal. Finally, it briefly discusses the obstacles to further advancing this fertile and crucial research frontier while refuting the spurious assertions of opponents." For the full article, see attachment.

## **2. Epiphany and Song as Nonkilling Inspiration**

Glenn Paige last month challenged us with a wonderful Nonkilling inspiration - his epiphany - "NONKILLING CROSSES ALL CULTURAL LINES". A very important insight that challenges our tribalism compelling us to search within us what unites us beyond our loyalty to a nation state, religion, ethnicity, language etc.. The succinct response in fathoming the depth of Glenn's nonkilling inspiration came from colleague Francisco Gomes de Matos in his following deep reflection:

NONKILLING CULTURE CROSSES ALL THE LINES  
 ALL THE  
 LANDS  
 ALL THE  
 OCEANS  
 ALL THE  
 ENVIRONMENT  
 ALL THE  
 PEACE TRADITIONS  
 ALL THE  
 NONVIOLENT TRADITIONS  
 ALL THE  
 LIFE-AFFIRMING/ENHANCING/SUPPORTING/SUSTAINING BELIEFS  
 ALL THE  
 DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN DIGNITY  
 ALL THE  
 WAYS OF COMPASSION  
 ALL THE  
 WAYS OF COMMUNICATION  
 ALL THE  
 WAYS OF BELIEVING AND NONBELIEVING  
 ALL THE  
 BRIDGES TO LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Francisco Gomes de Matos, a peace-nonkilling linguist and professor, Recife, Brazil

Our linguist friend Francisco I am sure as ever open to add to the above list your insightful contributions.

As a backgrounder to the origins of this inspiration, I enclose below Glenn's 14 June email:

"Dear Colleagues,

For this powerful insight--Nonkilling Culture Crosses All Lines--I am indebted to American biracial singer Rhiannon Giddens (b. 1977). With black and white parents she grew up in the rural Piedmont area of North Carolina where she visited both black and white families and grandparents. She is the founder of the Southern music band Carolina Chocolate Drops.

Luckily I heard her say on the National Public Radio music program "American Roots": "I do not feel black or white or mixed. Southern culture crosses all lines." This struck me as a powerful new way for CGNK to express relevance of the Global Nonkilling Spirit across all divisions of humanity.

Just the same as the ancient appeals for Love to be expressed to all. Or calls for a Culture of Peace.

We can now claim 'Nonkilling Culture Crosses All Lines' as another source of applied inspiration for all CGNK work toward a killing-free world. "

Thank you, Glenn, Francisco and others who joined in the conversation. I shall add this inspiration to our NKARC Letter banner. To listen to Rhiannon's singing, click on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl64j0-fieY> She sings classic French song, *La Vie en Rose*, Rhiannon has dedicated the song as follows: "This is for Paris, and Beirut, and Kenya, and Charleston, and so many others; for countless innocent people devastated by terrorism- which is just a word for organized hatred and inhumanity. We have to keep seeing the world in shades of rose- we have to keep hoping for peace and working for change and believing that with our art, our love, our knowledge, and most of all, our empathy and understanding for our fellow human beings, we can make a difference.  
-- Rhiannon Giddens

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### 3. Film documentaries and Nonkilling

NHK Japan has come out with an excellent new documentary series "Century on Film". Its part one entitled 'The Fuehrer's Rise' is disturbing making us look through past at today's US and European politics. Interesting to see in mere 29 minutes such a large chunk of history of past century so pithily encapsulated. Historical comparisons with current times are always simplistic, but the rise of fascism in Europe and anti-Semitism in the first half of last Century have resonance for present day refugee migration, statelessness, and Islamophobia. For part 1 in the series on youtube, click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWHS3n3vb7A>

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### 4. Nonkilling Poetry (continued part 2)

Guy Crequie's new book, "Poetry of Peace and Harmony" - wonder if you heard of this French poet, philosopher and activist? His new book comprises a wide range of poems from human rights to nuclear threat to International day of peace, Attacks of Sept.11, International day of protection of children and a Ministry for peace, etc. Ashok Chakravarthy in his intro to the book describes it as an "outcome aimed at to bring awareness of this time and help the diverse sects of universal citizens to think of world future and future generations. For its extensive 'Table of Contents' and online access click on: [http://peacefromharmony.org/?cat=en\\_c](http://peacefromharmony.org/?cat=en_c)

Since one of my personal projects has been with other peace activist colleagues in Canada to campaign for "An Act to Establish a Department of Peace in the Federal Government" in Canadian Parliament, you would understand my bias in selecting from the collection Guy Crequie's poem, Ministry for Peace (English translation):

**Ministry for peace**

**by Guy Crequie**

**The vocabulary  
With its raison d'être  
Who directs the body  
And aimings of the hearts**

**In the majority of the countries  
To protect from the borders  
Or to assert surfaces  
The deputy Minister  
Estimate yourself very honoured  
Of a marked name:**

**"Minister for the armies  
Minister for defense  
Minister for the marine  
Minister for the collective security  
Sometimes even and alas Minister for the war. "**

**With these titles of being able  
We assert the action  
Of a Ministry for peace**

**A such vibrato  
A fugitive thought  
darkness of a camaieu  
With the contempt of the arrogances  
Any ambulation  
In the long valleys  
On the seas turquoises  
Close to the silver plated peaks  
Guarantor of the life  
Your army is this cry**

**Peace does not have a price  
Ministry for survival  
Safeguard spirits  
Will of cosmos  
Called our wishes.**

**###**

### **5. Last Word: "Love you're Nonkilling when you!"**

In this beautiful lyric, Rashida Khanam in her unusual way, describes for us the meaning of Nonkilling Love...

#### **Love you are Nonkilling, when you !**

Love you are Nonkilling, when you  
are objectivity, teleological and rational spirits  
in the gamut of life for attaining  
peace, beauty and truth.

Love you are Nonkilling when you  
mold the disgruntled heart with love for making  
the world different generating humanness forgiving  
retaliation of killing.

Love you are Nonkilling ,when you  
are Divine Spirit of distributing love and love only for embracing humanity with infinite love for  
harmony, joy and peace.

Love you are Nonkilling, when you  
the love in God helping heart attempting  
great things for Him, falling in love  
with His creations.

Love you are Nonkilling ,when you imbue the courageous heart coming forward for saving lives  
of others even at ones own cost.

Love you are Nonkilling, when you  
the driving force, a joyous spirits indulging  
in highest sacrifice for kindling the Nonkilling light  
in beloved ones life

Love you are Nonkilling, when you  
help heart coming out from the abyss for unwrapping  
the great desire of mankind-  
a secured world to live.

Love you are Nonkilling, when you  
help stepping up again and again for seeing  
the new dawn with chirping sounds of birds, heralding the analogy  
of new world with real knowledge of minds and Goodness of hearts-  
A Nonkilling World.

-- Rashida Khanam

Thank you, Prof. Khanam

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

Looking forward to your 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 Culture crosses all the lines." - Glenn D. Paige

== *Nonkilling is THE measure of Human progress* ==

