

EDITORIAL COMMENT

WARS AND WARS: THE LITANY OF HUMAN SUFFERING

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In most parts of the world, fighter jets have taking up the skies with bombs exploding and guns of all shapes and sizes, raining bullets on enemies from all directions. The collateral damages are mounting especially the death of innocent men, women and children. A disturbing outcome is the rising number of displaced persons, orphans, widows and widowers; with thousands of them fleeing from war zones all over the world and embarking on the so-called 'Journey of Death' through deserts and turbulent oceans and seas in search of peace and socio-economic freedom. Unfortunately, many of them die in this desperate 'Journey of Death'.

By the way, are these wars and conflicts justified? Are they solving the problems that purportedly triggered them? Are the problems in question real or imagined? Are these wars experimental or real life war films? Of course, in this era of 'War Contractors', any thing can happen. It is rather unfortunate that our planet is further being subjected to human disasters. Already, natural disasters are having their toll on planet earth and fresh in our memories are the Asian Tsunami disaster of 2004, the Haiti earth quake disaster of 2010 and most recently, the Nepal earth quake disaster of 2015 among numerous others. We cannot forget also, the disease epidemics ravaging parts of the world especially malaria, HIV and most recently, Ebola in West Africa.

These calamities have aggravated the issue of hunger in populations, which, for many decades, have been on the front burner of world politics and human rescue efforts. Although many hypotheses on global food crisis have been put forward, the most striking however, is the failure of governments to adequately manage their resources for the benefit of citizens. Oftentimes, this failure of governance is attributable to corruption, embezzlement, greed and pervasive judgments. Yet, with the plethora of problems confronting the world, including socio-economic woes, certain individuals and organizations are still fanning the ember of wars and threatening the fabric of human existence and the essence of human dignity.

Imagine the wanton destruction of properties, the beheading of innocent individuals, mass adoptions of women and girls for sex slavery, rape with impunity, summary executions, arson, destruction of historical sites and monuments, desecration of holy sites and worship centers, and the detonation of bombs in populated areas including markets, schools and worship centers to cause maximum loss of human lives. In all of these instances, one cannot really phantom the rationale behind such violent display of human insensitivity and why such sad episodes repeat itself in the history of human existence. Most times however, political tussles are implicated while in other instances, share greed, racism, and ethnic/religious intolerance are implicated. A case on point is the recent murderous outburst of South Africans against their fellow African brothers and Sisters in the name of *Xenophobia*. As shameful as it is, many are yet to come to terms with this *Xenophobic* madness in a nation that once had a bitter taste of discrimination of all sorts but in the name of *apartheid*.

Sincerely, we have an urgent need to re-examine our conscience and sense of judgment as most of these wars and conflicts are senseless and simply aggravating human suffering. It is high time we told ourselves that there is no gain continuing on this path of self destruction as these senseless wars in the long run, benefits no one. Moreover, why can't we channel these energies, cutting-edge technology, and funds used in the prosecution of wars towards ending the glaring and undeserved litany of human suffering?

