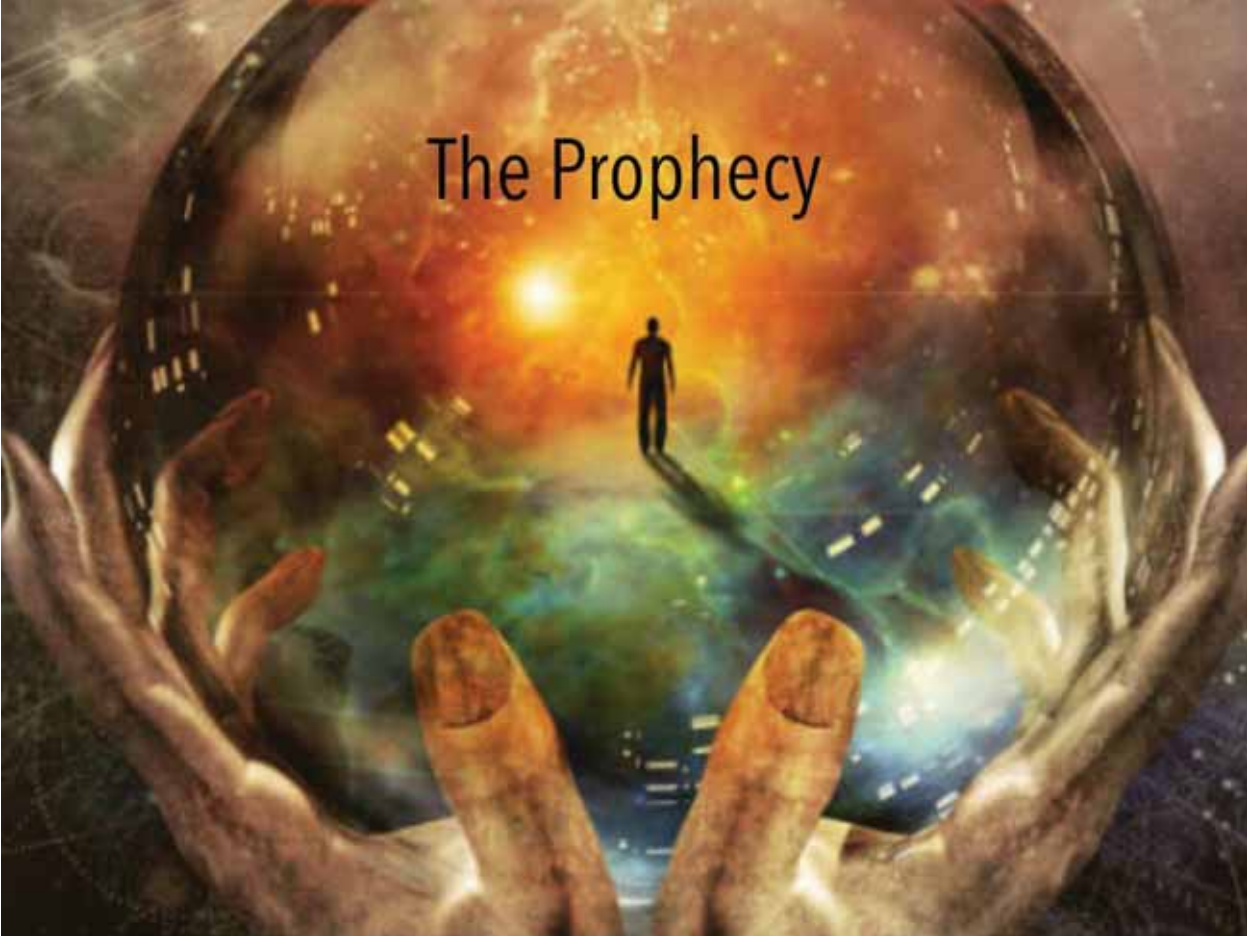
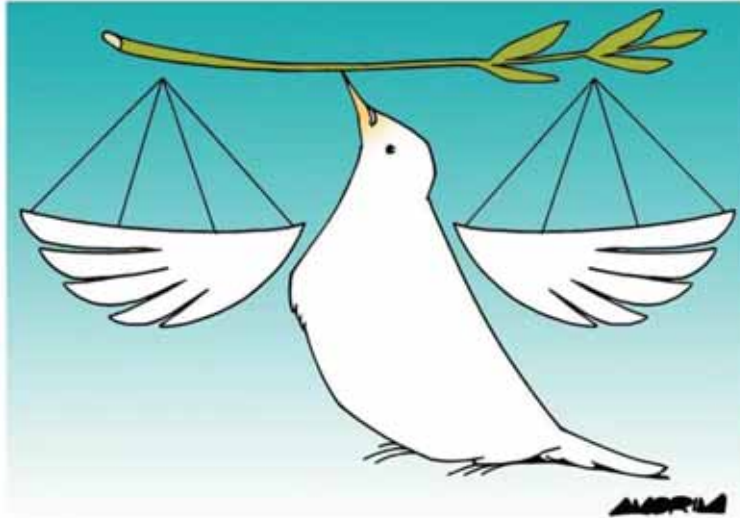


The Prophecy



'But out of limitations comes creativity.'

- Debbie Allen



THE DICHOTOMOUS DILEMMA OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

'Justice in the life and conduct of the State is possible only if it resides in the hearts and souls of her citizens - Plato.' Peace is not the mere absence of war, but the presence of justice. Vikram Chandra Sekhar, reporting from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), forays into uncharted territory and elucidates how the Rule of Law forms the bedrock of sustainable development.

Since the days of yore, quenching the thirst for war has been one of the most arduous challenges for

mankind to overcome. This is because the quantum of benefit often associated with battle is so tantalising

that it has caused entire nations to be laid in ruin, just to satiate the lust for violence and domination of a few. To this very day, violence persists as the world's Achilles Heel and it has grossly hindered the comprehensive growth and development of countries across the world. A report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has shown that more than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by armed conflict. The dreaded chimera of violence can also take a plethora of other insidious forms. The perpetuation of hostile coups, illicit smuggling of drugs, the trafficking of human beings and every other imaginable vice of humanity is almost always followed by the bane of violence. Another perplexing problem with violence is that its effects cannot be restricted to a single entity or a particular region. Its ripples are so far-reaching that countries thousands of miles away sometimes have to face the brunt of a violent fallout in one specific region. This has invariably caused a mass displacement of refugees across borders.

In 2014 alone, more than 28.8 million had been forced by conflict and oppression to flee their homes; not a day in Europe goes by without pensive contemplation about the fate of the incoming stream of refugees. The Rohingya crisis and the exodus of

Syrian refugees are also apt renditions of how massive humanitarian crises have adversely impacted every aspect of developmental efforts. Another auxiliary report by the World Economic Forum shows that the average cost of civil war is equivalent to more than 30 years of GDP growth for a medium-sized developing country; this inadvertently cripples economic progress and makes poverty a widespread problem.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, the *raison d'être* of this article, is fundamentally dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and building of accountable institutions at every fathomable level. The notion of access to justice has finally assumed its role as a key pillar of the international development agenda. This has resulted in a catalytic effect that has tremendously changed the status of Rule of Law in some of the world's darkest corners. It is also vital to note that the Rule of Law is the cornerstone for a better functioning economy and facilitates greater internal mobility, social cohesion and good governance. An example of this can be elucidated by considering the case of Cambodia whose judicial apparatus was completely dismantled under the erstwhile tyranny of the Khmer

Rouge. After the end of decades of conflict, an attempt was made to strengthen the justice systems but many relics of its blood-curdling past remained. This scenario, where there is an utter lack of enforcement despite the existence of a rulebook is common in countries with embryonic public justice systems.

Cambodia tried to promulgate strict laws for safeguarding the rights of detainees and preventing the use of torture, but the high-level policy was regrettably not finding its way to the grassroots level. The nation threw caution to the wind and continued to forage ahead in its Herculean task of providing legal aid to the poorest of the poor and training the defenders of the law. Finally, Cambodia began to reap the fruits of its labour when, little by little, access to justice began strengthening the Rule of Law in the country. Today, torture rates in the nation are below 5% and judges do not accept confessions if they suspect that they were obtained by torture. An adherence to the Rule of Law has now become a part of everyday practice. Thus, we can see that when individuals are united with a sense of purpose to finally lift themselves up from their wretched pits of damnation and actually strive towards a goal instead of offering mere criticism, the resulting change is

phenomenal. This monumental change shall serve as a beacon of hope and uplift countless others; for now and the foreseeable future as well. In conclusion, a sustainable future where our children can enjoy all the benefits that we have had and possibly even more, is perhaps the most invaluable gift that we as a species can ever give to our future generations.

Edited by Amsha Mascarenhas and Anya Batra



PALERMO PROTOCOLS

"If crime crosses borders, so must law enforcement." Shrishti Jalan, reporting from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) talks about the Palermo protocols designed to help the international situation of human trafficking.

Human trafficking has emerged as one of the most pressing human rights issues of our time. The fight against human trafficking has begun to focus on prevention efforts, bringing more attention to factors

that make people vulnerable to traffickers in the first place. States have demonstrated a strong political willingness to address the factors that make people, particularly women and children, vulnerable to

trafficking in their countries of origin. With over 27 million individuals enslaved worldwide, human trafficking has increasingly commanded international attention. Yet, countless traffickers are simultaneously evading identification. Apart from this, the widespread enslavement and the violation of basic human rights of the people trafficked sought the attention of the United Nations leading to the adoption of the Palermo Protocol in 2000. The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime (UNTOC) was signed in Palermo, Italy in the year 2000. The UNTOC is a multilateral treaty against transnational organised crime. It is also called the Palermo convention. It consists of three supplementary protocols; Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms

These protocols contain elements of international laws on human trafficking, arms trafficking and money laundering. The Convention came into force on 29 September 2003. Mr. Vento, the Italian

delegate of the United Nations, lauded the Palermo Protocol stating that it pays equal attention to the repression of illegal conduct and the protection of the victims, fills in many gaps in international law and provides an effective instrument for international cooperation. The protocol reflects the international community's will to fight organized crime. Its goal is to foster "effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking."

Many loopholes have been found in the Palermo protocols ever since it came into force. A loophole is basically an ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules. Up until 2009, a large fraction of the 154 countries had not ratified the protocol. By ratifying the Palermo Protocol, nation states are legally obligated to provide or strengthen law enforcement training on the problem of human trafficking. Although ratification has increased since 2009, many East Asian countries like Japan and Sri Lanka have

signed, but not ratified the protocol.

The Palermo protocol ensures allocation of resources towards the neediest victims. This has created a gendered approach and the males trafficked have been undermined under this phrase. This trend was continued throughout the earlier stages of the drafting process, as the Palermo Protocol was initially named the "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Women and Children." These problems indicate that gender has not been adequately "taken into account," in a manner that protects and prevents the re-trafficking of male victims.

Major causes of trafficking like poverty, greed and lack of education exist across gender boundaries. Both men and women are victims of trafficking and a gender based approach narrows down the problem and ignores a majority of the hardships that need to be resolved.

For the protocol to be successful and give aid to the people who need it most, all countries need to cooperate and take legislative and judicial measures to help eradicate human trafficking.

Albeit the protocols have loopholes and room for improvement, the thought behind it and the effort taken to draft it is what matters. International cooperation and strict actions will surely help the people trafficked. Also, psychological help must be given to the trafficked humans to help them deal with the trauma that they have gone through. Along with that, medical help and employment opportunities must be provided so they can lead a healthy life despite their tragic past.

Edited by Amsha Mascarenhas and Anya Batra



PARTICIPATION IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

"Life is about choices. Some we regret, some we're proud of and some will haunt us forever. The message: we are what we choose to be -Graham Brown." Reporting from the United Nations General Assembly - Disarmament and International Security (UNGA - DISEC), Urvi Jalan talks about ISIS and why people participate in it.

Have you ever thought about what caused terrorist associations to be formed and how they gain popularity? One of the most famous terrorist militant

group, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) gained its popularity due to the Civil War of Syria were able to introduce themselves as one of the

greatest threats to the political security of Middle East.

But what is terrorism? Terrorism is usually understood as the use of threat or violence to further a political cause. Terrorism has been practiced by political organizations with both rightist and leftist objectives, by nationalistic and religious groups, by revolutionaries and even by state institutions such as armies, intelligence services, the police, etc.

One of the main reasons because of which people participate in terrorist or violent activities is because wars introduce a crisis to the citizens of the country at war. The rates of essential goods increase and the wages of many decrease due to the cut in supplies because of the war. Many become unemployed and the rest who are still employed, many out of them earn almost nothing. This leaves people with no other choice but to include themselves in terrorist or violent activities, especially the labourers.

The militant group, ISIS was found by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in 2004. He was originally part of the Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. The U.S. invasion of Iraq began in 2003 and the aim of al Qaeda in Iraq was to remove Western occupation and replace it with a Sunni Islamist regime. This group

was renamed as the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) and later renamed as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in 2013 as they had then expanded into Syria.

This civil war of Syria introduced one more reason why people had started accepting participation in this group. The people of Syria were not happy with their government and some of its policies due to which the ISIS got the ground to fight against the Syrian forces. From here, the ISIS group started gaining popularity worldwide and they started initiating attacks almost everywhere.

One of the first widely publicized acts of ISIS took place in August 2014, when a few of the group's militants beheaded U.S. journalist James Foley and posted a video of the bloody execution on YouTube. Some more examples of their executions are: In February 2015, ISIS released footage of Jordanian military pilot, Moath al-Kasasbeh being burned alive in a cage. This group kept releasing videos of their brutal killings to set a fear in every person. Moreover, the ISIS has also accepted responsibility for many terrorist attacks like the November 2015- Paris Attacks, December 2015-San Bernardino Attack, etc.

Even though, in many cases people don't think that they have any other choice but to join this terrorist

group, there are many other paths that could be chosen. If the people do not like the way the government is working, then they should stand up against it. If the people are having inter-religious conflicts, then they must understand that every human being should be defined by what kind of a person they are not and not by the religion they belong to. People should think about the others who would go through a lot worse than what they deserve just because of people's participation in such terrorist activities.

Edited by Amsha Mascarenhas and Anya Batra



INTERJECTING THE DELEGATES

Reporting from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Shrishti Jalan describes a point of discussion in the committee.

The fourth session of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) started off with active discussions. All delegates confidently stated their points backed by relevant data. Many questions were raised and discussions gathered momentum as new ideas were put forth.

One of the discussions focused on human trafficking where the Delegate of the United States of America (USA) spoke about the decrease in number of trafficked people into the United States and about the acceptance extended by country towards the immigrants living there. The delegate of the United

Kingdom opposed this statement by saying that the statement made by the Delegate of USA was false as the number of trafficked people into the USA from El Salvador had increased substantially in the previous year. The points raised by the Delegate of the United States of America were further questioned by the delegate of Italy.

The Delegate of Italy asked the Delegate of the United States of America about the recently introduced immigration policy and how they could be accepting towards immigrants while the policy says the exact opposite. To this, the Delegate of the United States of America clarified that the policy only applies to illegal immigrants and not to those who have entered the United States of America legally and are citizens who are registered with the USA government.

Further, the delegates confidently interjected other delegates to either ask questions or to correct them if they said something wrong. Overall, the sessions were very successful.

Edited by Amisha Mascarenhas and Anya Batra



THE GENESIS OF METAMORPHOSIS

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world -Nelson Mandela.' Vikram Chandra Sekhar, reporting from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), encapsulates the critical stances of the delegates pertaining to the prospect of including LGBTQ sensitization as a part of the scholastic curriculum.

The Delegate of China ushered in articulate discussions on the topic by deliberating upon how the moulding of opinion at a young age is of vital importance. This was necessary so as to ensure that

the next generation does not follow the flawed footsteps of their forefathers. The Delegate of Switzerland while approving of this stance, also added that sex education must be made mandatory in

school curriculum so as to make children more accepting to the differences of others. The Delegate of Canada reiterated that the tearing down of negative stereotypes was essential to ensure that the LGBTQ community could get the recognition and constructive growth which they rightfully deserved. The delegate further clarified that education is the perfect medium to instil these holistic values in individuals and is the most effective when started at an early age. The Delegate of the United States of America furthered the stance advocated by the preceding delegate by stating that enlightening adolescents on the nuances of the LGBTQ community was incidental to decreasing prejudice and lowering the rates of social stigmatization.

The Delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also highlighted the trauma of bullying that children may face when their social behaviour is divergent to that of their peers. Thus, when this issue is not nipped at the bud, it may have long term psychological effects on these individuals. The Delegate of France vociferously stated that reducing homophobia was the burning need of the hour. This could be achieved only when the future generations did not have pre-conceived misconceptions regarding the LGBTQ community and thus, educating them on

this issue was of paramount importance. The Delegate of Pakistan reiterated that teachers must be advised not to label children who exhibit homosexual tendencies and that counsellors for assisting them must also be mandated. The delegate also stated that gender sensitization must not stop at the adolescent-level, but must also extend to adults who are still riddled by detrimental predisposed notions on this intricate topic. Thus, this was a phenomenal instance where all of the delegates worked in tandem to collectively address the issue without allowing their disparities to come between them.

Edited by Amsha Mascarenhas and Anya Batra

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