

CHILDREN OF ONE FATHER, ONE CREATOR DETHRONING RACISM, VIOLENCE, WARS, BLOODSHED AND ENTHRONING WORLD PEACE

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Abstract

With the spate of wars, conflicts, strife, bloodshed, violence, hatred, hatred, brutalities and spite around the world today, this paper canvasses the need for man to dethrone racism and enthrone peace all over the world. This is because all mankind are children of the same father and creator, no matter the colour, creed, tongue, race or religion. Hence, whatsoever any man does to his brother or sister, he does it to himself. For the methodology, the paper adopted a literature review and critical analysis format. From data, in Nigeria most of the social conflicts were waged by non-state actors like Boko Haram, farmers-herders clashes, foreign militias, bandits, insurgents, separatist agitators, and other organized criminal groups. In the world, most of the conflicts include terrorism, insurgency, territorial wars, communal conflicts and drug wars. Results reveal that the wars and conflicts have brought about global food shortages, inflationary trends, gas supply shortages and untold suffering and hardship. All mankind including religious institutions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Taoism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Traditionalism, and others are called upon to join hands in the quest for world peace. The United Nations should also initiate a World Day of Mercy and Forgiveness.

Keywords: World Peace, Dethroning Racism, Violence, Wars, Bloodshed, One Father One Creator.

Introduction

The World Peace Day also called the International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is a day earmarked by the United Nations to observe, celebrate, preach and extol peace around the world. It was established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations’ General Assembly resolution 36/37, and since then, this day has been devoted to “commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples” (United Nations, 1981). The theme of this year’s celebration as chosen by the United Nation is “End Racism, and Build Peace”.

With the spate of wars, conflicts, strife, bloodshed, violence, hatred and brutalities around the world today, can we say we have really strengthened the ideals of peace amongst all mankind

and nations since 1981? Are we really dethroning racism and enthroning peace, or have we degenerated further into the abyss of hatred and spites against our fellow human beings?

Why is it necessary for us to End Racism, and Build Peace? All Mankind are Children of the Same Father and Creator. So, no matter our colour, creed, tongue, race or religion, we have a common origin and heritage from the beginning of Life. It is the Elements of weather, climate, environmental differences, traumas and time that changed us to different colours, creed, race and tongues. We are of each other, from each other and belong to each other. Hence, whatsoever you do to your brother or sister, you have done it to yourself. Whoever hates his brother, hates himself, and whoever inflicts any harm on his brother, inflicts it on himself. It is a seed, and it will surely bear its fruits, with many negative seeds. It is his ignorance that blinds man from this fact. So, as we mark the “International Day of Peace or World Peace Day” today, can we confidently look our Creator and Father in the face and say we have been our brother’s keepers, we love our neighbours as ourselves, and we do unto others as we would want them do unto us (the golden rule)? The answer is obvious.

The Essence of this Conference

Today mankind is no more a respecter of the sanctity of human lives. People now slaughter their fellow human beings like fowls, and even post and celebrate such heinous acts on social media, as though they’ve performed some heroic acts (). Certainly today, as we all can see, instead of ending racism and building peace in the world, we have actually degenerated from civilization to brutal barbarism. So, we call upon all religious institutions in the world to emulate the BCS and join this onerous task for peace building, peace marketing and conflict resolution for enhanced and sustainable human development, in all areas of life. The doors of the Peace Advocacy and Research Organization, PARO, is always open for collaboration with any religious or non-religious body, to the dire quest for peace in the world. Religious institutions, be it Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Taoism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Traditionalism, and many more, have a lot to contribute in the critical search for peace in the world, without which there will be no viable development in all areas of human life.

This is inevitable now, considering the current divisive tendencies, tensions and internal social conflicts all over the country, which are having cumulative negative impact on development in the country, generally.

Every society is a complex mass of heterogeneous and multi-layered structure of individuals with diverse socio-cultural and demographic backgrounds, so, the building and sustenance of societal equilibrium is key to socio-economic and political development. In this period of increased internal social conflicts and tensions in the land, arising from incessant banditry, terrorism, regional agitations, militancy, kidnappings, insurgency, arson, wilful destruction of government property, massive jail breaks, burning of prisons and even killing of military and para-military personnels, there is need for all hands to be on deck towards finding a lasting solution to the problem, by re-enacting the peace, unity and oneness that the nation’s founding fathers espoused. All efforts at rediscovering peace in the land, seems to be left at the hands of government and security personnel at the moment. This ought not to be so; peace and security should be everyone’s business, because everyone pays the price for the dire consequences of lack of peace and anarchy.

World Peace, Wars, Conflicts, Terrorisms: An X-ray

According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR, 2022) most of the world's conflicts are concentrated in Asia and Africa and the most common forms are territorial disputes and civil wars, while some of the world's ongoing conflicts are linked to terrorism. In Nigeria for instance, for over ten years now, all the social conflicts have been waged by non-state actors, like Boko Haram (Al Jazeera, 9 January 2022), farmers-herders clashes, foreign militias, bandits, insurgents, separatist agitators, militants and other organized criminal groups, all of which wreaking havoc on the national peace and unity (Acled Data, 2019).

The major internal conflicts in the world include the Myanmar conflicts, the Afghanistan conflict including the Islamic State–Taliban conflict, insurgency, the Mexican drug war, the Yemeni Civil War, the Russo-Ukrainian War which has brought about global food shortages, excruciating prices, gas supply shortages and disruptions in Europe, and untold sufferings and hardship. Here in Africa, we have the Ethiopian civil conflicts, the Tigray War, the Ethiopian–Sudanese clashes, the Somali Civil War, Communal conflicts in Nigeria, Herder–farmer conflicts, banditry, kidnapping, insurgency, Insurgency in the Maghreb region of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Burkina Faso, Sudan and Tunisia. The Tigray war has seen up to half a million dead from violence and starvation, say researchers (Washington Post, 2022; The Globe 14 March), while the Iraq conflict has killed more than a million Iraqis (Reuters, 2008). The South Sudan's civil war on the other part has caused over 400,000 deaths (The National, 26 September 2018). As at 2021, the war in Syria has claimed over 606,000 people said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR, 2021). In some of these armed conflicts, innocent United Nations' and other international peacekeepers and humanitarian service workers are kidnapped or killed in cold blood (Mahamba, 2017).

With all these levels of mindless bloodlettings, violence, brutalities and man's inhumanity to man, could we say that we're making our Father and Creator happy? No Father will be happy when His own children are killing themselves and causing themselves untold harm, pain and sorrows. So, Man is a disgrace and a pain in the neck to their Maker, Father and Creator, because his children have failed to realize their common spiritual parternity.

The Cost of Wars, Conflicts and Terrorism in the World

Many of these conflicts all over the world have led to human fatalities, bloodshed, displacement of families from their ancestral homes, destruction of farmlands and crops, spiralling inflations, scarcity of goods and services, and consequently sufferings, hardship, traumas, anguish, pains, sorrows, stress and mental illnesses for both the victims and the soldiers involved. Fatality figures include but not limited to battle-related deaths, but also civilians mindlessly targeted by the parties to the armed conflicts. Most especially in developing countries, conflicts like the farmers-herders clashes apart from the associated brutalities and violent deaths, have been characterized with the expulsion of farmers from their farmlands, destruction of crops and cattle, and resultant food shortages, food scarcity, inflationary trends, unacceptable high costs, famine, diseases, disruption of families and communities.

In the developed countries, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has brought about a disruption in gas supplies in many European countries, throwing the population into confusion, palpable fears of the future as winter draws near when gas will be needed to heat the ovens. It has also led to global shortages in some vital commodities and goods, and a worsening global economic crisis.

Conclusion

Without peace there will be no development; human development will be stunted in all areas and life will be more of misery and sorrow for many. When many are unhappy, all will be unhappy, because it is only a sadist who doesn't understand that all human beings are One, and from the same Father and Creator, that will be happy, when his neighbour is suffering and unhappy. So, as we mark the World Peace Day today, we enjoin all mankind everywhere in the world to imbibe the spirit of peace, oneness, love and unity, so that the world will turn out a better place for all. We must all strive to be our brothers' keepers at all times, and EVERYONE in the world, regardless of race, religion, colour or creed is your brother. Peace and security should be everyone's business, because everyone pays the price for the dire consequences of lack of peace, terrorism, anarchy and wars.

Recommendations and Recipe for Peace in the World

Based on the foregoing, therefore, we hereby recommend as follows:

- i. The United Nations should initiate a World Day of Mercy and Forgiveness. Without Mercy and Forgiveness, the world will continue to witness, wars, conflicts, terrorism and all other forms of vengeful crises.
- ii. The 24-hour ceasefire demanded from parties in wars on the World Peace Day is a mere dressing of a wound, rather than its treatment. World Peace Day philosophy, activities and messages should promote permanent ceasefire from parties in hostilities, rather than a day ceasefire.
- iii. The United Nations and countries' that sign its treaties should insist on No-lip-service to non-violence and cease-fire agreements by parties in wars and hostilities. Any violator to this stand, should be seriously sanctioned.
- iv. People of all races, colour, creed, tribe, tongue and religion must be treated equally, everywhere in the world. The spirit of racial equality should be promoted all over the world, as a concomitant tool for global peace.
- v. People of all races, colour, creed, tribe, tongue and religion must not be denied their fundamental human rights everywhere in the world.
- vi. The sanctity of democratic institutions, the ballot box, and inalienable freedoms must be respected in all countries, as a veritable way and means for peace.
- vii. Gender equality must be treated as sacrosanct everywhere in the world, as a sure promoter of peace in families and in every society.
- viii. For there to be peace in the world, we must all recognize and accept the fact that We're all One, and Children of the Same Father. We are in each other, and our lives reside inside each other.
- ix. For there to be peace in the world, Men must live not for their parochial interest, but for the common good of all.
- x. For there to be peace in the world, Man must realize that whoever kills his brother, has killed himself; and whoever harms his brother, in whatever form or guise, harms himself.
- xi. For there to be peace in the world, Men must realize that whoever does good to his fellow man does good to Our Creator, and whoever hurts his brother hurts Our Creator, because we all are of Him, from Him and out of Him.
- xii. For there to be peace in the world, Men must realize that whatever affects One, affects All. Hence, we must be our brothers' keepers at all places and at all times. May the Good Lord help us to achieve this in the hearts of all Mankind.

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