We all know that there are no winners in war, but what we would never fully understand is the extent of the sufferings of the victims or casualties of war. We can see what they see, but we would never think the way they think or feel what they feel. To make the Kellogg-Briand Pact respected and obeyed is the responsibility of everyone, from the biggest world leader to the smallest student in school.

At the level of world leaders, let there be mutual respect and understanding between presidents. To say that all presidents should be treated as equals is impossible, but let no top ranking official in any country publicly declare the position of his country amidst unrest in another country. We have the right to choose sides based on what we get from intelligence, but there is something very fundamental that the intelligence may never understand; the mentality of people. In 2008, I experienced my first unrest in Cameroon. It started as a simple strike, where taxi drivers were protesting the government’s decision to stop subsidizing the price of petrol. This was a chance for every Cameroonian who wanted a job and detested the government’s decision to change the constitution to go to the street, so thousands of people joined the taxi drivers. In the very beginning, we were excited with strike activities like the burning of tyres on the streets and the closing of public offices. As time went on, the strike began to degenerate. Elements of the Cameroonian army were dispatched to all big cities. We started to feel the full impact of the strike. At the time of the strike, I was in high school and living alone. After three days of strike, all stores were closed! So the protesters started to break into the stores, banks and other financial institutions. The strike lasted only for five days, but we almost starved to death!!The most important thing I learnt from the unrest was the fact that in most countries where the president is hated, all it requires is a small sign of support from a bigger country for one party to set the tone for a civil war.

In Syria, it started as a simple strike. Then the great nations gave the tone by choosing sides. The US, France and the Great Britain started showing support towards the opposition, meanwhile Russia supported the government. I don’t even know the reason why there is war in Syria today! Maybe it’s because of corruption or unemployment.

In Libya it was the same thing. The only slide difference here is the fact that there was unilateral support from the great nations towards the opposition, but it didn’t prevent the outbreak of a civil war. The question I’m asking is “is Libya better off today than it was with Gadafi?”

If we look critically at what is happening in Ukraine, then we would understand that the protesters of MAIDAN wanted the EU and the US to support them. It’s the same thing in the east where the protesters want Russia to support them. Let’s hope it doesn’t degenerate into a civil war. The question mediators should be asking themselves is “if we succeed to solve the current problem, how shall Ukrainians live after this?”

In Venezuela, there is still a way to avoid a civil war. I call on the president of the United States to talk with the other great countries not to choose sides but to look for a way to bring all parties to the table for dialogue.

In Thailand, there have been violent clashes, but the risk of an outbreak of a civil war is slim because the international community has not chosen to support the government or the opposition.

Article two of the 1928 Kellogg-Briand pact states that “the settlement or solution of all disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them, shall never be sought except by pacific means”. Let us not denounce wars by choosing sides! Let us condemn all parties involved in war because they kill innocent people.

Teaching the KBP in schools and letting children know that war is bad is necessary, but letting them know the real cause of war is even more important. I’m not just seeing this as an opportunity to win money, but as a way of making the world leaders know that people surfer because of the decisions they make. What we need in the world is the right to live! We don’t want to keep on being casualties while the bigger countries try to prove their might. Please Mr. Barack H. Obama we need you to try to bring some order into the world through sincere dialogue.