How Can We Obey the Law Against War?

The present times is evident of the increasing number of ‘**armed conflicts’** taking place around the world causing violent deaths of thousands of innocent lives. To mention a few include: War in Afghanistan (1978-Present), the Somali Civil War 1991, the Islamist insurgency in Nigeria 2001, War in North West Pakistan 2004, Mexican Drug War 2006, Egyptian Crisis (2011-present), Syrian Civil War 2011, Central African Republic Conflict (2012-Present), the South –Sudanese Conflict 2012-2013 and so on and so forth with the list.

This list mentioned above is for the sole purpose of identifying towards which deadly direction- we as a ‘human race’ are heading and “how can we be called as civilised nations of the World?” An important moment to pause and think as to “what are we doing?”

An awakening as early as in 1928 was made against War by the “**Kellogg –Briand Pact”**- It’s an agreement that ‘outlaws War’. On August 27, 1928, fifteen nations signed the Peace Pact at Paris realising the need of the hour was to restore peace. Signatories included France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Italy and Japan. Further an additional forty-seven nations signed the treaty making it acceptable by most of the established nations in the world.

Can it be rightly said that “The intention to restore peace was present only for those few moments while signing the treaty by the Heads of different nations and then forgotten, buried and wiped off from their minds” The Peace Pact was definitely a Milestone Achievement in the revolution to end war in the world. But despite acquiring such a Masterpiece from Sir Aristide Briand and Frank B. Kellogg to say-‘No to War just not by Words but by Actions’, we are still surrounded by wars, conflicts and terror. Nothing has changed in the field of crimes except the number has been increasing with no stop or full stop.

In such a chaotic situation, it becomes imperative to obey the Law against War for all the Nations of the World. The question is ‘How can we obey the Law against War’. From an individual point of view, Peace should start from one’s home; the obedience should come from refraining to do any actions that will threaten the peace with in the local community where we live like forming street gangs or rebel groups etc... As individuals, we should take initiative in spreading the importance of Peace all around and to keep reminding one another with ‘Let Peace be with you and with all’. By doing these simple practices, we are not only doing our duties as abiding citizens but also setting example for the governments to end conflicts in a peaceful manner.

To achieve obedience globally against war, the onus lies on the Governments of each nation- as without enforceable laws, wars and conflicts cannot be stopped or ceased. Just signing treaties and pacts are not enough as experienced in the past. It needs the force of law as in if we commit a crime, we are jailed and penalised. The same applies here, when a country breaches the very norm of international law that is “to keep peace and not resort to war”, it is the duty of other nations to impose stringent sanctions against that country and penalise for instance - by cutting all the foreign relations and supplies to that nation until it restores peace back in order. These implications will strengthen the very foundation of peace as the Governments will be aware of the consequences they will face on breach.

Keeping the Peace Pacts like the **Kellogg –Briand Pact** as the foundation, each nation should encourage friendly relations with one another and share a common spirit to stand together as ONE against the outbreak of mass violence in any part of the world. Today, we lack this unity and togetherness among nations as each nation thinks that it’s not their business to interfere and that’s the reason there is prolonged violence in many parts of the world for years together. What’s important to analyse is- innocent lives are killed at the gunpoint, dying are the common citizens- who elect the governments to safeguard them and protect against violence and in turn if governments fail to enforce peace then the very fact of making them as their custodian is in vain.

“No doubt, we are divided on the World Map but we need not live as a divided community, we have national boundaries to stick to but there is no need to create boundaries/limitations in our international relations. When each nation thinks the other nation as its friend and share the common spirit of prosperity, peace and development then we will in true sense succeed in obeying the laws against war”.

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