

# Peace Is Possible

Wars, Terrorism and Militarism will not go away unless we make it happen

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## **1. Introduction**

Mr. Mayor, Richard, Maria and distinguished people gathered to hear the Inaugural Peace Lecture today, which I'm honoured to be the first speaker. Thanks to Pledge to Peace and PeaceTalk Oldham for inviting me to Oldham, a town renowned for peace. The starting of the Annual Peace Lecture is an admirable project. I wish and hope this initiative continues every year and grows from strength to strength. Richard sends me the Oldham Peace Times and must say how much good peace work is being done in this part of the world.

The theme for the 2017 celebration of UN International Day of Peace is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All." Countries around the world will mark the occasion in variety of ways such as planting trees, events like the one today, reading powerful peace stories, songs and poems, anything to connect us across cultural, geographical, political and religious divide.

As we celebrate UN's International Day of Peace today, it should be full of hope, expectation and enthusiasm. But instead it is full of apprehension, chaos, turmoil, violence, terrorism, ongoing conflicts around the world and countless other challenges. It is important to question our actions as human beings. Why do we tread the path of violence and destruction, killing millions of our own kind and create vast barriers between us and them, instead to accept and celebrate our differences.

The level of world peace in 2017 has deteriorated by 21.4% according to Global Peace Index since 2008, a trend which has been driven by conflicts in Middle East, global terrorism and population displacement. Today, there is a lot of loose talk by US about a limited nuclear war with North Korea or Iran which is frighteningly irresponsible. The consequences and damage of killing millions of people in such a nuclear strike will be irreversible.

My talk today is in three parts. First part is about philosophy and meaning of peace and is why as human beings we kill our own species and what we can do about it. What is the changing nature of war and complex obstacles to peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and its solutions. Second part is about how after centuries of warfare, European Union have made war unthinkable for the last 70 years and what we can learn from it. And the third part is about taking actions for a nonviolent world order which can build peace at individual, community and global level for a just, safer and sustainable world. Finally we explore what type of culture shift will end curse of war and what it will take for humanity to take a great leap forward to evolve a non-killing culture and build an egalitarian society.

The core message of my today's lecture is that will we someday behave far more responsibly and establish a society based on the needs of the entire planet and the beings that inhabit it, a society that is just and sustainable and one that is not characterised by major outbreaks of self defeating violence and wars.

I am under no illusion that there is any simple solution to the problem of either building peace or abolishing war. War-Peace dilemma is complex, interconnected and often poorly understood. There is much to be gained by exploring various dimensions of war and peace, including prospects for a just, peaceful and sustainable world. If we take positive steps it will diminish reliance on organised violence to settle conflicts and that will begin the construction of a better, more truly peaceful world.

## **2. Philosophy and Meaning of Peace**

Dear Friends, Philosophy of peace can be summed up as, the practicality of individuals and nations resolving conflicts without resort to violence and wars. In other words, the capacity of human society transcending collective violence to become peaceful.

In this present time of unique danger and difficulty, we the people of this planet earth waste time, resources and energy as well as our lives fighting among ourselves or preparing to do so. How to overcome violence that human beings commit or threaten to commit against each other and frequently having a recourse to war.

There are many meanings and definitions of peace. There are broadly five main elements that go together to build peace:

- a) Disarmament and Nonviolence
- b) Conflict prevention and resolution
- c) Economic and social justice
- d) Human Rights, Rule of Law and democracy
- e) Environment and sustainable development

## **3. History of War and its Changing Nature**

The history of unrest, conflict and war dates back to thousands of years. It is estimated that more than 6000 wars have been fought on this planet since the advent of humanity.

However, the warfare is changing and with the application of advanced technology, it is becoming more robotic and impersonal like the use of drones, cyber warfare and other lethal automatic weapons including the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by the military. The future wars could be fought in outer space or also in deep oceans.

The greatest risk we face as a civilisation is from Artificial Intelligence (AI). Militaries are considering autonomous-weapon system that can choose and eliminate targets as is happening by indiscriminate attacks by drones killing innocent people attending weddings and funerals.

## **4. Motives and Causes for Perpetual Wars and Obstacles to Peace – Solutions and Opportunities**

Former CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) Official and Author have this to say about the motives of war, "It is the function of CIA to keep the world unstable, and to propagandise and teach the American people to hate, so we will let the establishment spend any amount of money on arms."

According to Pew Research Centre's annual study 2017, Islamic State, the biggest perceived threat by a country worldwide are ISIS, climate change, US and China's power and influence, global economy, cyber attacks and large number of refugees from Syria and Iraq. Looking at this report it looks that the biggest thing they have omitted is the wars in the Middle East and North Africa region. However, in deeper reflection, it becomes clear that all these threats one way or the other are interlinked or effects of wars around the world.

The following are 11 major motives for war and major obstacles which are holding back the advancement of peace. They are all interlinked and not addressing one of them can threaten peace.

### 1. *United Nations (UN) – a toothless tiger needing revitalisation*

The Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter lay out a mode d'emploi to spare future generations from the scourge of war. Admittedly, no world war has been fought since 1945, but there have been continuous wars and foreign interventions in many regions of the world, causing many millions of victims, primarily among civilians and UN has been incapable in bringing peace in those regions.

#### *Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution for UN Reform*

We need urgent reforms to make UN accountable, transparent and democratic fit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century. For doing that we need to undertake four major reforms: abolish the veto power of P5 countries, include emerging economies in the Security Council to get the right geographical mix, to have independent funding mechanism for the UN for it to be effective, increase the power of the General Assembly as it is the most democratic organ representing all members of United Nations.

### 2. *Keeping hegemonic power backed by militarism, war and repression*

The arms race, continuing wars, dictatorships, State and non-State terrorism, in their different facets and denominations, have sown and continue to sow death and pain in numerous countries by decimating their infrastructure and populations.

As a result, militarism is on the increase and military expenditure is at all time high - \$1.83 trillion. While 20,000 persons die of hunger every day – at the same time. \$4 billion is spent on weapons, on armaments and in other military expenditure per day.

#### *Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution against War Mongers and Military Machine with the Slogan, "We will not go to War"*

We should vigorously repudiate all wars, all military interventions, which are not about settling differences, guaranteeing human rights, are not in defence of democracy, but are instead to capture all natural and other resources.

Applying non-military solutions – by de-legitimising war as a way of solving the disputes and advocating a change in global spending priorities which stands at \$1.83 trillion by shifting from military to peace-building and conflict resolution. A tiny fraction of military spending could end hunger, the lack of clean water and various diseases globally.

### 3. *War on terror – a foundation for state violence and culture of fear*

Over the years, terrorism has continued to grow. A conservative estimate puts the death toll of War on Terror over a million just in Iraq only by 2008. It is very serious as cowardly acts of terrorists kill innocent people creating fear and mayhem in the community, which results in more military spending, more violence, more terror and more insecurity. After the end of the

cold war, military have created a perfect enemy in War on Terror so that they can get as much budget from the government as they desire.

*Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution against Organised State Violence, Initiate Projects for Counter Terrorism and Deradicalisation*

War on Terror can be contained by addressing root causes of extremism, strategy for openness and realising we are all one human family – not them and us, by stopping to support dictators who fund terrorism, by stopping arming the rebels, by applying UN Counter Terrorism Strategy, by stopping invading countries for oil and other resources, by stopping drone warfare and torture.

*4. Big power rivalries*

In many instances miscalculation and big power rivalry have been responsible for wars including the world wars. When a dominant power is challenged and superseded by a rising power, there is almost always a major conflict. Harvard Professor Graham Allison has found "In 12 of 16 cases in the past 500 years, when a rising power challenged a ruling power, the outcome was war." An obvious example is US-China tensions and Russia-US aggression like joint US-NATO military exercises near North Korea and near Russian territory. The last thing we wish for is a Thucydides Trap which refers to when a rising power causes fear in an established power which escalates towards war. Thucydides wrote, "What made war inevitable was the growth of Athenian Power and the fear which this caused in Sparta"

The present deteriorating situation in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and current tensions with nuclear proliferation issues with Iran and North Korea, if not controlled, could easily escalate into a Third World War.

*Solutions and Opportunities: Eliminate big power aggression*

What the international community need to think is to tone down the rhetoric and improve relations by dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations to avoid conflict before it happens

*5. Inequality and exploitation of the poor – economic and social injustice*

Dear Friends of Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum,

Poverty and starvation are an indirect casualty of war. In time of war, resources which are normally being used for economic development, are diverted to war and preparation of war resulting in misdistribution of wealth, in persistent patterns of social and political injustice.

We live in a perverted world where wealthy elites, corrupt financial institutions and rootless multinationals have tilted the international system to their advantage. Today, according to Oxfam report, 8 people in the world own as much wealth as 3.5 billion bottom half of the global population increasing inequality and lack of opportunity. 800 million people are today living below the international poverty line which is below \$2 per person per day. This has led to unprecedented inequality and has also increased benefits for the rich from tax evasion.

*Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution against Drivers of Inequality, Government Policies, Rigged Financial System, Corporations and Initiating Projects for Economic and Social Justice*

6. *Populism, nationalism, racism and xenophobia*

Dear Friends, we live in a society which is shallow and worships celebrity culture, oligarchs and demagogues. The world is in the grip of populism, nationalism, racism and xenophobia. It is all due to elites who control the society and are oblivious to the tide of anger and resentment of workers at the lower end of the society who are squeezed out by corporate greed and privatisation failures.

From the rise of Hitler to the election of Trump in US and Narendra Modi in India, the link is often made between populist nationalism and recession.

*Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution against the Falsehood, Fake News, Lies and Initiating Projects for Revival of Liberal and Internationalist Values*

7. *The violence triangle – direct, structural and cultural*

First of these is direct violence, refers to physical acts of violence such as a man beating his wife, children fighting at school or soldiers going to war. It also includes abuse, rape, murder and assault.

The second in the violence triangle is structural violence. Examples of the structural violence are apartheid, patriarchy, slavery, colonialism, imperialism, capitalism

Third aspect of violence is cultural violence. It pervades almost every aspect of our culture – particularly music, television, Hollywood films and great deal of popular literature as depicted in my book “The Economics of Killing”<sup>1</sup>.

*Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution against Violence of All Types and Promoting a Culture of Peace*

8. *Violations of human rights, freedom and democracy*

Peace is unstable where citizens are denied international standards of human rights, gender and racial equality, the right to speech freely or worship as they please, choose their leaders, and assemble without fear.

Two examples the ban for constructing minarets in Switzerland. the appalling human rights records detention centres of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Grahib.

*Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution for the inherent Dignity and Equality of all Human Beings*

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<sup>1</sup> Vijay Mehta, The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels War and Poverty in the Developing World, Pluto Press, London, 2012

- Human Rights are universal – protect everyone without discrimination on race, religion, sex, age, nationality, refugees and migrants

### 9. Climate change crisis and danger to life on planet earth

The basic point about the Climate Change crisis is quite simple. Humans are depleting living Earth's capacity to support life. The world is consuming far more than the planet can sustain. That is, the Earth's reserves of fresh water, fertile soil, forests and fisheries are depleting rapidly before the Earth's ability to regenerate these resources.

It is not a well known fact that pollution created by US Military – the world's single user of petroleum is extremely harmful to the environment.

#### Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution for saving the planet

- Have radical change in our thinking in dealing with ecology, climate change and environmental degradation.
- Adopt radical policies for Zero waste or recycling ethos for it to be successful and effective. Citizens, community groups, businesses and industries need to embrace and implement Zero waste and recycling policies
- Sourcing food locally,
- The destruction of war and the preparation of war brings untold environmental destruction, mass migration, generating more wars. We need to break out of this vicious cycle by protecting the environment and abolishing wars.

### 10. Unwarranted power of the right wing corporate media

Noam Chomsky said, "We should not underestimate the capacity of well run propaganda systems to drive people to irrational, murderous, and suicidal behaviour"

Many now discredit established media claims that have led to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century wars of interventions. Media rarely questions when it comes to warfare, and only takes a narrow view of wars as justified or unjustified, legal or illegal, popular or unpopular. With little of government or military criticism, practical alternatives to war are ignored.

Remember often journalists proclaim, "If it bleeds, it leads." You are unlikely to see a newspaper headline France and Germany did not go to war today. Whereas a single act of terrorism anywhere in the world will get 24 hour coverage non-stop on television channel and will be the front page news in the print media.

#### Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution against false reporting lies and propaganda

Harness the power of social media to promote fair and unprejudiced reporting and exposing media bias, distortion of facts and misrepresentation. What we expect from the mainstream media is accurate reporting, impartial analysis and speaking truth to the power.

### 11. Major migration and refugee crisis worldwide

"War, violence and persecution have uprooted more men, women and children around the world than at any time in the seven-decade history of UNHCR – 65.6 million," the agency said in a statement.

*Solutions and Opportunities: Start a Nonviolent Revolution for migrant and refugees to stay in the host countries and work for integration and assimilation*

Global refugee crisis needs all nations in the world to help prevent and resolve it.

Migrants are an asset to any country and they should be welcome in the host countries. Their work produces unprecedented remittance flow - from 296 billion dollars in 2007 to 445 billion in 2016 - lifting families out of poverty across the world.

## **5. Building durable peace at individual, community and global level**

These are the major 11 obstacles to peace which are the most pressing problems that humanity is facing. It is mind boggling that instead of addressing hunger, disease, poverty, social inequality, overpopulation or environmental degradation, we are rather busy in committing violence or threatening to go to war with each other.

Let me know shift focus to building peace at individual, community and global level.

### *a) Peace at Individual Level*

Philosopher J. Krishnamurti said "War is the spectacular and bloody projection of our everyday living. We precipitate war out of our daily lives; and without a transformation in ourselves, there are bound to be national and racial antagonisms, the childish quarrelling over ideologies, the multiplication of soldiers, the saluting of flags, and all the many brutalities that go to create organised murder."

Einstein believed that people as individuals, rather than governments and other groups with vested interest, would seek peace rather than war.

Gandhi's concept of growth and development of the individual has another dimension. It was not of an isolated individual cut off from society, but an integral part of the social system trying to uplift himself and in this process uplift the society, community, the nation and the world.

It should be noted Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King were individuals who fought against the oppression against the political system and spoke truth to the power. So the change must start from individual which in time will become a mass movement bringing change.

### *b) Peace at Community Level*

At community level, peace can be accomplished by integration, multiculturalism and working in harmony and tolerance with others. We can all be engaged as peacemakers in our homes and communities thus becoming instrument of peace instead of war. This in itself can root out all our ills which humanity faces today.



Living in a community is realising that we are indeed members of one family bound together in a delicate network of interdependence seeking to enhance culture of respect, tolerance and forgiveness for all. We increasingly depend very much on each other and need an understanding and belief that we really are part of one big human family, we cannot hope to overcome the dangers of our very existence – let alone bring peace and happiness.

c) *Peace at Global Level*

Dear Friends, on a global level, we need to bring major changes through legislation for building sustainable peace as has been accomplished in Europe. In my book, *Peace Beyond Borders*, I examined how Europe, a continent always mired in conflict became the most peaceful one. My search began in 2012 when European Union won the Nobel Peace Prize as to how it was able to achieve and maintain peace for the last 70 years for the first time in its history in the European Continent. My research found, that model of EU's relative peace was realised by applying 10 peace factors<sup>2</sup> and also by the formation of institutions and infrastructure of regional architecture culminating in European Union leading to enormous economic, political and cultural growth.

Europe has overcome the miseries, despair and pain of the two World Wars and found to heal rifts, divisions and estrangements.

To build peace in the wider world, we need to follow the peaceful model of political integration fostered by European Union which can be exported to Africa, The Americas, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East and North Africa region providing a promising glimpse of world peace.

1. Enshrined Democracy and Rule of Law
2. Economic Truce
3. Open Borders and Human Ties
4. Soft Power and Shared Values
5. Permanent Discussion, Dialogue and Diplomacy
6. Financial Incentives and Support
7. Veto and Consensus Building
8. Resistance to External Interference
9. Rules, Human Rights and Multiculturalism
10. Mutual Trust and Peaceful Coexistence

## **6. Vision 2050 – Creating a Non-Violent World Order**

I am now going to chart a programme for the future – Vision 2050 which is about building a non-killing future for humankind which can be realised by the actions in three areas by building a mass movement to counter militarism, nationalism, corporatism around the world.

In South Africa, for example, decades of resistance to the Apartheid state within the country and internationally, led to a genuine dialogue between anti-apartheid campaigners and the country's rulers, which in turn laid the basis for a peaceful end to apartheid.

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<sup>2</sup> Enshrined Democracy and Rule of Law, Economic Truce, Open Borders and Human Ties, Soft Power and Shared Values, Permanent Discussion, Dialogue and Diplomacy, Financial Incentives and Support, Veto and Consensus Building, Resistance to External Interference, Rules, Human Rights and Multiculturalism, Mutual Trust and Peaceful Coexistence

Non-violent actions around the world has a history of struggles, successes – like Gandhi's campaign for the Indian independence, the US Civil Rights movement and anti-Vietnam war protests are excellent examples of non-violent techniques bringing change in a peaceful way.

#### a) Culture shift to End Curse of War

The evolution of modern man/woman from its primitive form is a miracle considering chimpanzees are the closest living species to humans, sharing 98% of our genes, the common mouse has 92% of our genes. In view of that, in the evolutionary process we human beings had spectacular success in the advancement of culture, science, technology and medicine. Just to give one example, the advance of medicine, human being's life span increased from 40-50 years in the olden times to average 70-80 years. With the mechanised agricultural output and abundance of food, the population has grown from 1 billion 100 years ago to present 7.6 billion which is predicted to rise to 9.8 billion by 2050.

Most of us human beings live peaceful lives in homes, offices and settle our disputes by dialogue, arbitration or in the courts instead of killing each other or having a duel as in the olden times.

It is time we move on to the next level of evolution of human beings and learn not to kill our own species and instead to live with each other in harmony.

Humanity has been through world wars, cold war and much else later. It is time to move on to the next level to adopt a non-killing culture.

When change happens it happens quickly. Communism seemed rock solid but it fell with the disintegration of Soviet Union without any bloodshed. After the fall of Berlin wall and re-unification of Germany, all happened with the efforts of international community to foster peace through cooperation non-violently.

What I am offering is a radical vision to change the old thinking that ending war is a utopian dream.

#### b) Empowering a New Generation of Peace Leaders

Dear friends, to overcome the above obstacles and to realize the dividend, countries must invest in the empowerment, education and employment of their young people. There are 1.8 billion young people in the world today, representing a staggering amount of human potential. Yet too many of them are trapped in poverty, with few opportunities to learn or to earn a decent living.

The opportunity for youth to participate in peacebuilding is essential for breaking the cycle of violence, reducing and avoiding conflicts as their experience, fresh perspective and new ideas can be heard, integrated and acted upon all levels of society.

#### c) Campaigning Ideas and Actions – Making Peace Relevant for Everyone – Going Beyond Political Protests and Academic Theories

There are three ways in which we can take actions for making peace relevant for everyone.

Firstly, by public protests, dissent, boycotts, blockades, non-cooperation are very important  
Secondly by academic theories which are equally important as they reflect on the fundamental nature of peace and its meaning.

Thirdly, by applying a soft power approach for building a culture of peace, this includes peace education, peace leadership and non-violent action training, vital tools for the creation of a peace and sustainable world.

This also includes working with the military, leaders and corporations. However hard or controversial it may be

- Starting 4D Campaign (Disarmament, Demilitarisation, Development and Democracy) for World Peace Revolution - <https://youtu.be/V9GEK4FFrXk>
- Instead of opening war academies and recruiting soldiers, establishing peace cities, peace universities, peace ministries to develop peace policies adopting alternatives to violence
- Starting revolution against violence, racism and militarism
- Hosting an annual peace day like the armed forces day as a national event celebrating peace successes, peace agreements and peace builders.
- Training 25 million soldiers worldwide in peace building and conflict resolution to diffuse tensions in conflicts before they erupt into wars. To be also used to assist humanitarian and natural disasters.

## **7. Reviving the Peace Movement – Getting the Message Across for Building an Egalitarian Society and a Better World**

The peace movement is not powerful enough to pose a serious threat to militarism and imperial designs of US and its European allies to highlight and tackle economic social and political costs to citizens of vast military machines and its destruction by wars for hegemony and extraction of resources.

To make military machine warfare unsustainable we need a paradigm shift, a culture change to build a movement that is global and big enough to challenge and address corporate power and policies of permanent war.

Our biggest challenge is how we make peace relevant to the man on the street, the woman in the bus or on the train. It can be done by addressing people's fears from terrorist attacks by information how best to achieve security.

We need to get our message heard widely loud and clear that War Doesn't Work. This is the most ignored truth of the 21st century.

### **How the World Benefits**

The world will benefit by bringing fundamental shift in our ethics and values to eradicate wars, violence and establish peace. According to Global Peace Index 2016, the global economy cost \$14.3 trillion to violence and conflict or \$1,953 for every person on the planet. If the countries

were to reduce violence even by 3% each year, and become more peaceful, it will be equivalent to \$431 billion savings.

In **conclusion**, let me share few positive initiatives to get us going in the right direction.

The conflict between the Spanish Government and ETA (Basque National Liberation Movement) is being resolved and ETA has decided to disarm completely and resolution of the conflict is on its way after decades of violence.

The Colombian peace process between the Colombian government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC–EP) has successfully negotiated a peace accord bringing an end to the conflict which has been going on for over 50 years with millions of people killed, displaced and disappeared. FARC has now changed itself into a political party to contest elections in a peaceful way. It is worth mentioning that Columbian President Santos received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016 for this exemplary work.

By global cooperation and solidarity we can have lasting peace. In the world history, there are several instances which have demonstrated that nations get united when they find a common urge and threat such as Indian Freedom Movement, Chinese Revolution and the formation of the European Union.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Our only hope today is in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism and militarism"

Most of the people have never killed anyone. 22 countries including Costa Rica, Iceland, Haiti, Liechtenstein, The Marshall Islands etc has no armies. 47 countries on our planet have relatively peaceful societies including European Union, Batek of Malaysia, Hadza of Tanzania, Martu of Australia, Lepchas of Himalayas and numerous others. No one has attacked these countries. So, in reality non-killing culture and building a peaceful world is work in progress.

We have covered a lot of ground today exploring approaches to peace and searching for peace from individual to community to global level. Will world peace be a dream or remain an illusion or a work in progress? It is for us to make it happen. Many social movements of the past like abolition of the slavery, Civil Rights Movement and women's right to vote were considered in the beginning as failures till people came to see and understand the message of these campaigns and started to empathise with them and change started to happen and they succeeded.

Nations need to develop cooperation and confidence building, enter into agreements, diffuse tensions and live in harmony.

For us peace activists, there is no time to relax, there is no room to succumb to despair and helplessness. Let us not wait till it is too late to turn the clock back. We as individuals, civil society and the wider peace movement have to take steps in the progression from individualism through tribalism to nationalism and then globalism, a transition that is essential if we are ever to give peace a realistic chance. So let us be vigilant and on our toes. Let us be strong and determined to build a nonviolent world order full of joy, hope and peace.

Thanks to all of you dear friends for organising Peace is Possible talk

What we are working for is war to be consigned to the history books and history museums, where a child in future ask mum or dad what was war.

Thank you for listening.

## **Bio – Vijay Mehta**

**Vijay Mehta** is an author and peace activist. He is Chair of Uniting for Peace and founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity. His books include United Nations and its Future in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2005), Arms No More (2005), The Fortune Forum Code: For a Sustainable Future (2006), “The Economics of Killing” (2012) and “Peace Beyond Borders” (2016).

The Sunday Times described him as a “longstanding activist for peace, development, human rights and the environment, who along with his daughter Renu Mehta has set a precedent for striving to change the world” (**The Sunday Times, February 01, 2009**).

In 2014, Vijay Mehta’s bio “**The Audacity of Dreams**” appeared in the book form “**Karma Kurry**” published by Jaico Publishing House, India with a foreword to the book by Nelson Mandela.

“Thank you for all you do Vijay – both the organisation Uniting for Peace and yourself are inspiration and give us all hope that both yourself and the organisation can bring a world without a war. Indeed it is possible, even in our own time.” – **Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate 1976**

“This book, Peace Beyond Borders by Vijay Mehta, an astute non-European observer, uses this unprecedented, extraordinary experience as the centrepiece of a carefully crafted theory on the construction and maintenance of peace and prosperity on a global scale. It is my hope that many non-Europeans will use it as a source of inspiration as they attempt to carve out long-lasting peace in other parts of the world.”

- **Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Laureate 1996 and Former President of Timor-Leste**

## **Notes:**

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Excerpts for this speech are taken from the following sources below:

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11. Johan Galtung, Reducing Urban Violence, World Forum on Urban Violence, Madrid, Spain, April 2017
12. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, Bolivia Calls on the World to Repudiate Wars and Military Interventions, April 2017
13. Vijay Mehta, Responding to Terrorism – Building a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Uniting for Peace Spring Conference, London, March 2017
14. Brian Martin, What can be learned from recent studies on non-violent actions, September 2016
15. Craig Zelizer, 15 Actions for a More Peaceful and Just World, January 2016
16. Henry Giroux, Interview, The Menace of Trump and the New Authoritarianism, April 2017
17. Swami Ishwarananda, Pathways to Peace, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, February 2012
18. Pope Francis, Solidarity is the Antidote to Populism, Address of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Signing of the Treaties of Rome, March 2017
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