

Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022

April 2022

Demand Peace from our leaders since living creatures, we take the worst violence and not them. If we refuse to demand peace, then who will.



Edited by
Richard Gomez.

Dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through

SIMPLICITY ~ JUSTICE ~ INCLUSIVENESS ~ NON-INJURY

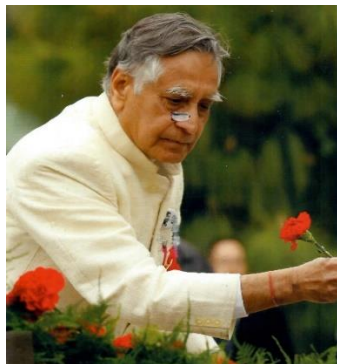
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Teach your children there is no glory or heroes in war.

That the glory comes from the actions that prevent wars, and the heroes are the ones who implement those action.



Congratulations to Dr. Sudershan Kapoor, Professor Emeritus, CA State University Fresno has been selected as the 2022 Arthur Saftstrom Service Award by Fresno State & the Fresno State Alumni Association. To be broadcast on ABC 30 ON Sunday May 1, 2022 at 7pm. Details at: www.fresnostatealumni.com



On the Worthiness and Unworthiness of War Victims.

Full article may be seen at: [Chris Hedges: Worthy & Unworthy Victims – Consortium News](https://www.consortiumnews.com/2022/04/07/chris-hedges-worthy-and-unworthy-victims/)

Rulers divide the world into worthy and unworthy victims, those we are allowed to pity, such as Ukrainians enduring the hell of modern warfare, and those suffering is minimized, dismissed, or ignored. The terror we and our allies carry out against Iraqi, Palestinian, Syrians, Libyan, Somali and Yemeni civilians is part of the regrettable cost of war. We, echoing the emptying promises from Moscow, claim we didn't target civilians. Rulers always paint their militaries as humane, there to serve and protect. Collateral damage happens, but it is regrettable. This lie can only be sustained among those who are unfamiliar with the explosive ordinance and large kill zones of missiles, iron fragmentation bombs, mortar, artillery and tank shells, and belt-fed machine guns. This [separation] into worthy and unworthy victims, is a key component of propaganda, especially in war.



Worthy victims allow citizens to see themselves as empathetic, compassionate, and just. Worthy victims are an effective tool to demonize the aggressor. They are used to obliterate nuance and ambiguity. Mention the provocations carried out by the western alliance with the expansion of NATO beyond the borders of a unified Germany, a violation of promises made to Moscow in 1990: the stationing of NATO troops and missile batteries in Eastern Europe; the U.S. involvement in the ouster in 2014 of Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich, which led to the civil war in the east of Ukraine between Russian-backed separatist and Ukraine's army, a conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives, and you are dismissed as a Putin apologist. It is to taint the sainthood of the worthy victims, and by extension ourselves. We are good. They are evil. Worthy victims are used not only to express sanctimonious outrage, but to stoke self-adulation and a poisonous nationalism. The cause becomes sacred, a religious crusade. Fact-based evidence is abandoned, as it was during the calls to invade Iraq. Charlatans, liars, con artists, fake defectors, and opportunists become experts, used to fuel the conflict. [Yet even the response of the Reagan administration to the 1980 rape and murder of three Catholic nuns and a lay worker by the Salvadorian National Guard was sought to blame the murdered victims for their own death.] The nuns were unworthy victims in support of the right-wing government in El Salvador armed and backed by the United States.

It is not that worthy victims do not suffer, nor that they are not deserving of our support and compassion, it is that worthy victims alone are rendered human, people like us, and unworthy victims are not. It helps, of course, when, as in Ukraine, they are white. But the missionaries murdered in El Salvador were also white and American and yet it wasn't enough to shake U.S. support for the country's military dictatorship. The rank hypocrisy is stunning. Some of the same officials that orchestrated the invasion of Iraq, who under international law are war criminals for carrying out a preemptive war, are now chastising Russia for its violation of international law. The U.S. bombing campaign of Iraqi urban centers, called "Shock and Awe," saw the dropping of 3,000 bombs on civilian areas that killed over 7,000 noncombatants in the first two months of the war. Russia has yet to go to this extreme. Those who were cheerleaders for the [Iraqi] war, such as George Packer, Thomas Friedman, Paul Berman, Michael Ignatieff, Leon Wieseltier and Nick Kristof, who Tony Judt called "Bush's useful idiots," dominated the media landscape. They painted the Iraqis as oppressed, worthy victims, who the U.S. military would set free. The plight of women under the Taliban was a rallying cry to bomb and occupy the country. These courtiers to power served the interests of the power elite and the war industry. They differentiated between worthy and unworthy victims. It was a good career move. And they knew it.

All of this remains unspoken as we express our anguish for the people of Ukraine and revel in our moral superiority. The life of a Palestinian or an Iraqi child is as precious as the life of a Ukrainian child. No one should be sacrificed on the altar of Mars. But until all victims are worthy, until all who wage war are held accountable and brought to justice, this hypocritical game of life and death will continue. Some human beings will be worthy of life. Others will not. - Chris Hedges is a Pulitzer Prize – winning journalist and foreign correspondent for 15 years for the New York Times

KFCF 88.1 FM

Stir it, UP!

Wednesday April 13th at 3 pm



In April, our radio show will be hosted by Josh Shurley with guest TBA by radio time.

For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at www.centerfornonviolence.org

Our radio show in March was hosted by Josh Shurely with his guest, Marianne Kast from the Fresno League of Women Voters on the topic of voting rights. To hear it again:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-32180140/stir-it-up-030922>

In February, Gerry Bill hosted where the discussion was the renaming James K. Polk Elementary school with the Suarez family member who are leading the change of racism. To hear it again:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-32180140/stir-it-up-02-09-22-malachi-suarez-interview>