

President's Insights April 2024

Let us seek Justice to achieve Peace

"To achieve peace, advocate for justice" - Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1992

Seven years ago, the United Nations developed 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations declared at the time:

"We are determined to end poverty and hunger worldwide by 2030 within and between countries, to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, to protect human rights and promote gender equality and empower women and children and ensuring lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources."



Achieving these goals requires that each society be able to achieve prosperity. Real and lasting prosperity is only achieved in peace. And true peace is only achieved in justice.

Today, we are facing a serious deterioration in international relations. War supplants dialogue and diplomacy. These conflicts cause irreparable loss of lives.

The death toll is galloping: 500,000 in Syria, 230,000 in Yemen, 100,000 in Afghanistan, 700,000 in Myanmar, 400,000 in Ukraine, 1,200 in Israel, and 30,000 in Gaza.

For those who live in developed countries, these conflicts may seem distant and alien. But they are authentic and tragic for the survivors of those who die. They leave a trail of pain, hunger, and illness.

Humanitarian organizations like VOSH/International advocate for peace. Only in peace can human beings, families, and societies flourish. But we understand that lasting peace only happens when there is justice. And justice occurs when each human being is respected without distinction of ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, and socioeconomic level. Let us then advocate for justice to achieve peace.

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