

## In search of an answer

M. OSMAN SIDDIQUE

THE world will never be the same after 11.09.01. The horrendous terrorist attacks are something quite new in world affairs, not in their cruelty and character, but in the target. For the United States of America, this is the first time since the war of 1812 that its national territory has been under attack.

Like so many others, I was glued to the television compulsively, watching replays over and over again. The description "unprecedented" fails to convey the gut-wrenching scale. The utter desperation of those with friends, family and colleagues missing has been deeply affecting. It is hard to focus on anything now except the enormity of the loss of human life and the vulnerability of open and free society.

By most common definitions, terrorism is an act carried out by small bands of disgruntled but politically motivated group that does not have the ways and means to mount a regular war. It has been suggested that terrorism's roots can be traced back to the Middle-East when a Jewish order called the Zealots randomly pursued and killed people in busy streets to create an uprising against the Roman rule of Palestine. At the beginning of the second millennium, a Shi'ite Muslim sect called the Assassins would kill their Sunni rivals to purify Islam.

Today, terrorism is a global phenomenon and it is by no means the exclusive domain of the Middle Easterners.

The Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka have become a feared and vicious force since the early eighties and have used suicide attackers ingeniously against government institutions and civilian targets. They masterminded the assassination of

the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. In the current conflict in Kashmir, it is estimated that over 50,000 lives have been lost to terrorist acts.

The independent movements of the Basque separatists began with their own brand of bombings and assassinations. Although the IRA has recently embarked on a peace process, they also have demonstrated a very ferocious brand of terrorism targeted against innocent women and children.

In Uganda, the Lord's Resistance Army, a Christian group, has become one of the deadliest

terrorism recently conducted on American soil.

But this despicable acts of terrorism at the WTC and the Pentagon, with its perverse misinterpretation of Islam was an attack upon humanity and our shared western values. The massacre of the population of Jerusalem by the Crusaders in 1099 was no more a part of Christianity than were these terror attacks against the U.S. a part of Islam. At the bottom line, they were calculated against the United States of America.

The immediate and urgent issue is swift justice for the proven perpe-

trators. There can be no two ways about it. But beyond that, what else? To craft a durable and meaningful response to terrorism requires that both the symptoms and the causes be examined and understood. But to address the causes behind the carnage of September 11 requires courageous yet dispassionate self examination and introspection. Above all, it requires a willingness, if necessary, to modify policy.

There are basically two dimensions to an examination of causes. First, we need to re-evaluate the way we manage this world in a global sense. The world does not fully comprehend what drives the disparate tumult in the streets of Seattle, Genoa, Melbourne Washington, D.C. or a host of other cities wherever policymakers gather to negotiate greater economic liberalization according to agenda inspired by powerful governments (not only the US) and by free-

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trator groups in the world. And in Zimbabwe, President Robert Mugabe has resorted to a special brand of terrorism by evicting white farmers from their homeland.

Assassinations of political and business leaders by terrorist sponsored gangsters in South America is endemic. The latest murder of the wife of a politician has put tremendous pressure on the Colombian President to crackdown on the country's rebels. Trying to end the war that has killed about 40,000 people in the past decade, the U.S. which is spending US \$ 1 billion to fight these rebels backed by drug lords has called their 17,000-member group known by its Spanish initial FARC, "terrorist organization".

The bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, killing 168 innocent Americans by fanatics with a warped view of the world, such as Timothy McVeigh, is a clear reminder of the other act of

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The issues with which Bin Laden justifies his actions US support for the Israeli occupation, the continuing presence of the US military in the Middle-East, economic sanctions by the west, western approval of unpopular and undemocratic regimes such as those in Algeria and the policy of containing Iran rightly or wrongly, are widely supported by the Arab and Muslim world.

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M. Osman Siddique is the former United States Ambassador to Fiji and other Pacific Island nations. He is the first American Muslim appointed to that position.

## Global impact in the wake of terrorist attacks in the US

HARUN UR RASHID

THE 11TH SEPTEMBER attacks in the US is having a great impact on world politics and economy. Some say the world has changed forever. People remain uneasy everywhere and whatever military response the US is choosing to fight against terrorism, it is a long and arduous task. This provides an uncertain global climate and uncertainty is the foe of global stability.

**Economic impact**  
The attack has led to a devastating loss of value of shares and stocks in the New York Exchange. Billions of dollars, amounting to more than 2 trillion dollars, were wiped out, not experienced since the depression in the '30s. Safe air-travel and security in every-day life in the US seems to have gone. Travellers now hesitate to fly and companies in the US have discouraged their employees to fly unless absolutely necessary. As a result there is a slump in the airlines industry and more than 100,000 employees have been sacked in the US. The Boeing company received cancellation of orders for new planes. The US government has had to pump \$15 billion to some of the major US airlines to keep them afloat. To restore the confidence of air travellers, armed sky marshals in the aeroplanes and installation of double security doors for and surveillance camera in the cockpit are likely to be put in place soon by the authorities. Hotels have faced cancellation of reservations from tourists. Entertainment and hospital industries have been hit hard. Consumer confidence in the US has plunged deeply. This is bad news for the US economy because two-thirds of its economic growth depends on domestic spending. The loss of shares/stocks in the

US has reverberated in all countries including Britain, Japan and Singapore. It is reported that European Airlines lost 50 per cent of air travellers. British Airways and KLM, among others, cancelled many Trans-Atlantic flights with many of their employees redundant. Ordinary workers in other industries are not confident about retaining their jobs and consumer confidence has hit low in Europe. The economy of the developing countries is not immune to this global economic slowdown and is expected to face a rough ride in the near future.

Reports indicate that insurance industry faces claims of about \$40 billion dollars under different categories of insurance from the attacks and as a result the insurance rates are being raised to an all time high. Consequently freight costs will be much higher for transportation of goods which will ultimately affect consumers. The global economy, according to economic experts,

and in what manner to respond to their request (in the mean time their commander Massoud died recently of a terrorist attack). British SAS forces are reportedly on ground with the forces of Northern Alliance in north east of Afghanistan. The US is in discussions with Russia to formulate a common strategy to assist the Northern Alliance to fight against the Taliban forces.

A seismic shift in attitude of government of Pakistan towards Taliban regime has occurred. Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf has been bold enough to support US plans against global terrorism, despite vocal protests by a few fundamentalist parties within the country. Some suggest that a group of extreme Kashmiri militants who allegedly received support from Osama's followers are unlikely to be happy with the decision of the Pakistan government. Since the Taliban regime has been harbouring Osama bin Laden who has allegedly

fears of a new arms race with Russia by declaring to develop a missile defence shield concluding that the old tenet of mutually assured destruction (MAD) was no longer valid.

China was considered by the Bush administration to be a "strategic competitor" and was seen as "a potential threat to stability in the Asia-Pacific region" and National Security Adviser Ms. Rice held the view that "we should never be afraid to confront Beijing when our interests collide". The US appeared determined to anger China by selling sophisticated military equipment to Taiwan. The US spy-plane incident with China last April brought a sharp statement from President Bush saying that already strained relations with China were "at serious risk".

After the September attack, the US has been able to grasp that working together with Russia and China is an imperative necessity in its "crusade" (to use the words of President Bush) against global terrorism. There seems to be an extraordinary re-alignment in political geography. Russia's President Putin told his nation that his country might take part in "search and rescue missions" during a possible attack on Afghanistan. He also said that Russia was willing to open its airspace along with that of the former Soviet republics in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan) for a "humanitarian" US-led mission to Afghanistan. The US has become more reconciliatory towards China. China is willing to support global drive against terrorism if appropriate measures are approved by the UN. As a result of support from Russia and China, the reported human rights violations in Chechnya and Xinjiang are now likely to receive muted response from the West. German Chancellor recently stated that European Union should review its critical attitude on the Chechnya situation in the light of the September attack.

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could be in recession because the three largest economies (US, Japan and European Union) which run the global engines of economic growth are in trouble. The US and the European Union appear to be on the brink of recession and Japan has already slipped into recession.

**Political impact**  
The terrorist attack in the US has obviously unnerved the member-countries of the European Union. Banking laws are being tightened so that money laundering is detected and banking accounts of all organisations are made transparent. Many laws with regard to border control and terrorism including its common definition are being harmonised within the European Union. Extradition from one member country to the other will be made easy and tight common immigration controls will be maintained. All the laws are expected to be in place by next January. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, a former Irish President and a Barrister, has voiced concern that the new laws may be employed to infringe human rights including those of genuine refugees and asylum seekers who seek shelter in Europe from harsh realities of life in their countries. In other words many governments in Europe under pressure from right-wing political parties could turn Europe into "fortress" through misuse of the new laws.

built a terrorist network in about 60 countries, Pakistan realises that its links with the Taliban regime would cost it dearly in the international community.

Furthermore Pakistan needs close co-operation with the West for strategic and economic interests to enable it to be strong vis-à-vis India. In return for its support, economically and politically Pakistan is expected to profit in the near future from its traditional allies - the West. One immediate tangible result was the lifting of sanctions on Pakistan by the US and the approval of loans from IMF. This will ease pressures on the fragile economy of Pakistan. Pakistan received top European leaders' assurance that they would be ready to assist to deal with the new influx of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Some suggest that Pakistan may take advantage of the present situation to highlight the plight of frustrated Kashmiris who have been fighting with arms since 1989 to achieve their political rights from India. Pakistan may argue that Kashmir appears to be a fertile ground for inducing unemployed youths to terrorist acts. India may be persuaded to settle the Kashmir territorial dispute so that the rights of the people in Kashmir are implemented. The recent close co-operation between Pakistan and the West may not provide comfort to India. India would have preferred Pakistan isolated from the international community because it routinely accuses Pakistan for the alleged support of cross-border terrorism in Indian Kashmir, which Pakistan strongly denies.

While European Union leaders were visiting Pakistan, British Foreign Secretary (Foreign Minister) Jack Straw had been on an official tour of Iran after a gap of 22 years as a part of West's strategy of enlisting support from the key Islamic countries in the region. Iran does not approve the policies of the Taliban regime and has provided shelter to about two million Afghan refugees in the country. Taliban's oppression on the Shi'ite Hazari people in Afghanistan has been a great concern for Iran. In the past it provided assistance to the Northern Alliance to defeat the forces of the Taliban regime. Iran's declared support to combat terrorism within the framework of the UN only (not the US) is not discomforting to the West.

Initially the US policy makers of the Bush administration saw things black and white in foreign affairs. In his early days of administration President Bush expelled Russian "spies" from the US and Defence Secretary Rumsfeld was reported saying that Russia was one of the main offenders in selling missile technology to help India and Pakistan. The US appeared to ignore

**Security impact**

The West has been confronted with a new type of terrorism carried out by non-state actors. Conventional war methods do not apply to unconventional terrorist acts where no country can be identified to sponsor or support such terrorism. Since the attacks, more emphasis has been given to policing and intelligence work to detect the network of terrorism, spread over many countries. Vigorous global co-operation on intelligence information is taking place. As a result, arrests of persons suspected of links with Osama bin Laden's organisation have been made in Spain, France, Germany and Britain.

Some security experts maintain that the US seems to have been obsessed with the big security picture missile defence shield and appeared to have neglected other security scenarios in its heartland. The September attack in the US has illustrated that the main threat to peace and stability of big powers does not emanate from missiles but from non-state actors who can be exploited by unscrupulous persons, given the prevailing conditions in the various conflict zones of the world.

**Conclusion**

While the West is building global co-operation in its battle with terrorism, it is hoped that their measures adequately address removal of the roots of terrorism, otherwise only temporary solution will be delivered. The reality is that we live in a global village. Our lives are interconnected economically and politically. Global political and economic policies cannot be disassociated from social justice. Last year World Bank's President James Wolfensohn said in an interview: "We are linked by the air we breathe, by trade, by finance, by drugs, by immigration, by peace, by war, and linked in a very direct way. The issue of what happens in a country that is not doing well can be transferred now to a developed country; not necessarily by a declaration of war but by terrorism, by crime; in every way we are dealing in one planet." How true are the words of Mr. Wolfensohn.

Barrister Harun ur Rashid is former Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN, Geneva.

## Act now to stop war and end racism

NAJMA SHAMS

WE weep and wail to see the deaths, the destructions, the loss; we mourn and bleed with those who have suffered the pangs of the tragedy and are still suffering; we condemn terrorists and what is more we detest terrorism in all its forms and implications. Hats off to the brave, who standing on American soil have taken the initiative to point out, that war is not the mode, war is not the solution, war is not the answer to the 11<sup>th</sup> September tragedy. Speakers at the rally of ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) have very rightly pointed out that the attack is the expression of the unexplainable - that people around the world bear.

The United Nations came into being out of the horrors of the Second World War and as the preamble of the UN states "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

**BUT: The resignation of an UN official in August 1998**, over sanctions against Iraq is perhaps an example of indignation against the policies of the powerful, the (self-thought) to be invincible. In the words of the UN official, who sees sanctions as inhumane, "I believe that the sanctions are very blunt instruments. (They) do not work as intended, to change the government or its approach and (they) discriminate against the weak and the poor and the lower echelons on the economic scale in a way that I find unacceptable and contrary to the basic human rights provision of individuals throughout the world that we in the UN are so wedded to. As an instrument for change I find (them) to be a tragic failure."

**AND: Plan to enlarge the municipal boundaries of the city of Jerusalem**, describing it as annexation of still more Palestinian

land, they (Palestinian and Israeli women) said it is not only a direct violation of the Oslo Accords and international law, but establishes a situation that will prevent a final resolution of the Jerusalem issue, hinder establishment of a viable Palestinian state and diminish hope for concluding a just peace between our peoples".

Terrorism cannot be stopped by further terrorism rather it leads to escalation of violence and terrorism.

**SO:** Wherever and whenever international war or civil commotion broke out, the brave and the wise have always come forward with their attempt to put an end to the conflict and resolve the dispute. To quote from the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) - Documenting the Peacemakers: "Wherever war or civil strife have broken out, individuals have bravely stepped forward to put an end to force of arms as a means to resolve human disputes. Men and women who committed themselves and risked their lives in the belief that people can co-exist without resorting to violence have kept the quest for peace alive. Whether or not their peace endeavours succeeded, their attempt to put end to violence is the important point of their story." Thanks to the Creator that ANSWER is universal in the human heart and the human mind, nay in the human spirit!

Teody Loto of the Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace says: "I am not interested in revenge. Will revenge bring back my loved ones?" These very words echoed at the ANSWER rally, which only reflects the identical reflection of the human heart, the human soul.

In a historic vote, the **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed the **first decade of the twenty-first century (2001-2010) - "The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence!"** Man

lives and dies through generations from parents through children. The best that we can do for our parents is keep up the good name we have inherited from them and pray ceaselessly for their eternal peace in the life hereafter and for our children; their crying need is peace. Peace is the key word for civilization, for progress and for survival. It's no wonder that **"The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence"** has been rightly declared for the **Children of the World**. The proclamation invites each member state to teach the principles of non-violence at every level of the society. UN bodies, private organisations, educational institutions, religious leaders, the media, performing artists and the civil societies are called upon to support the Decade for the benefit of the Children of the world.

Let us look at the extract from the **"Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century"**:

1. Educate for peace, human rights and democracy.
2. Create a just global economy and a just global governance.
3. Eliminate racial, ethnic, religious and gender intolerance.
4. Protect and respect children and youth.
5. Stop the use of child soldiers.
6. Build "local capacities" to maintain peace.
7. Utilize the media for peacebuilding.
8. Call to ban use of all weapons.

**"Whither adoption of the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century?"**

Education for peace, human rights and democracy? --- **rather** --- declare war! wage war!

Creation of a just global economy and a just global governance? --- **rather** --- impose sanctions against innocent citizens! advocate for might's right!

Elimination of racial, ethnic, religious and gender intolerance? --- **rather** --- discriminate! and discriminate to disease and death!

Protection and respect for children and youth? --- **rather** --- (children and youth are affected by war) teach violence through practice!

Stopping the use of child soldiers to resort to weapons for their own safety and survival!

Building "local capacities" to maintain peace? --- **rather** --- mobilize communities, countries for war!

Utilizing the media for peacebuilding? --- **rather** --- advertise war, the need for war, the justification of war - in all its forms, yet to be discovered by man!

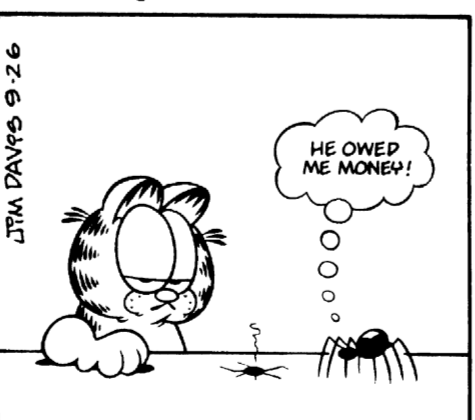
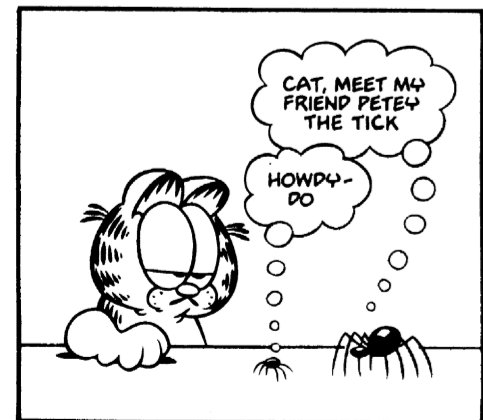
Calling the ban of all weapons? --- **rather** --- call for the use of all weapons - in their most sophisticated forms!

Can we not draw upon the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice and work as a **global village** (the so oft used pet word to the leaders of modern day civilization) for peace and tolerance?

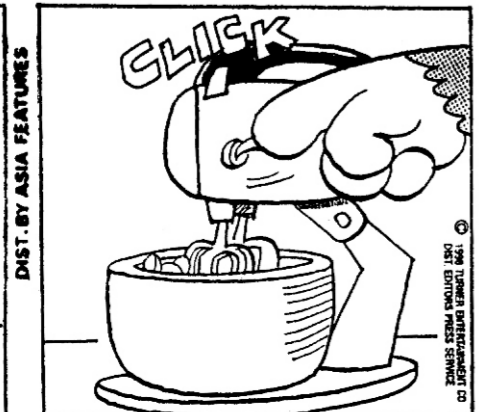
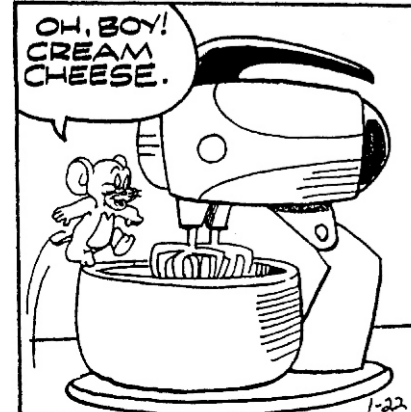
With the advancement of science and technology the world is making great strides in different fields. But when we look at the conflict torn world around us, can we consider ourselves truly educated and remain satisfied? Many will perhaps say it's better to remain uneducated and under-developed and live in peace and harmony than suffer the consequences of all these conflicts.

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation is a spiritually based movement of people committed to active nonviolence as a way of life and as a means of personal, social, economic and political transformation. Members include Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and others. They belong to branches or groups in over 50 countries of the world. IFOR has

## Garfield®



TOM & JERRY



by Jim Davis

By Hanna-Barbera

In the words of Mairead Corrigan Mauguire, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate - "Every religion of the world needs to begin more to teach and promote nonviolence, and to come together in dialogue and respect. People around the world need to work from their own spiritual tradition, but with understanding of how similar teachings are expressed in other religions".

According to W B Yeats - "Our task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes for ground on which we stand is holy else we may find ourselves treading on someone's dreams".

While governments of the world spend five billion Deutsche marks daily for defence budgets, 40,000 people die each day as a consequence of war, hunger and unjustly distributed global goods. Let us bear in mind: **There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.** Let our slogans vibrate with that of ANANDO, Banani, Dhaka, working for peace to say loud and clear:

**Mother Earth We are your Children  
Stop War Make Peace  
All need Food None needs Bombs  
One World Built on Justice and Peace**

In the words of not any other less than Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "A nation that continues year after year to spend on military defence than on programmes of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world can well lead the way in this revolution of values".

Now the scene has totally changed and the West including the US are seriously considering how

to respond to their request (in the mean time their commander Massoud died recently of a terrorist attack). British SAS forces are reportedly on ground with the forces of Northern Alliance in north east of Afghanistan. The US is in discussions with Russia to formulate a common strategy to assist the Northern Alliance to fight against the Taliban forces.

A seismic shift in attitude of government of Pakistan towards Taliban regime has occurred. Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf has been bold enough to support US plans against global terrorism, despite vocal protests by a few fundamentalist parties within the country. Some suggest that a group of extreme Kashmiri militants who allegedly received support from Osama's followers are unlikely to be happy with the decision of the Pakistan government. Since the Taliban regime has been harbouring Osama bin Laden who has allegedly

built a terrorist network in about 60 countries, Pakistan realises that its links with the Taliban regime would cost it dearly in the international community. Furthermore Pakistan needs close co-operation with the West for strategic and economic interests to enable it to be strong vis-à-vis India. In return for its support, economically and politically Pakistan is expected to profit in the near future from its traditional allies - the West. One immediate tangible result was the lifting of sanctions on Pakistan by the US and the approval of loans from IMF. This will ease pressures on the fragile economy of Pakistan. Pakistan received top European leaders' assurance that they would be ready to assist to deal with the new influx of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

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