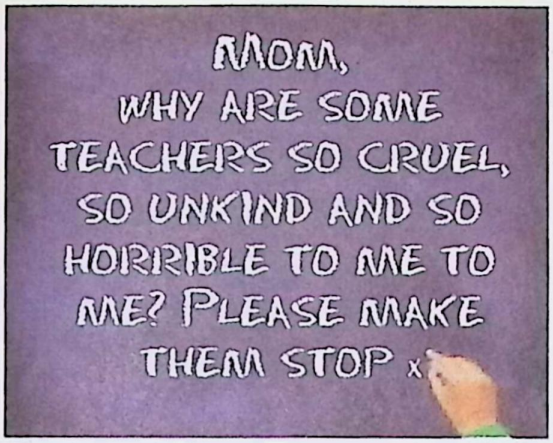


crowded public bus; corporal punishment teaches them that violence is good... that violence is the solution to all problems. What other reason would there be for 'teachers' to force their brawny muscles on little children with sticks, fists, leather belts, bamboo canes and kick, pinch, pull their ears, their hair and treat them so unkindly, if it weren't good for them?

To save the nation from more of this social destruction, mindless violence and repulsive behaviour the problem needs to be addressed at its source... in the schools. There's not a lot that can be immediately done for those who already graduated from the Bangla Bhai School of Social Disturbances and Public Mayhem, but at least a more pleasant future can be secured for present day pupils.



Seven Star Daffodil School, Khilgaon, Dhaka.

killings in the blood-drenched streets and our TV screen are crammed with public transport, shops, houses, even schools ablaze and shameless damage to private and public property. It is as if causing willful damage and terrorising innocent people is a perk of the process and fun to be had by the mindless participants and most probably it is.

Such deplorable scenes are likely to continue long into the future, if the problem isn't addressed soon. In some schools a fresh batch of terrorists are being prepared right now.

Any school that engages in the use of corporal punishment is a breeding ground for terrorists. Some of the 'teachers' who 'teach' at these schools are themselves terrorists. The messages they deliver via the cane, clenched fists and open hands are messages of terrorism, oppression and fear.

While the children are perhaps a decade or two away from throwing their first bomb into an over-

It's as easy to teach 'right' as it is to teach 'wrong'... to teach 'love' as it is to teach 'hate'... to teach 'peace' as it is to teach 'aggression'. It makes sense that we should only teach what benefits the individual, society and nation... '*Love, Peace, Harmony and Goodwill to all*'.

The rot must stop. Hartals must cease to be the meeting places and playing fields of lawbreakers, thugs, terrorists, goons, loonies, miscreants, the misled and disillusioned (paid and unpaid).

The New Year resolution of every parent in Bangladesh should be to know what's going on in their child's school, to write or visit, and to insist that no corporal punishment is given. That course of action is only for parents who love and want to protect their children and country, of course.

Sir Frank Peters is a human rights advocate, a former newspaper publisher and editor, an award-winning writer and a dedicated foreign friend of Bangladesh.
<sirfrankpeters@googlemail.com>