

# Peacemaking And The Challenges Facing It: A Human Rights Perspective

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## Abstract

Today, peacekeeping operations are one of the central tools used by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security around the world, but in a context where global peace is severely fragile due to bloody armed conflicts that have left millions of victims, the challenges facing peacekeeping are escalating, and thus Protection of civilians in areas of armed conflict. Over the past years, there has been a shift in the traditional concept of "peacekeeping", from a simple process based on three principles: (neutrality, acceptance of the parties involved, and the use of force only in self-defence), to broader operations with increasing tasks: mediation roles between the parties to the conflict, providing basic services, strengthening the rule of law, managing detention centers, and providing protection for refugee and displaced camps. In other words, today's peacekeeping operations have become "multi-dimensional" as they are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but to protect civilians, facilitate the political process, assist in the disarmament of ex-combatants, reintegrate them into a more inclusive political process, provide technical support for elections, and promoting human rights and the rule of law.

**KEYWORDS:** Peacebuilding, Violence, War, Obstacles, Peace support.

## INTRODUCTION

There are many definitions of peace: After the two world wars, it was defined as "the absence of war."<sup>1</sup> It is also defined as "the absence of violence or evil and the solutions of justice." It is also defined as "the outcome of the interaction between civil order and social justice". A state in which the world is free of wars and conflicts. A state of security and stability prevails in the world and allows development and prosperity for all. Safety, preservation of dignity, and working on the existence of common interests that achieve the establishment of a civilization based on respect for oneself, respect for others, adherence to justice, respect for justice, and the provision of sophistication to all human races on the face of the earth. On the contrary violence is defined as harshness in words and actions. It is the product of anger, and it alienates nature and leads to

disruption of life, and that is why God Almighty forbade it in His saying:<sup>2</sup>

{فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ  
نَحْوِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا  
عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ}

(By the mercy of Allah [O Muhammad], I tolerated them. And if you were rude [in speech] and hard-hearted, they would have parted from you. Forgive them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when did you decide, relay on Allah? Allah loves those who trust him). As well as war, which threatens the stability of the social and religious system of the defeated party, and its positive consequences give the victor an opportunity for social, political and religious change on the defeated party. With the violence that falls upon him in word or deed, it was peace, so what is peace, and what is the importance of

peace. In this article, the author tries to draw the attention of his readers to the different meanings of each of those contradictions that we referred to a while ago, which establish the reasons for the international community's endeavour to find a way out that saves humanity from the evils of violence and its repercussions and the challenges facing those endeavours and finding solutions to them.

## MAIN PART

The importance of peace can be identified through the definition of peace itself. Peace is a state of calm and tranquillity, a term used as opposed to war and acts of violence between different peoples, different classes of society, or competing nations. And it is not only in war. Even in peacetime, people enter into the struggles of electoral campaigns, debates, conflict of opinions, and others. Man has tried throughout history to make peace, and to try to bring it as a continuous natural state in the course of human development, and contrary to war and violence that is incompatible with prosperity and human progress. Peace is also a state whose psychological, spiritual, social, and material value is felt only by those who have lived through the scourge and filth of war, and it is an absolute condition and necessity and an essential foundation for any human development, prosperity, growth and advancement in all its material and moral aspects. The 14th Dalai Lama, said "Peace, in the sense of the absence of war is of little value...peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free."<sup>3</sup>From his point, we can say that peace means respect for human rights, well-being of people and freedom of individuals and nations.

The importance of peace emerges in many international efforts made by institutions and states to achieve it, and what these peoples enjoy, unlike some countries in which a state of war and fighting is common, regardless of the types of wars throughout history, civil or international. Therefore, the importance of peace can be summarized in the following: It begins first with a feeling of comfort, tranquillity, safety and psychological stability in individuals, unlike the case of individuals who live in countries that suffer

from wars and their scourge, where they live in a state of anxiety and panic because of the constant state of fighting.

The importance of peace lies in international efforts to disarm and control arms, and stop the spread of nuclear weapons, to preserve lives and property from war crimes that claim many lives in various countries of the world, in addition to the massive material damage incurred by countries living in a state of war and destroying infrastructure. It increases spending on military equipment, which is very costly. Because of the importance of peace from this aspect and its preservation, the United Nations signed in 1968 the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in 1972 and 1988, the former Soviet Union and the United States signed two agreements to limit the production and possession of atomic weapons. In the 1970s, the United Nations was able to get member approval for a number of arms control treaties. These conventions prevent countries from placing atomic weapons on the ocean floor and prohibit the production and stockpiling of biological weapons. In 1993, 125 countries signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Manufacturing, Use, Transfer and Stockpiling of Chemical Weapons, and the agreement became effective in 1997.<sup>4</sup>

One of the importance of peace is that it has a major role in the development and renaissance of societies. Countries that do not live in a state of peace live in permanent turmoil and insecurity. Therefore, they are preoccupied with their own security and safety more than they are concerned with developing their internal societies and external relations, but if they live in a state of peace the economic, social and living sectors will be active in it, and peace will advance the development wheel in order to achieve renaissance at all levels.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND WORLD PEACE

Everyone strives to achieve peace and peace at the global level, as the importance of peace lies in the following:

Development: The spread of peace in countries is a conducive factor to better development and growth. Countries that suffer from violence resort to using their resources to fight it and try to achieve peace instead of using their resources to develop the various areas of life in them such as education, health and others. Achieving peace contributes to societies and between countries in terms of making mutual efforts to find solutions to some global issues, such as issues related to protecting the environment and combating epidemics. technology, instead of wasting it in conflicts and wars.

Improving education: Providing education for all around the world is necessary and essential, but achieving it requires a peaceful world. Instead of spending money for the purpose of securing weapons and equipping armies, it can be invested to improve education and secure it for countries that do not have a public education system.

## **TYPES OF PEACE**

Peace is classified into two different types in terms of freedom of choice and the means of obtaining it, and they are as follows:<sup>5</sup> The peace that is achieved by free choice, and the peace imposed by justice, means that this peace is chosen by people with a free will and with a moral impulse to live together in peace. Peace imposed by an external force to compel two parties to maintain peace between them. True peace is not achieved globally by stopping wars and conflicts only, but if peace becomes a decision taken by the free will of all. "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: It is the presence of justice."<sup>6</sup> As Martin Luther king said.

## **WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

The world celebrates the International Day of Peace annually on the 21st of September of each year. The International Day of Peace was declared in 1981 AD by a unanimous resolution at the 57th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Spreading a culture of peace despite all the

differences between them. This day is celebrated by calling on all countries and peoples to cease fire and stop violence in it, and cooperate with the United Nations to respect this resolution throughout the day. Also, all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations hold educational and public awareness lectures to emphasize the importance of world peace. The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly as a day dedicated to promoting the ideals of peace, by observing 24 hours of nonviolence and ceasefire. But real peace requires much more than laying down arms. It requires building communities in which all members feel they can thrive. It involves creating a world where people are treated equally, regardless of their race.<sup>7</sup>

## **WHY ARE PEACE PRIZES AWARDED?**

Because of the importance of peace in the lives of individuals and peoples, international peace prizes have been allocated, granted to individuals who have worked to maintain peace at the level of their country or globally, and these awards include: The Nobel Peace Prize, which is one of the five Nobel Prizes recommended by Alfred Nobel, which is awarded annually in the capital of Norwegian Oslo. The Prize was awarded on December 10 by the Norwegian Nobel Institute. It was awarded for the first time in 1901. Candidates for the prize are selected by a body appointed by the Norwegian Parliament, according to Nobel's will. In addition to the International Peace Belt Award created by artist Wendy Black Nasta, it is a living symbol of the peaceful unity of all nations. and the Gandhi Peace Prize, an award named after Mahatma Gandhi and awarded annually by the Indian government. The Paul Bartlett Ray Peace Prize, named after the artist Paul Ray, is awarded annually by the University of New Mexico, and the Student Peace Prize, which is an award given every two years to students or student organizations that contribute significantly to the promotion of peace and human rights. The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded 102 times to 137 Nobel laureates between 1901 and 2021, 109 individuals and 28 organizations. The ICRC has been awarded the

Nobel Peace Prize three times (in 1917, 1944 and 1963), the UNHCR has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice (in 1954 and 1981).<sup>8</sup>

## **INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS**

At the end of the Second World War in 1945, the importance of peace emerged as an urgent necessity that must be worked on, to end the inhuman crimes that the peoples involved in the war had suffered, and not to repeat them, and in order to revive the lands that died from the war, and to reconstruct the country, and thus many attempts were made. To achieve lasting peace among all nations. The most important forms included in those efforts were the following: Diplomacy related to negotiations between states to achieve states of accord and cooperation between states. And the establishment of international organizations that work to resolve disputes between nations by peaceful means.<sup>9</sup> most prominent international organizations working to bring peace is the United Nations Security Council, which works to solve the conflicts that arise between states and suggests ways to solve them. If any country threatens peace, the Council imposes economic sanctions against it, such as preventing trade exchange with the aggressor country, and then escalate the measures. The Security Council asks the member states of the United Nations to provide it with the necessary forces to implement its decisions. The United Nations has had some success in its peacekeeping operation. But it was not able to prevent the outbreak of local wars in a number of regions, including Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

One of the efforts that emphasizes the importance of peace and its preservation is the establishment of collective security organizations that resemble the balance of power system, the recognition that each member of a group of countries agrees to help any other member of the group, if this member is attacked, and thus the power of the joint group thwarts any attempt for enemy attack, collective security organizations include NATO and the former Warsaw Pact. In

addition to permanent efforts to improve international contacts and trade to increase understanding between nations, and to reduce the threat of war by lowering the cultural and economic barriers separating the countries. A number of European countries are working together as a group known as the European Union, to increase the flow of goods, ideas and people from one country to another. In the Arab Gulf states, the Gulf Cooperation Council was formed; To cooperate in all defence, economic, cultural and development fields, as well as the countries of the Maghreb, to improve the basis of Arab interaction and increase mutual exchange in all fields.

There are currently 14 United Nations peace operations around the world, most of them on the African continent. While the detailed tasks of these operations vary, from monitoring the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan, for example, or promoting and protecting human rights, through facilitating humanitarian aid in the Darfur region, most of these operations are entrusted with protecting the civilian population affected by armed conflicts. With the number of international and non-international armed conflicts on the rise around the world, with millions of victims, in ever more violent and complex environments, in regions such as South Sudan, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the challenges facing peacekeeping operations have risen, at the core of which is the challenge of protecting civilians.<sup>10</sup> The expansion of tasks resulted in other concepts such as peacekeeping, peace building, peace making, peace enforcement, and peace support. The latter concept means “the methods used by the United Nations to reduce tension, support ceasefires, or peace agreements, or create a buffer zone between warring groups, in order to promote the conditions necessary for lasting peace.”<sup>11</sup> It has become the major umbrella that includes the different types of operations carried out by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. This great diversity of tasks has created a number of challenges, some of which are institutional, and some are on the ground.

## **INSTITUTIONAL OBSTACLES**

These challenges are related to the fact that these operations are affiliated with the United Nations, and therefore are subject to the balance of power within the Security Council. For example, the establishment of a peacekeeping operation requires the approval of all permanent members of the Council (who have veto or veto power), which makes some of the proposed operations a subject of controversy and political polarization among these forces (such as the proposal to send peacekeeping forces to Syria), but this polarization was not present in the discussions. About sending a peacekeeping mission to the Central African Republic in April 2014 in order to protect civilians and support the transition process in the country, after the bloody violence that struck the country in 2013.

On the other hand, the funding crisis is emerging as a major challenge facing peacekeeping operations. These operations require huge budgets, amounting in one year (from mid-2017 to mid-2018) about 6.7 billion dollars, most of which were contributed by the United States, which participates in more than a quarter of the budget, and China by about 10 percent, and similar to Japan, and European countries such as Britain, France, Germany and Spain share about a fifth of the budget. Therefore, maintaining this level of spending requires intense diplomatic efforts in order to persuade some reluctant countries to maintain the same pace of contributions and not resort to reducing them.

## **THE CHALLENGE OF PROTECTING CIVILIANS.**

In 2015, the United Nations, in a comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations, acknowledged that there is a significant difference between expectations and capacities for the protection of civilians in areas to which the United Nations sends peacekeeping missions. This recognition comes in light of the fact that more than 95 percent of peacekeepers today are mandated to protect civilians, including the protection of children and protection against conflict-related sexual violence. The protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict is a fundamental principle of international

humanitarian law. Accordingly, the International Committee of the Red Cross put forward perceptions of the best possible practice for peacekeeping operations, including placing respect for international humanitarian law at the heart of its operations, within a broader framework of ensuring respect for the legal framework specified for each of these operations.

Another point of focus for the ICRC is detention operations by United Nations peacekeeping missions. According to the ICRC, UN peacekeeping missions should be prepared to fulfil their legal obligations regarding detention. They must also have the facilities necessary to meet the conditions of detention required by international law. The Committee affirms its readiness to assist the United Nations to reach concrete solutions together in this context. It also stresses the need to observe the principle of non-refoulement of refugees and asylum seekers. The ICRC has repeatedly made a recommendation to combine different approaches to the protection of civilians, while not being vague, to achieve the best possible result. One of these different approaches is the need to take the perspectives of populations who are believed to be at risk during peacekeeping operations, as this is important for improving the UN's understanding of the challenges it faces. At the same time, it is also important to maintain a safe space for impartial humanitarian organizations to provide aid and protection to affected people.

## **MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENTS AS AN OBSTACLE IN THE FIELD**

There are multiple forms of challenges facing peacekeeping operations on the ground, including what sometimes occurs in the complexity of the relationship between the United Nations mission and the host country, which appears through the resistance of some host countries to the performance of United Nations missions for some of their tasks, or the claim of some host countries that the United Nations forces are subordinate her united. On the other hand, there is the problem of the disproportionate objectives of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations with the requirements of the host countries. In the early nineties of the twentieth century, the United Nations considered that holding elections in the

host countries was an ideal end to peacekeeping operations. However, experiences have shown that the elections held prematurely do not yield the results expected of them, and in some cases, the elections are a direct cause of the resumption of the conflict, as happened in Angola in 1992. On the third hand, peacekeeping forces are being targeted by armed groups, and the danger of this increases with the limited capacity of those forces. They have to defend themselves because their members are sometimes unaware of the political, security and social environment in which they work.

On the fourth hand, the United Nations forces may suffer from a lack of coordination in the field, perhaps due to the lack of clarity of the chain of command of the operation or the absence of coordination between civilians and military personnel involved in the mission, as well as the absence of planning in the pre-deployment stage, and the presence of restrictions on movement and use of force, and the absence of intelligence cooperation between member states. While some attribute this to the fact that peace support operations are usually sent to countries that are almost completely collapsing, and lack basic services. Often the United Nations, donor countries and NGOs try to help these countries, but the situation in these cases is fraught with difficulties due to the deteriorating reality and the diversity of the parties involved in the conflict. On the fifth hand, difficulties appear in controlling the behaviour of personnel participating in United Nations forces in the field at times. Some United Nations missions have been accused of sexual exploitation and ill-treatment of civilians, such as what happened in United Nations missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, East Timor and Liberia and Sudan. To combat this, there have been calls for more women to work in peacekeeping missions.

On the sixth aspect, the peacekeeping forces suffer from overstretching, which leads to a decrease in the efficiency of the forces participating in operations in many cases. Some attribute this to the participation of developing countries with their forces in order to obtain foreign exchange, as countries compensate their soldiers with sums of money. Equivalent to the high cost of soldiers provided by developed countries (about

\$1,400 per month per soldier), some missions suffer from a lack of personnel able to operate airlifts and field hospitals, as happened in southern Sudan and eastern Congo. There is also the complexity of administrative balances, as the United Nations Headquarters in New York controls the political and financial decision-making process, which was appropriate when traditional United Nations operations faced political challenges in the first place, but the expansion of tasks requires field leaders to take some thorny decisions immediately. Without going back to the headquarters, which requires reconsidering the balance between the United Nations headquarters and field commands.

### **OTHER CHALLENGES**

Armed conflicts change rapidly in nature; within the state, not between the states, engaging in a changing profile of armed groups using terrorist tactics, including targeting peacekeepers, linked to organized crime, hosting the unregulated proliferation of a new generation of weapons. Peacekeepers became targets. Peacekeepers often go where no one else is willing to go, putting their lives at risk every day. Not a month passes without an attack on peacekeepers. Political solutions are increasingly elusive. Noticing many long-running conflicts are difficult to end. With the closure of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. And the United Nations Mission in Liberia, several missions are deployed in the face of a weak political agreement, Declining approval and stalled peace processes with ambiguous exit strategies. States have grown expansive and complex preserve peace. The missions are assigned with amazing tasks and extensive responsibilities. At the same time, regional partnerships, while important, are often unable to achieve necessary political influence.

Peacekeeping operations continue to experience performance issues and continue need: Well-organised, equipped and trained forces, Women's participation in peacekeeping, hold perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse accountable forms of misconduct Restrictions on freedom of movement affect the effectiveness of peacekeeping. Prevents quick responses on the ground impede efforts to protect civilians. It is forbidden to investigate human rights violations.

Undermining security and safety by preventing necessary supplies and equipment damages and destroys United Nations property. Stronger commitment is needed by all support actors. A port for peacekeeping efforts, from political issues to operations, to achieve peace-Maintaining excellence.

## CONCLUSION

Unless they are persuaded otherwise, armed groups that pursue insecurity for their own gain are more likely to continue their peace-breaking activity. The task of PSO is to convince armed groups of the futility of option to negotiate an agreement; but renege on the agreement and continue the conflict or an option to continue the conflict (status quo) by associating a cost with violence. To do this, the UN forces (or a separate multinational force) must adopt a strong stance - the idea is to force (or prefer co-opting) armed groups to pursue peace option. Adopting a strong posture requires an understanding of the complex environments (characterized by complex physical and human terrain), in which peace support missions are tasked with operating. It also requires a strategy and set of tactics to match. Good peacekeeping (as with good counterinsurgency) is like "armed social action," where military means serve a political strategy. It's all about undermining the spoiler's strategy ("fighting his strategy, not his forces") by building trust with the locals. The ultimate goal is not necessarily the complete defeat of an armed group, but the disarmament of its fighters through coercion. Once the spoiler understands that he cannot fight war without cost, peace through disarmament becomes a real possibility. Clearly, the UN forces must be adequately equipped to deal with and deter spoilers. This requires bridging the gap between mandate and means, by providing force enablers (e.g. close air support, logistics, intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities) and establishing coordination mechanisms between missions (e.g. Joint Operations Headquarters).

So what happens once you create a permissive security environment? The legacy of any UN mission should be to create a well-trained, well-paid, accountable and effective local security

force. Establishing such a force should be one of the central priorities of UN missions. Security is the basis of the state; Without it, state institutions are liable to fail. Therefore UN missions must abandon the tendency to pursue the goal of positive peace ("sustainable peace") before achieving the goal of negative peace ("absence of war"). Peacekeeping is essentially a collective endeavour: a partnership. Therefore, it only works if all partners step up and carry their share, including the Security Council, troop and police contributors, it requires strong, collective action if we are to succeed in addressing these challenges. This is why the Secretary-General launched the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative on 28 March to reinforce these commitments and help to succeed on the ground where it matters most. A4P is designed around five "Ps": politics, performance, partnership, people, and peacebuilding. 45 shared commitments were resulted; Some commitments in the A4P declaration are to be implemented by Member States, some by the UN Secretariat, and some are shared and will be implemented by both the UN Secretariat and the Member States.<sup>12</sup>

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