



Human Rights Council's open ended working group on the right to peace.

23rd of April 2015.

*Oral Statement delivered by Christophe Barbey on behalf of the
Center for Global Nonkilling*

This Statement was delivered orally, on very short notice and only the oral version fully reflects what was said.

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,
Excellencies,
Mister President,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak, though as it was given on very short notice, we are a bit unprepared; however, I will do my best.

I am speaking in the name of the Center for Global Nonkilling,

States definitely have a right to peace, based on the UN charter as a whole and specifically, among other dispositions on article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4. One can also say that International Organizations similarly have a right to peace. But we the people, persons and civil organizations, or even speaking somehow in the name of humanity as a whole, we are *a bit jealous* of not having a right to peace, a right to live in peace.

Said otherwise, we are frustrated of not having such a right recognized, recognized as a human right as we are already entitled to, as stated by the article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to an international social and political order in which all our human rights can be fulfilled, which is indeed a peaceful order.

For 70 years war has been illegal, duly quoting again article 2 paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Charter, with the stringent limitation set by article 51 for self-defense. Yet what is admissible for self-defense has never been legally defined and in our opinion it does not in any case include weapons of mass destruction or excessively high military spending, whatever this entails; however this will need to be discussed in other forums.

Nevertheless, this strongly shows that 70 years later, as wars still go on, as victims are still way too numerous and as every victim of war or violence is one more unnecessary victim and an infringement on the right to life and to a peaceful life; this strongly shows that we, as humanity and as human actors of life, in this room ore on the planet, working for the well-being of all, we deeply need new tools to preserve life and to forward the progress of peace towards a nonkilling world, where the dignity of humanity, in its full respect of life is finally achieved.

We do consider that the human right to peace could be one of these needed tools, one of the ways to enhance the fulfillment of the right to life and to create a sustainable peace in a happy world.

They are many ways in which a right to peace will enhance dialogue and cooperation among all the members of the human family, including States and organizations of all sorts. We can leave out, here and for now, the problem of war. It is a problem that in our opinion belongs to States; they are the ones to solve it.

In a human rights perspective and under the work of the United Nations' Human Rights Council, we shall focus on aspects of peace which influence the live and moreover the rights of individuals and people.

Under human rights theory they are many ways, in which a right to peace or a human right to peace will enhance human rights processes as a whole.

For now, I would like to focus on one of them, and that is to bring peace between people while they are simultaneously using their various sorts of human rights. Sadly, as a good example of this, I will use the Charlie Hebdo massacre in Paris in January. There we have two well recognized human rights present, on the one hand the freedom of expression and on the other, the freedom of conscience and religion. What is obviously needed is a right that coordinates these two rights and gives them both means to express themselves, together, in a peaceful manner and in a way that respects the right to life. To some extent, a well known and developed right to peace will serve that purpose, both by limiting the tendency to violence and by improving the coordination among the various sorts of human rights, and thus once again, protecting life and life in peace, or to push things even a bit further, a right to peace and therefore the fulfillment of the right to life will enhance the right to a happy life where love is predominant.

Similarly, we sincerely hope that to you, State delegates, as person as well as in your professional capacities, you will be capable, for you, for States and individuals, for us as for peace, with and within States, for the world, we hope that you will be capable of reaching sufficient peace in yourselves and in our discussions, that you will be dedicated to the cause of peace and that you will work cooperatively, in peace and with peace, by dialogue and common progress, towards a consensus and a declaration that we can all celebrate at the end of this week as in the future, for ourselves as for future generations.

I've spoken my heart.

Thank you very much for your dear attention.