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## ENFORCING the KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT

I was born in 1940 in the Rust Belt of the Appalachian Mountains where violence was accepted in the home, school, and community. We had a societal commitment to violence. I bought into those beliefs- until I went to Hiroshima to interview A-Bomb survivors:

“...what happened was beyond human comprehension. ...I survived because I was walking to a building that was behind a small hill that faced downtown. ....for no obvious reason, I was suddenly knocked to the ground. When I was about to get up, wood and debris fell from the sky and hit me on the head and back. I didn’t know what had happened. I didn’t hear any bomb; in fact, there was no sound at all. I couldn’t even hear the wood falling. ( the blast was so strong it blew away the sound barrier or something like that)...I saw a street car with people in it on the outskirts of the city, I ran down the hill as fast as I could....As I ran I saw that everyone was just sitting or standing. Probably in shock, I thought. I was so happy to see them. I started to wave and yell to the people. ...I got in as far as the first step before I saw that everyone was not only dead, but petrified. They were frozen in time- in a flash. It was so strange; no words could describe the emotions. I felt so alone.... It was an unspeakable experience for humans”

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“There is no time for anger. I am now 81. My conclusion is this: our last hope is the non-violent person-the individual.”

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“...all the houses collapsed. I saw a small boy, perhaps three or four years old trying to get help to save his mother. The house collapsed on her. A few of us started to dig but the fire was coming swiftly so we ran away. The small boy begged us to try longer, but we ran... I remember that little boy waiting for his mother to be freed. I feel very sad and wonder what became of him.

I don’t blame America... The real question is war. War is the unpardonable crime against heaven and humanity. War is a disgrace to civilization.”

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In 1928 the US Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and the French Foreign Minister, Aristide Briand tackled the issue of war in hopes of preventing WWII. The Kellogg-Briand Pact was an international agreement

to prevent war, but allowed for self-defense and on August 27, 1928 it became a law.

The Kellogg-Briand Pact (KBP) didn't prevent WWII, but the seed that was planted survived and is in the process of blooming.

In addition to the KBP, there is the SEVILLE STATEMENT of VIOLENCE. In 1986 a group of scientists put out the SEVILLE statement in which scientists confirmed that there is nothing in our biology that is an insurmountable obstacle to the abolition of violence/war. UNESCO adopted that statement in 1989

As of March 31, 2017 the population of America is 325,874,015. Millions of Americans want an end to war but have yet to demand it. Perhaps because we have come to accept war as permanent and natural. The task to end war seems overwhelming. But is it? The infrastructure to end war is a reality. We are closer to No War than we think. In Hawaii, ALOHA is written into the constitution. It is used when necessary and recently was effective in preventing an awkward situation between the leaders of China and the Dalai Lama. Treaties and other such documents work when we insist upon it.

There are only 535 members of congress. We are millions. In his book: "Breaking Through Power", Ralph Nadar asserts that it takes just 1 % of the population to break through power. When millions of us organize behind the "no war" concept, war will end. KBP is more than a concept: it is a treaty under international law, one that needs to be given more attention and respect.

Organizing can mean individual efforts. For example, the KBP and Seville statement could be copied by local groups and placed in classrooms for debates, or into libraries, government offices and public places until the KBP and the concept of No More War becomes a household slogan.

A State proclamation re: KBP with special events and a member of congress in attendance, or a traveling show of Peace Projects, a booth beside the military recruiting office are some ideas. Where there is an ROTC in schools, create a P(peace)OTC based on Kellogg and Briand, Nobel Prize, etc. Believe in the end of war and make it happen. Blaming others doesn't work. We have to stand up and demand the end to war.

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