

Practising What We Preach

THERE are many people around the globe who believe that the September 11 attack on US has changed the course of history. The world as we know it won't be the same again.

True or not? We have to accept the fact that we are living in a fast moving world - very dangerous and insecure - where almost everything can cease to exist in a short period of time. Over three-thousand lives were lost in a matter of a few hours, and there cannot be justification for such a barbaric act.

But by condemning this particular act we also have to respond in a same manner to any other form of violence, from whatever side it may occur. If we as Namibians have to accuse some world-leading nation like the US of practising "double standards" when it comes to world politics, we have to first look at ourselves.

Here we demonstrate or cry our hearts out because of so many cases where our mothers, sisters or daughters have been raped, abused or assaulted. If Harry Simon is alleged to have abused a woman in public we say nothing. If his blood sample "disappears" which could be used in court as evidence, we remain silent.

Where has the slogan "Injury to one, Injury to all" gone, or is it applicable only in certain situations?

In following professional boxing for over 40 years it is clear some boxers should not be in the ring. They are in fact the "terminators" of the boxing image. We have our great athletes such as Frank Fredericks, Agnes Samaria and lots of good cricketers, of whom we can be proud. Our government expresses their sympathy with the Palestinian people and on the other hand ignore the plight of Zimba-

bwean people where a power-hungry dictator is destroying the country, just to die in power. What do we call that?

When it comes to the September 11 attack and so call "war against terrorism" the outcome appears really uncertain.

The mistake was made at the beginning where President Bush has called on the world to join the US in fighting terrorism - by saying "you are with us or against us". In fact what he has done is to divide the world into two, leaving no room for any negotiations or peaceful solutions. It's a known reality that any US military action is designed to protect the interests of the United States or Israel.

In the "Cold War" era, the CIA and the Soviet KGB were behind many terrorist activities, for instance in 1985 a huge car bomb that exploded in Beirut killing 92 people.

It was later found out that the CIA was involved in

training the men who set the bomb. For many decades the CIA and KGB were fighting for world supremacy by destabilising many governments including the democratically elected ones, by supporting all sorts of movements or guerrillas. It was a time when the Taliban was seen by the West as the liberators by defeating the Mujahideen. Today they call them terrorists, and the West together with their former adversaries are fighting them.

To us American and Soviet "adventures" in neighbouring Angola are well-known. By the Western media Americans were always portrayed as the "champions" of democracy, and the Soviets as the dictators and the sponsors of

terrorism. For example the publication of Claire Sterling's book "The Terror Network" which laid the responsibility for international terrorism firmly at the door of the KGB, was largely a product of the

CIA's disinformation department.

However, both the superpowers and their allies themselves get involved in international terrorism. Despite the fact that the KGB has disappeared from the scene with the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, international terrorism continues to flourish. Now more than ever before we have a so-called Islamic fundamentalist Al Qaeda network, which is regarded as the enemy of the West, almost in the same fashion as the previous KGB. How is it possible that the Western world, which appears so much concerned about the human well-being and democratic principle, has so many foes in the world?

The answer is because in

principle there is no difference between war and terrorism. They are like quarrelsome twin brothers. To ask who was first is the same as asking about the chicken or the egg.

Not only do the terms "war" and "terrorism" become confused but so also the identity of the terrorist as compared to the guerrilla fighters or soldiers.

How can one distinguish between Israeli's state terrorism and the Palestinian "suicide bombers"?

Responding to terrorism with terror is completely counter productive and will never lead to peace.

It is very sad that the only remaining superpower, namely the US, is spending so much money and energy on war instead on peace. The world must realise once

and for all that the so-called "axis of evil" is not in North Korea, Iraq, Torra Borra Mountains or Jenin.

The threats to world peace are not Saddam Hussein or Osama Bin Laden - rather it is their very creators and those forces who cause the world-wide crises and later try to solve them. The so-called Asian crisis, economic collapse in some countries, wars and sanctions are not created by the poor man or ordinary working class. The architects are sitting right in the US and in the major world cities. It is no wonder that we have September 11 in the US or "suicide bombers" in Israel. World-wide poverty, unfair trade, excessive accumulation of wealth, the search for cheap labour in order to maximise profit, so-called globalisation

which till now did not bring any positive results - all go towards creating more job losses and more suffering. They are the main culprits. Is this what the "New World Order" is supposed to look like? We can express our anger or cry about the World Trade Center or Jenin, but the fact still remains that peace won't be established by killing the Palestinians rather than granting them freedom and independence or by starving the Iraqi children instead of providing them with food and an education.

Only by the "Holy Work" rather than "Holy War" for peace and justice, and spiritual approach to whatever we do in our lives, with forgiveness, tolerance and compassion, can we create a better world and look to a brighter and more prosperous future.

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