

"YOU CAN BOMB THE WORLD TO PIECES"

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"You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb it into peace." Your bombs are great, but do not speak of your greatness. Your bombs are sent in "peace", but received in war. Your bombs silence many, but cannot stifle my anger. Much like the African proverb, "There is no phrase without a double meaning", there is no bomb without two impacts.

Your bombs took my child; I do not know you as the nation that heals children. Your bombs took my neighbors; I do not know you as the nation that helps in times of disaster. Your bombs destroyed my home; I do not know you as the nation that helps rebuild.

If you had sat with me and listened to my story, I might have heard you. If you had walked our streets to understand us, I might have traveled down a different path. If you had delivered a hospital, I might have believed your words of peace. If you had respected me as a person, I might have called you friend.

For the cost of one day of war, you could have invested in an eternity of peace. For one day of war, over 17,000 soldiers could have gone to college. For one day of war, every hungry child in the world could have been fed. For one day of war, over 5,000 AIDS clinics could have been built in Africa. For one day of war, you could have built schools for our children.

Instead of a photograph of a young girl with gauze on her face where there was once an eye, there could have been a child receiving new glasses. Instead of a photograph of a grandfather carrying the limp body of his granddaughter, there could have been vaccinations for childhood diseases. Instead of a photograph of a soldier cradling an injured infant, there could have been gifts of food.

Forty insurgents were killed today. Among the dead was my baby son. Because you took my son, I will fight to protect my daughter. Because you took my arm, I will fight to protect the other arm. Because you took my home, I will fight to protect the homes of my neighbors. Because you took the peace I have known, I will fight to take that peace you enjoy.

"You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb it into peace." Bombs cannot tell if I am Sunni or Shiite. Bombs cannot tell if I am insurgent or innocent child. Bombs cannot tell if I am building or person. Bombs cannot listen. Bombs cannot talk. Bombs cannot heal.

Bombs are not the answer! Stop the war! If you do not stop, I will have nothing but memories. If I do not stop, you will have nothing but memories. It is time to stop and find a way to understand.