



I thought of naming my nominee well in advance with the sole purpose of forestalling a likely candidate, i.e. Mohamad al Barade, who having functioned as the international watch-dog on nuclear proliferation, is currently trying to become the champion of democracy in Egypt. While wishing him all success in this endeavor, I do not endorse his credentials as peace-maker. Leaving that aside for the moment, let me take a broader view of the international scene.

Human rights, democracy, killing of civilians, terrorism, nuclear threat, and international community are pet subjects being discussed by everyone. Friends today may have been arch enemies yesterday. Best example is the US and Japanese cohabitation moving from Hiroshima to Fukushima. It was far back in 1945 that Americans selected the highly populated city of Hiroshima as the testing ground for their new weapon the atomic bomb. (Let us ignore the fact that some scholars have said that Japan would not have suffered that ignominy had it been populated by Whites.) They did not stop at that, and went on to mete out the same treatment to Nagasaki as well. Perhaps the number of men and women who died and suffered from radiation has not so far been exceeded either in Iraq or Afghanistan. One wonders how many are still suffering from the effects of Agent Orange dropped on innocent civilians in Vietnam.

All these were the handiwork of the current champions of democracy and human rights which have become their favorite topics of discussion and debate. George W. Bush felt deeply sorry for the suffering of people of Iraq and invaded the country in order to usher in democracy and chase out an imaginary group of Al Qaeda terrorists. He did this without the sanction of the UN, promising to finish the job in a matter of weeks. He had his friends though, like Tony Blair and John Howard joined him. In fact, he celebrated the accomplishment of the mission a few months after. US armies are still there in Iraq. His successor Barack Obama went after Muhammad Gaddafi promising to finish it in a matter of

ought to be grateful that after all Americans are lovers of humanity. Only difference is that they have a counting problem when it concerns their friends and allies. For instance, when an Israeli dies by a rocket attack from Palestine rebels it never fails to attract attention while the innocent civilians killed in air attacks in response to them launched by the more powerful Israeli forces are not easily recognized. Nor were the hundreds killed by Israeli forces in Lebanon when they went in search of one kidnapped soldier destroying numerous buildings in the process.

It is also fortunate that the rest of the world that matters, i.e. the Western Powers too, see the same picture. Because of this fortunate position, hardly anyone remembers the victims of Iraq invasion numbering easily over one hundred thousand. All of them had to sacrifice their lives for the greater good of Iraq and of humanity. No one would say they sacrificed for George W. Bush and Americans.

" Moving over to another pet topic of Obama and Americans, let us speak about the US record on democracy or rather their international efforts to introduce democracy to the backward countries in the world. More than half a century ago, there was a man named Mossadeq who was elected by popular vote as Prime Minister of Iran known at the time as Persia. However he could not run his democracy for long. There were democrats across the globe who wanted him out. They succeeded and Persia was 'fortunate' to get their own king, rather Emperor Shah, a true puppet of the US, with the blessings of the very same democrats that dethroned the Prime Minister. Powers that

great democrat has been denied by his own country a life-time opportunity of personally accepting the award. I am sure the viewers would remember the scene for a long time.

Bringing China within the democratic fold has been a long time dream of US Presidents. The current US President who received the award before Xiabo, was selected for many other reasons, most important of which was no doubt the ridding the world of the threat of terrorism and the more important nuclear threat. Terrorism has been greatly reduced by Obama and many others, some of whom go unrecognized.

Nuclear threat tough is still staring in the face of the entire humanity. Perhaps the



disaster in Fukuyama highlighted the dangers of even the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Mass demonstrations that took place in Germany were proof of the unease felt by people all over. Leaving aside the peaceful use of nuclear power to politicians to decide, let us turn to the greater and more imminent danger facing us, i.e. building of nuclear arsenals by rogue states. The very term 'rogue state' can be confusing making us look for a more convenient basis to deal look at the

issue. Let us therefore talk of countries developing nuclear power for doubtful operations on the sly. We can start with the three rogue states identified by George W. Bush during his presidency. They were and are Iraq, Iran and North Korea. George Bush eliminated the ruler of the

first evil although he failed to discover the nuclear arsenal he fought against. We are now left with only two. Both countries are being warned, threatened and sanctions are imposed on them. However, rogues remain rogues in spite of threats and warnings. Obviously both countries are playing hide and seek frustrating the peace lovers and world powers.

It is in this context that I thought of recommending an unsung hero for the award next time. He may be even lesser known than the last winner Liu Xiabo. Liu Xiabo was not allowed to proceed to Oslo to accept the award. My nominee fortunately would not suffer that ignominy, because he is a citizen of a democratic country. He has suffered enough already though. He languished in jail for eighteen long years. His crime was divulging a secret that his dear motherland was hiding from the world. He became a pariah in his own country, despised and disgraced, thrown into the dust bin of history by his compatriots.

He is now a free man I think although no one talks about him. All lovers of humanity and world peace have conveniently forgotten him. A disgraced citizen of Israel, Modercai Vnunu is still paying for the sin of divulging the secret that his leaders were cleverly keeping to themselves. What is more perplexing is the fact that, while Israel has been a strong critic of Iran for its attempt to develop nuclear capacity, none of countries that oppose Iran's attempts are concerned about what Israel is hiding from the world. Even Al Barade was turning a blind eye to the issue as head of AIEA. That is the very reason I said his likely attempt to get the Peace Prize should be forestalled.

I only hope that the champions of democracy and world peace all over the world would rally round my nominee as they did about the last year's winner Liu Xiabo. I wish him success.

VANUNU FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE?

days. Unlike his predecessor Obama got UN approval for establishing a 'No Fly Zone' over Libya and acted with the cooperation of other powers including NATO, who have now taken over the job. One question that arises is whether 'No Fly Zone' means launching attacks on ground forces and installations. Answer to this type of question is as usual provided by the Power responsible for them.

" It is also interesting to see that hardly any civilians are killed in the hundreds of attacks by American and British planes. It is reasonable in a way because they stepped in to prevent the destruction of innocent lives. How far have these lovers of humanity travelled from the days they treated thousands of Whatever mistakes Obama has committed, one has to give him the credit for making a genuine effort to bring in democracy to the rest of the world and peace to the entire world. That was perhaps the very reason he was selected for the Nobel Peace Prize a couple of years ago. Obviously it was not for what he did, but for what he stood for and he was hoping to achieve.

Japanese and Vietnamese lives just like fodder for their atom bombs and Agent Orange. One cannot forget the fact that Americans have been keener in getting answers from Vietnam authorities as to what happened to their soldiers missing in action in that country, never ever accepting responsibility or apologizing for ruining the lives of Vietnam children born even today with various deformities. They seem to have forgotten that all these deformed children are the creation of American Agent Orange sprayed over the land by their planes. However one

threw out the Emperor and installed Ayatolla Komeini as their head remembered the good work of Americans and have kept up that friendly feeling intact. That must be one reason why their attempts to reintroduce democracy to the present day Iran have so far been unsuccessful. However, their attempt and good work has continued with renewed vigor ever since. One notices the process operating all over the North of Africa and the Middle East. Removing their erstwhile friend Hosni Mubarak was followed by Libya and Yemen. These two countries plus a number of others including Syria and Brunei give us a picture of work-in-progress, hopefully to be followed by Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Whether Saudi Arabia comes within the purview of the democratic exercise will eventually be determined by the US and Barack Obama.

We have to keep in mind that one cannot and should not be held responsible for the actions and omissions by one's predecessors. It is also unkind to hold current rulers responsible for what their predecessors did. However, it is the normal practice to honor treaties and commitments. This makes even Obama responsible for Bush actions unless he can rectify his mistakes. In this sense of course, no leader of US can absolve himself of the sins of his predecessors.

Whatever mistakes Obama has committed, one has to give him the credit for making a genuine effort to bring in democracy to the rest of the world and peace to the entire world. That was perhaps the very reason he was selected for the Nobel Peace Prize a couple of years ago. Obviously it was not for what he did, but for what he stood for and he was hoping to achieve. Nobel Prize authorities too deserve our praise and respect for this noble gesture. They did take a very meaningful further step when they selected Liu Xiabo for the same honor last year. He fought more or less a lone battle for a democratic China. His was a long and hard struggle over a number of years that saw him suffering in jail for what he believed and worked for. Many would reflect the occasion of awarding Nobel Prize to winners in Oslo. No one would forget that empty chair eloquently declaring to the world that a