



Both are achievements of the highly respected and valued international organization called the UN.

First let me deal with the unforgettable talkfest that has not ended in spite of being up and about for over sixteen months so far, with no end in sight.

As late as the 27th of July 2012 Banki Moon, the head of the world body we call the UNO, was appealing or giving a warning, to the international community on the war or the rebellion in Syria.

How many times has he given this danger signal to the inter-national community over the past sixteen months? Even after I began writing this, I have read quite a few of such warnings or desperate cries. Most glaring and obvious irony is that none cares whatever happens or how loud the big boss cries.

This is one of the valid tests that this body has faced. To its credit one must recognize its attempts to avoid national and international calamities, and also to bring sanity and order in lands torn by unending struggles.

When Egyptians were tired of Hosni Mubarak, the UN played a rather unwilling part in bringing his downfall. In the case of Lybia, it was completely different.

The latest is the war sounds of Aleppo, which is called the mother of all battles by the rebels. One day the report says the rebels have captured it, while the next day it is a different story, for apparently the government forces have recaptured it. On the last day of July reports say the rebels are withdrawing from Aleppo.

Reporting on Syria has also being an interesting phenomenon, for anyone can see whose side the reporters are on. Not that reporters have to swear allegiance to either side, but it is a case of the rulers doing the wrong thing. No peacemaker would succeed if he or she approaches the parties with a prejudged pattern or solution, no one would accept the analysis or the suggestions made thereafter.

How many have already made the supreme sacrifice? How many thousands have been displaced and thrown out of their homes and lands? The UN as well as the media keeps on repeating the numbers. Media of course has no choice, but the UN is not a mere calculator or tabulator, but a responsible world body, the only such organization capable and authorized to tackle this type of problem, leaving the reporting part to those better qualified to



# Longest Talkfest and the Loudest Silence

do so

The end to the Syrian war seems to be approaching. Reports on August 2 quoted President Assad stressing that Aleppo will decide the fate of his country. It was only the previous day that the media said the Aleppo battle would take weeks.

As late as July 2, a UN spokeswoman was calling for restraint on both parties. What a hoax and utter folly is to repeat this nonsensical plea or warning again and again when it is obvious to anyone with a modicum of intelligence that peace cannot be achieved by silencing one party, and that to be the result of bringing two opposing sides to common position mutually agreeable to them.

From what is so far enacted, it appears that everyone putting forward himself as peacemaker thinks of silencing only one side, i.e. the Syrian government. Look at the biggest player in this surreptitious game, next to the boss, Banki-Moon, by the name of Kofi Annan, whose intention to give up his job by the end of July was broadcast on August 3, and the role he played so far.

Having made a number of trips to friendly and unfriendly countries too such as Iran, he regrets being unable to get the sanctions against Syria approved by the Security Council. With all his experience as

the UN boss over two terms, what was the purpose of his talking to the rebels and Iran etc, if his sole aim was to impose sanctions on Assad's regime? That is not peace-making by any stretch of imagination. Who is trying to fool whom?

My feeling is that all along the big powers had been trying to pressurize the Assad Government to give in and more or less hand over power to the rebels. If this was part of their hidden agenda, the cat was let out by the revelation that Obama had signed a secret deal to assist the rebels. This is more or less confirmed by the inflow of reinforcements to the rebels? They do not descend from heaven. Who sends

them? Who has made sure of their ready supply?

Even the General Assembly of UN seems to have lost patience by this feet-dragging. It has expressed its disappointment with the council. That I think says the last word on the efficacy and efficiency of the world body. In short doesn't it mean that the UN has failed in its duty?

We are now at this crucial point in the history of the UN and also world peace. Only the big players do not recognize this stark reality. If they do, most of them have to close shop and go home. If Kofi Annan took more than six months to realize his limitations having headed the organization for two terms, it is no surprise that others fail.

The UN must look for a completely new approach to world problems, an approach through which it can intervene in a meaningful way rather than siding with one side. No one can deny that everyone including the Security Council was trying to push Assad from power

While looking for ways of improving performance, it is imperative that the UN pays particular attention to its very structure, with a view to introduce a better and more meaningful apparatus capable of handling the enormous task of bringing about and maintaining peace, rather than promoting armed conflicts under whatever guise, whether it is peace-keeping or observer missions.

To sum up the talkfest issue, let me say the UN has passed its use-by date. Those responsible must look forward.

Now to the loudest silence that no one hears.

There are very important men and women who hear it or who attempt to drown this noise with their innovative proposals and foolish utterances. The most recent such gaff was by none other than the Presidential hopeful of US, Mitt Romney. Perhaps in his hurry to get more votes from US Jews or even more funds, he made the bold declaration that Jerusalem be the Capital of Israel.

Israelis were no doubt pleased and applauded the visitor who has muddied the water again by this uncalled for utterance.

The position of Jerusalem has been a vexed issue for quite some time, with Israel as well as Palestine wanting to establish their capital in that city. The UN has not sanctioned Israel to do so, nor has it given the green

light to Palestine either.

Here the problem goes far beyond a simple exercise of fixing a capital. Ever since the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel in what is called their promised land, this issue has been popping up again and again, with no solution been found. It was no doubt aggravated by the six day's war later.

The suffering that the Jews underwent under the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler easily overshadows any suffering that recent events have brought on nations. That is something all except a few like Iran have agreed on.

That however is no reason for Israel to treat the Palestinians they themselves displayed to be thrown into the dust bin of history. That happens in spite of UN resolutions and various utterances by fair-minded world leaders. The call for the setting up of a State of Palestine has been shelved over and over again. The innocent Palestinians who have been cultivating their plot of land for centuries in this traditional land of theirs, have been reduced to the level of refugees in their own land or even in neighboring countries.

Those who talk with emotion about the suffering of innocent Syrians thrown out of their homes because of the conflict there, like Hilary Clinton do not appear to have witnessed this pathetic scene in the Middle East they continue to visit. Their visits are confined to well orchestrated appearances along with the Israel P.M. and the expression of support to that country. They hardly ever refer to the plight of Palestinians or the State of Palestine.

Another interesting feature is the vehement opposition to the supposed nuclear aspirations of Iran. Nuclear arms are abhorrent by whatever country they are held and brandished about. While applauding the efforts of big powers to reduce the nuclear threat, one has to raise a question that the so-called defenders of world peace and everything sacred to humanity fail to see, or rather acknowledge.

How about that nuclear arsenal hidden below your very nose? Why don't you talk about that innocent Israeli who spent 18 long years in jail for telling the world what you try to hide from them? His name is Modercai Vanunu, if you have already forgotten him. This despicable silence on the part of both the UN and the US is the other obstacle to world peace. While that of Syria is confined to a limited area in the region the loudest silence is affecting the area plus the whole world.

To top it all, The big brothers are happily watching Israel P.M. threatening unilateral action on Iran. for what? For trying to develop nuclear weapons (that too according to their own sources).

Such is life!

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