

A Prayer for an End to Violence, War, and Senseless Death

~ James E. Hug, S.J.

O Loving God,
The guns and rockets, drones and bombs are endless....
The pictures of destruction and death in Iraq, Syria,
Afghanistan, Congo, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan,
Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Central African Republic,
El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala keep washing over
us in the news...

*Wrap all and each of these your people in your love.
Speak to their hearts: "Come to me you who suffer
and are burdened and I will give you rest."*

In the last few months, mass shootings and gang
violence have rung out on our city streets
In Los Angeles and Detroit, Minneapolis and Miami,
in Denver and more than a hundred other cities, towns and villages
across our nation.

*Wrap all and each of these your people in your love.
Speak to their hearts: "Come to me you who suffer
and are burdened and I will give you rest."*

Gaza and Israel are again engaged in senseless, brutal, vastly uneven
slaughter while the world watches helplessly...

*Wrap all and each of these your people in your love.
Speak to their hearts: "Come to me you who suffer
and are burdened and I will give you rest."*

And hidden unseen in so many homes and families around the world, domestic violence
and the abuse of innocent children takes vulnerable victims....

*Wrap all and each of these your people in your love.
Speak to their hearts: "Come to me you who suffer
and are burdened and I will give you rest."*

In countless parts of our world today, the air is tense with
Waiting, uncertainty, insecurity.



PRAYER

From ravaged lands, destroyed by war, Your peoples lift their hands to You, pleading.
We pray for an end to the violence, for justice, and for peace to come and to last.
We fear that they will not.

*Wrap all and each of these your people in your love.
Speak to their hearts: "Come to me you who suffer
and are burdened and I will give you rest."*

O God, the Source of all that is, God of Abraham and Sarah,
from whom three great religions stemmed.

We pray for peace, salaam, shalom.

We pray for a just and respectful peace between Israelis and Palestinians,
Sunnis and Shiites, Muslims, Jews and Christians.

We pray for solutions that resolve the roots of historical conflicts.

We pray for a commitment to human rights by all sides and the protection of all lives.

We pray for effective international intervention to ensure justice for all.

We pray for humanitarian aid and rebuilding to reverse the destruction
and the hatred that has grown generation after generation.

*Wrap all and each of these your people in your love.
Speak to their hearts: "Come to me you who suffer
and are burdened and I will give you rest."*

We pray for peace and for justice in our homes and on our streets.

*Wrap all and each of these your people in your love.
Speak to their hearts: "Come to me you who suffer
and are burdened and I will give you rest"*

We pray for an end to violence, war, and senseless death.

Grant us this, peaceful God. Grant us a peaceful world. Amen.