

Criminal Inaction

by Ivaylo Belev

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When I heard the news about the terrorist attacks in Paris on Friday, my first thought was: “Batuz predicted it. He was absolutely right.” The world is really messed up. We are messed up. And if we do nothing against, for sure we are heading to our self-destruction.

One would think that the more advanced our civilization becomes, the more peaceful the world should be. But we witness exactly the opposite – more and more conflicts arise. According to a study, from 162 examined countries 151 are involved in some kind of conflict. I was stunned. So, it turns out that conflict is the rule, not the exception. Why? Why do people kill each other? Why is cruelty so widespread? Can't we just live in peace?

I'm sure we can. But our spiritual development, our value systems, our moral laws – they all have severely declined and lag far behind our technological advancement. And this is extremely dangerous. We create mightier and mightier weapons for mass destruction and put them in the hands of possibly unscrupulous people, who may set the world on fire with just a push of a button.

The vast majority of the people want peace. That is clear. But what they do? Nothing. And that's the problem. Hundred thousands of people have been killed in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Yemen, Congo, Libya, Lebanon, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, Ukraine and other countries, but the average person just sits in front of the TV and watches the world burning. He doesn't care, because he is still living in his “bubble”, in his tiny local surroundings.

Now Paris was hit and suddenly that average person, sitting comfortably on the sofa in front of the TV, jumped as stung and started waving the French flag mumbling with tears in the eyes “Je suis Paris”. The newest trend on Facebook became people to put the French flag as their profile picture. And I ask: “Where were you when the

terrorist attacks happened in the other countries? Where were you when world's heritage was destroyed?" Such a disgusting hypocrisy!

There were accusations that the media didn't cover the other terrorist acts. I instantly agreed with this statement, but then a little research showed that there was enough media coverage. As the journalists said, just no one cared that much. People didn't mass-reshare and repost those news. So it turns out that actually the readers didn't show any special interest for the devastation in the far parts of the world.

But we can't keep our eyes closed before the truth anymore. The world has become global and we cannot ignore that fact. The world is interconnected and the events on one side of the world affect the other side too. We cannot make world peace without world support. And where this global support should come from? From us! From you, and me, and every other person on the planet! Because the planet is our home. As long as there is division, there will be wars. As long as the local thinking predominates in the people's minds, there will be conflicts.

Société Imaginaire from its creation in 1984 on, strives for cultural dialogue, fostering the development of an enduring sense of global community based upon the free, intellectual spirit. Its aim is to raise awareness among people about the borders, not so much the physical ones, but those in our minds, which impede us from living peacefully together.

With one of its newest projects – the pledges of allegiance – the Société Imaginaire gives every individual the possibility to take personal responsibility and sign his own statement in support of global peace. It is high time to leave the anonymous mass and identify ourselves as supporters of peace! Only through joint efforts and actions we can achieve a future peaceful well-being for us and the next generations. Wake up! The world needs you!