

Global focus to pray about violence and war

The following pointers provide a basic foundation on how to pray about violence/war in the world right now. Please feel free to add to these and other issues the Holy Spirit might show you.

1. **35 Wars going on right now:** There have been over 250 major wars in the world since World War II. Over 37 million people have been killed by wars in the 20th century. Three times more people have been killed in wars in the last 90 years than in all the previous 500. There are over 35 major conflicts going on in the world today. *Father God, we lift up every person who suffers because of a war in their vicinity right now. May they know Jesus. May they be anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make known their requests to You. Grant them peace which surpasses all understanding, guard their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil.4:6-7).*
2. **Who is dying?** In the wars of the last decade, more children were killed than soldiers. Child victims of war in the last decade include an estimated 2 million killed, 4 to 5 million disabled, 12 million left homeless, and more than 1 million orphaned. *Father God, reveal Your Son Jesus to the children that are left disabled, homeless and orphaned. May each one see Your marvellous loving-kindness, You who save by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You from those who rise up against them (Ps.17:7).*
3. **Child soldiers:** Some 300,000 children are serving as soldiers in current armed conflicts. They carry AK-47s and M-16s on the front lines of combat, serve as human mine detectors, participate in suicide missions, carry supplies, and act as spies, messengers or lookouts. Child soldiers are being used in more than thirty countries around the world. (Website: <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/childsoldiers>). *Father God, we cry out that You would raise up those who would execute true justice and show mercy and compassion, everyone to his brother (Zech.7:9). May the children be released to be children, given peace from war.*
4. **Children and war:** Millions of children are caught up in conflicts in which they are not merely bystanders, but targets. Some fall victim to a general onslaught against civilians; others die as part of a calculated genocide. Still other children suffer the effects of sexual violence or the multiple deprivations of armed conflict that expose them to hunger or disease. Just as shocking, thousands of young people are cynically exploited as combatants. (*The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), State of the World's Children, 1995, p. 2. Website: <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/childrenandwar>*). *Father God, we cry out to You for the plight of children. Show them salvation through Jesus Christ. Keep them as the apple of Your eye, hide them under the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who oppress them, from their deadly enemies who surround them (Ps.17:8-9).*
5. **Women and war:** During armed conflict, women and girls are continually threatened by rape, sexual exploitation and trafficking, sexual humiliation and mutilation. They are at heightened risk in all settings, whether at home, in flight or in camps for displaced people. (Website: <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/womenandwar>). *Father God, we cry out to You to turn the tide for women, especially those who suffer because of ongoing wars. We ask on their behalf, that none will oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let no one plan evil in his heart against them (Zech.7:10).*
6. **Refugees:** Today, no continent and barely any country in the world are untouched by the global refugee crisis. At the beginning of 2000 an estimated 14 million people were living as refugees, uprooted, forced from their homes and compelled to cross an international border because of war, civil conflict etc. An estimated 30 million are displaced, those who are forced to flee their homes, but who remain within their own country, and hence are not eligible for protection under the same international system as refugees. (Website:

<http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/refugees>). *Father God, we cry out to You on behalf of refugees and those who are displaced. Like in Bible times, will You provide bread and water for those who have fled from the distress of war (Isa.21:14-15). Help them to know You are a God Who saves, physically and spiritually.*

7. **Landmines:** It is estimated that there are between 60 and 70 million landmines in the ground in at least 70 countries. Landmines wound or kill approximately 26,000 civilians every year, including 8,000 to 10,000 children. Those victims that survive endure a lifetime of physical, psychological, and economic hardship. At least 75% of landmine victims are civilians. (Adopt-a-Minefield, website: www.landmines.org or <http://www.worldrevolution.org/guide/landmines>). *Father God, we pray for a solution to be found soon to solve this problem worldwide. Minister to the victims of landmines, heal the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds (Ps.147:3).*