

NON-VIOLENT CIVILIAN DEFENCE

When we see the damages due to the missiles in Ukraine, buildings torn down, civilians dead and population of women fleeing to the outside of the country and we hear about nuclear threats we are appalled with the idea of wars still possible today. We would like to preserve our security, our identity, our culture from any foreign invasion and we are looking for ways to avoid wars because they have become too costly due to weapons of mass destruction. The civilian population is the first victim of the war though the army pretend to defend.

Is there not another way to defend a country? It is possible for civilians to resist the occupying forces through acts of resistance, disobedience and non-collaboration in order to dissuade the enemy to stay longer in the country.

There are numerous examples in recent history of such civilian resistances sometimes symbolic but showing the opposition of the population to the foreign military occupation. Those actions have been spontaneous and not prepared in advance. If they could be prepared in time of peace they would be very dissuasive for any foreign regime hoping to gain support from the population and rule the country. Civilian resistance is more dissuasive than nuclear weapons and it does not threaten neighboring countries.

In Denmark people wore the yellow star in solidarity with the Jews, the Swedes wore a red cap in mockery of the occupation army, Norwegian teachers refused to spread Nazi propaganda. In Czechoslovakia citizens demonstrated against the presence of Soviet tanks and dissuaded them from staying in Prague. Everyone remembers Gandhi and the salt march and other demonstrations to make British troops leave the country.

Those symbolic gestures seem illusionary in front of the military forces but still they had some effects on the spirit of the occupying troops. Other non-violent means are more efficient as general strike, dead town when everyone stays home, boycott of goods sold to the enemy. It is always advisable to stay polite and respectful to the soldiers and avoid killings which will be paid cash as was noticed in occupied France during second world war. We must not mix armed resistance with non-violent resistance as the enemy can avenge itself on the civilian population

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