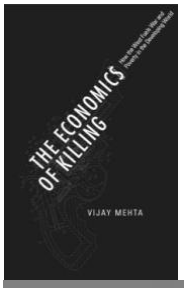

The Economics of Killing

Book Discussion Event hosted by Concord College and UNA Shropshire

VIJAY MEHTA [vijay@vmpeace.org]

Where Concord College
Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY5 7PF

When Thursday, 26th September
3:45pm Start

CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Reasons for Writing the Book
- Armed Conflict and Unethical World
- War is Wealth: Violence Costs World Economy 11% of Global GDP
- Military Industrial Complex and the Damage Done by it
  - Rise in Militarism, Oppression of Developing Countries, Increase in Violence and Terrorism, Economic Crisis, Environmental Damage, Surveillance Society, Moral Bankruptcy and giving power to NATO Killing Machine
- Elites Losing Control
- Our Vision – A World Without War
- Seville Statement on Violence
- The Pillars of Peace
- Alternatives to Military Spending
- Reforming the Financial and Banking Sector
- Sustainable Growth for All
- A New Campaign Idea for Peacekeeping – 4D for World Peace
  - Disarmament, Demilitarisation, Development and Democracy
- How the World Benefits?
- Nonviolent Ways to End Wars and Conflicts
- Plans for Demilitarisation and Cutting Military Spending
- Telling the Truth and Civil Society Actions
- Breaking the Patterns of War
- Conclusion

Introduction

Good afternoon and welcome to the book discussion. Thanks to David Oliver and Reece Edmends and the team of UNA Shropshire and Concord College for inviting me to today's book discussion. It is a privilege to address peace activists and change makers like yourselves who have dedicated their lives for achieving peace and justice. Your courageous actions are a driving force for all the changes taking place in our world.

Reasons for Writing the Book

The reasons for writing the book The Economics Of Killing are threefold:

Firstly, will there be an alternative social evolution of our species towards peace without domination that might someday eliminate war (which is politically organised violent crime perpetrated by warmongers and controlled by war making lobbies) and standing armies from our present military mindset. Will we be able to demolish the belief in popular entertainment and culture which takes for granted that violence and war are inevitable and part of human survival.

We are programmed and conditioned, like computers - we are Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists and so on. Do we realise, or see actually, actually, not theoretically, or ideologically, but actually see that we are programmed? If you are actually programmed do you realize the consequences of being programmed? One of the consequences has been hatred, or war, or separating yourself from others. If one realises that you are being programmed, pressurised, preached at, and if one really sees that, you abandon it, you don't want a formula for it. The moment you have a formula then you are caught in it. Then you become programmed again because you have your programme and the other person gives you another programme. So what is important is to realise the actuality of being programmed, not intellectually, with all your being. It will provide the way for compassion and love for one another and will be able to break the pattern of confrontation among human beings and free our minds from the conditional mental slavery.

Secondly, is there a way we can put people before profit and thus have growth and reduce inequality without exploitation which is the modus operandi of the capitalists who are the cause of the most of the problems including violence facing the world today. The most damaging is the actions by the elite who murder, torture and steal to satisfy their unlimited material desires. The greed of fulfilling corporate interest by capitalist expansion and financial globalisation has created extreme economic disparities for the majority and also for racial and ethnic groups and between countries on a global scale.

Thirdly, to tell the truth about militarism and have the courage and fearlessness to confront and launch actions to stop our world becoming dangerously militarised. The global military spending in 2012 stands at $1.75 trillion, which is about 2.5% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while 925 million go to bed hungry every night. The UN Secretary General Ban ki Moon observed, "The world is over armed and peace is underfunded." But this trend continues as the shameful and unethical majority of senior-politicians, military, weapon manufacturers, arm dealers, corporations and media support militarism knowing well that using force against force does not work.

The cold war has been over for more than two decades, yet the world continues on an insane path to increase its military spending year after year as if we are living in a time of unending conflict. More problematic and the biggest threat to humanity, is the fact that by over-arming ourselves in the West and Asia, we end up repeating the horrors and the bloodshed of 20th century in which 250 wars were fought and 160 million lives were lost. The sad thing is that the 21st century, up to now is going the same way. When will we learn that war and killing is not the way to keep one's country safe and secure.

Armed Conflict and Unethical World

Each year, armed conflict kills an estimated 200,000 people. The current proxy/civil war in Syria, for example, has resulted in over 120,000 deaths so far with no end in sight. Millions more suffer directly or indirectly from violence, which destroys livelihoods and displaces communities. The victims of war and rape are never calculated in the statistics of war victims.

Wars now kill more civilians then soldiers.

What is also not counted among the dead are mercenaries or military personnel hired through private contractors. Privatising the military has become a profitable business for some companies and it has become an industry itself. Halliburton (US Corporation) made $26 billion from Iraq war.

The damages of war go beyond what we once believed. Society has now reached an understanding about the colossal cost of moral, financial, communal and psychological toll wars can have on soldiers, their family, community and even country. It is a silent disaster waiting to explode with unknown consequences. Nations are at war, groups are at war, ideologies, whether it is the Russian, or the American, or any other category of ideologies, they are all at war with each other. And after living on this earth for so many centuries, why is it man cannot live peacefully on this marvellous earth? This question has been asked over and over again.

How can a society be called civilised if it has an international arms/killing industry which leads to wars, violence, barbarism, to counterproductive military budgets destroying social, economic, political and cultural fabric and values? One is baffled by the fact that here we are in the 21st Century and we allow vast amount of lies, the systematic brutality and widespread atrocities to occur.

War is Wealth: Violence Costs World Economy 11% of Global GDP

The cost of violence to the global economy in 2013 is $9.46 trillion which is equivalent to 11% of global GDP. The war in Afghanistan alone have already cost British taxpayers £37 billion - £2,000 for every UK household. Violence and violent crimes have no place in civilised society. To build peace we need to challenge structural violence of elitism, racism, sexism and nationalism. We should also eliminate gun, knife and machete crimes which are happening on a regular basis in our society. The recent murder in Woolwich, London is an example of that. 780 million guns are in circulation world wide and 5 to 6 million are manufactured on a yearly basis. For example, for a population of 300 million, US have 300 million guns. Mass Shootings in US occur every 4 to 6 weeks, the recent one being at Newtown, Connecticut where 20 schoolchildren were killed. Our main task is, in US and elsewhere to not only work for adopting policies to outlaw or control guns, but also for ending culture of violence. If the gun culture is to be reviewed, surely US drone assassination policy should likewise come under scrutiny as it will not only be the cause of future wars but also a continuing danger to peace.

In 2012, the US, history's biggest war making nation with weapons as its number one industrial export, is still the biggest in military spending with $711 billion but China and Russia are catching up fast. USA has only 4% of world's population, friendly neighbours such as Canada and Mexico, both democratic countries, yet spends more than the rest of the world on its military. However, it is worth mentioning that the Soviet Union, and now Russia was no less brutal in the height of cold war and even now.

The US obsession with wars and military spending has created a monster – the military-industrial complex – which acts against the interests of people everywhere, including US citizens themselves. My book, The Economics of Killing shows how this monster is not only the cause of extreme poverty in the developing world, but contributed to 911 and the market crash of 2008. How the world can move away from the war economy to a sustainable peace economy based on soft power and co-operation, so we can tackle the biggest threats facing humanity: extreme poverty, climate change and warmongering. We need to explore nonviolent ways for building peace and restoring human dignity, ethics and civilisation, reflected in a new initiative 4D for World Peace inspired by my book – 4D standing for Disarmament, Demilitarisation, Development and Democracy.

The 4D for World Peace Campaign offers a choice: continue on the same destructive path of war economy, greed and competition based on market forces and suffer even more – or build a safer and fairer way of life.

Military Industrial Complex and the Damage Done by it

The Military Industrial Complex (MIC) comprises of manufacturers of military technologies, dual use systems (from computer and software to fuel cells, lasers, robotic arms and optical equipment) and industries deemed to be

strategically important. It also includes the arms trade, illegal and legal. No arms companies sells weapons only to democracies to use for self-defence. The arms trade is not about defence, but about profiting from violence, poverty and human rights abuse.

MIC includes 25 million soldiers worldwide America's defence department is the world's biggest employer with 3.2 million people on its payroll. China, a big military spender employs 2.3 million in its armed forces. The MIC includes spying, surveillance and intelligence gathering centres and 1000 military bases spread around the world in 183 countries. United States is the only country in the world with thousand military bases with missile systems, nuclear systems, aimed at anybody inciting or if there is a problem. These are to protect rich people who are often referred to living in a nanny state and one large part of military system is making sure that the rich are protected.

Weapon manufacturers of small arms (8 million in circulation), cluster bombs, missiles, landmines, military tanks, ships, fighter jets, nuclear weapons (aprox. 22,000 in stock), chemical and biological weapons and newly introduced automated flying global killer drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) much more are part of the complex Military Apparatus.

Among the countries possessing nuclear weapons US is the only country in history to detonate an atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing over 140,000 people and bringing untold suffering and diseases owing to the radiation still lingering in the area.

The technological developments in the armaments field are becoming more and more sophisticated and murderous. Military is moving towards letting battle field 'killer robots' take their own decisions without human input. Shall we allow computers to decide who lives and who dies? Who is legally responsible for their actions?

The development of robotic warfare is the most dangerous military technology since the making of the Atom Bomb. If drone attacks were able to put an end to terrorism, we would have already got rid of terrorists in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq.

The use of drones means that you assassinate people without bringing any charges, without finding them guilty, in the process causing collateral damage – that is the killing of completely innocent people who might be in the neighbourhood.

Some examples of damage done by Military Industrial Complex(MIC) are:

a) Rise in militarism and conflicts leading to millions of deaths and untold suffering
b) Oppression of developing countries & forced transfer of resources from poor to rich
c) Violence, Terrorism and War on Terror based on fear
d) 2008 financial collapse and current economic crisis
e) Marginalisation of United Nations and Weakening of World Institutions
f) Start of a new cold war in Europe and Asia with frightening prospects
g) Negative effects of MIC on environment, global and human security including refugees, migrants etc – 45 million refugees worldwide at present
h) Control of information, secrecy and surveillance society
i) Moral bankruptcy of warmongers, biased reporting and false propaganda
j) Use of Science, latest technology and research in universities to develop satanic weapons
k) MIC Giving powers to military alliances like NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) to police the world and fight its wars

a) <u>Rise in militarism, and conflicts leading to millions of deaths and untold suffering</u>

The culture of militarism and reverence for military is prevalent in all societies throughout history from the Greek state of Sparta, to the Roman Empire to British Empire to the Soviet Union. Hollywood glamorises military. Judiciary and political leaders find it dangerous to oppose militarism. Even worse, if politicians and media do not support the war they are accused of not supporting the troops. Media rarely questions when it comes to warfare, and only takes a

narrow view of wars as justified or unjustified, legal or illegal, popular or unpopular. Practical alternatives to war are ignored. Politicians, television, Hollywood and schools give a message that it is the military which brings and keeps peace and security in the country. Most people also think security is provided by weapons. But such do not provide it. We need to find ways to get this simple message across and what we can achieve by diverting military expenditure to peace building projects. Only then we can have true human security devoid of fear.

Obsession with wars and military spending since WW2 from Vietnam, Korean wars, Cold War and the present Iraq and Afghanistan war has killed millions of people, brought untold violence and suffering to civilians and taken the world in the direction of anarchy and disorder.

Today, the US have no military enemies, still works to expand its empire, it seeks to encircle Russia, China and Iran and engages in interventions militarily in Africa. The disastrous unending malign stupidity of constant war ought to be evident but seems to make no impression.

It has created a war economy in which biggest industries heavily subsidised by the US tax payer have become arms manufacturers alongside civilian output, e.g. Boeing, General Electric, Honeywell, Lockheed Martin and UK's BAE (British Aerospace).

Across the world, MIC has handed power to that 1% of humanity whose material desires can never be sated, who act as economists say they should, who murder, torture and steal in exchange for billions in a Swiss bank account, for a fourth yacht or a tenth palace. However, the rest of the humanity, 99% pay for the war in bigger taxes, inflation and depreciation of their savings.

Between 1980 and 2008 the income of top 0.01% Americans grew by 403% while the income of the bottom 90% of the Americans grew by measly 1%.

b) <u>Oppression of developing countries and forced transfer of resources from poor to rich</u>

Violence and life expectancy are interlinked, so eradicating hunger and poverty throughout the world is an urgent priority. However, poor countries struggle primarily because of the reasons outside their control.

- Today's wars are about gaining control of resources and influence. Global militarism in cahoots with Western Governments is destroying the raw – material – rich but impoverished countries of the underdeveloped world.

- The corrupt practices by rich nations of extraction of resources like diamond, copper, coltan, oil etc. on unequal basis from poor countries leaves them impoverished without any wealth to kick start the reconstruction and development of their countries.

- Militarism is the key driver of economics of underdevelopment. Puppet governments in poorest countries are given arms by the rich countries to oppress and control its people in return for unfettered access to natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals, which keeps developing countries in never-ending poverty, widening the gap between the rich and the poor to an all time high.

- This extreme poverty is the cause of two billion people subsisting on less than $2 a day. Every 3.6 seconds, a person dies of starvation. Every 30 seconds, a child dies of malaria. Every minute a women dies in childbirth, a genocide of neglect and abandonment. One is reminded of the quotation of Former US President Dwight Eisenhower who said and I quote, *"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in a final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed"*

c) <u>Violence, Terrorism and War on Terror</u>

Power, elite, rulers control, dominate and legitimise violence by creating fear in the masses like the war on terror, which gives the military a reason for increasing its military spending. Arms industry lobbyists have been pushing hard to get police departments all across America to switch from a peacekeeping attitude to an aggressive, militarised SWAT ("Special Weapons And Tactics" for law enforcement units, which use military-style light weapons and specialised tactics in high-risk operations that fall outside of the capabilities of regular, uniformed police) mentality, with officers being armed, trained and psyched to treat common citizens as enemies.

Islamist terrorism is provoked by the West's wars, a reason which is rarely discussed. Al Qaeda is the manifestation of the anger and humiliation of people living under puppet regimes. Irony is MIC trained Al Qaeda operatives, Iraqi insurgents and Mujahidin's in unconventional warfare (guerrilla warfare) at Fort Bragg, the US Army John F Kennedy Warfare Centre, North Carolina, USA.

The 'war on terror' is in danger of spreading once again, with continuing threats of increased intervention in Syria - including the lifting of the EU arms embargo, Obama's moves to arm the opposition, Israeli military attacks & US military manoeuvres - plus encircling of Iran with military hardware.

d) 2008 financial collapse and current economic crisis

One of the main reasons of the financial crisis is the retrograde mode of capitalism which is accumulation of wealth and self glorification as it has lost its progressive mission of a compassionate and caring society and the planet. Unregulated capitalism is trapped by competitive world that only seeks growth, efficiency and profit maximisation. The International Financial Crisis not only questions the current model of economic growth, free trade agreement and financial deregulation, but it represents a systematic crisis of power, wealth, poverty and inequality leading to non-existent global governance. Capitalism's finance along with resource theft is becoming 21st Century modus operandi and proxy for large scale global conflict between world powers.

- The huge financial cost of militarism is the key factor in the crisis of capitalism. War is extremely expensive, not only in money but human capital and potential. The cost are simply too high to bear. Much bigger risk for peace and prosperity is its failure to restructure US economy and to reduce massively the economic weight of MIC.
- USA have financed wars by inflation, raising the debt limit and deficits spending severely draining the much needed resources which could have been deployed for social services and dealing with unemployment.
- According to a recent Harvard University Report, the cost to US taxpayer of the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan is estimated at $4 trillion - $6 trillion which US cannot afford and which plunged US and West into massive debt and financial crisis. Britain itself is experiencing the human and economic cost of Afghanistan war today.
- It was China that provided US with its seemingly endless quantities of cheap credit which left huge amount of liquidity in western markets resulting in low interest rates and unwise lending of loans by bankers leading to a market crash.
- Banks were responsible in a major way for the global financial crisis from which they profited. When they got in to trouble, the governments of US, UK and others, stepped in to bail them while knowing that this happened because of the unethical and greedy behaviour of the banks themselves.

e) Marginalisation of United Nations and Weakening of World **INSTITUTIONS**

More and more decisions are being taken outside UN by powerful countries. MIC Time and again created hysteria for countries, especially the US and its allies to go to war without proper UN mandate or authorisation. Like the US invasion of Iraq, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia which side lined the UN as a result. Similarly, World Bank and International Monetary Fund are controlled by powerful vested interests – a situation that compromises our security and undermines democracy.

f) Start of a new Cold War in Europe and Asia

Obama's administration is involved in strengthening US military build up, dramatically expand its air force and build alliances and partnerships in so called 'pivot to Asia' policy which is directed to contain rising power of China. The idea before the pivot is to encircle China with US and allied forces, just like the west did to the Soviet Union back in the cold war.

China's military build-up or to use an old slogan (Peaceful Rise) is a threat to neighbours (South Korea, Burma, Vietnam, Japan and even Australia who are spending more on arming themselves).

According to the report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) March, 2012, India now is the world's largest importer of arms (10%) along with 4 next largest countries all in Asia – South Korea (6% of total arms transfers), Pakistan (5%), China (5%) and Singapore (4%). It is the beginning of a new cold war in Asia which could result in horrific consequences.

g) Negative effects on environment, global and human security including refugees, migrants etc.

The environmental risks of nuclear contamination leaks are already well known like Chernobyl, 3 mile Island and recent Fukushima disaster. Radioactive water is building up in tanks at Fukushima at a rate of 400 tons a day and leaking from underground tunnels into the ocean. Recently it has been reported that Fukushima radiation level of water leaving the nuclear power plant and flowing into the pacific ocean have risen by 9,000%, 90,000 times more radioactive than safe drinking water.

What is not well known is the pollution created by US military which is the world's single largest user of petroleum. Each year it consumes more energy than Nigeria, one of the world's major oil producers. This profligate use of fuel is extremely harmful to the environment. If we carry on recklessly using and depleting the limited resources that the planet earth has, our survival into the next millennium will be in peril.

More depressing is the fact that the world's most powerful corporate and political leaders do not intend to stop climate change, they plan to control it and they are looking at how to secure control of resources and profit from climate change.

Conflicts in Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali have pushed the number of displaced persons to 45 million in more than 120 countries. They include refugees, migrants, Internally Displaces Persons (IDPs) Asylum seekers.

h) Control of information, secrecy and surveillance society

The global surveillance system to control information in an organised way is so much bigger than the big brother – spying on its citizens – secretly, comprehensively and virtually without accountability. It includes recent revelations about drones, special operations and kill lists. Tools of freedom are being turned into tools of oppression and agencies like NSA (National Security Agency) and GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters are eroding not only our privacy but also our hard earned freedom, civil liberties and violating Human Rights. These programmes are highly unconstitutional, illegal, intrusive and undemocratic.

Security assessments given by US and European intelligence gathering agencies always highlight new threats with the purpose of starting new conflicts and wars as it benefits them to keep business as usual thus keeping themselves in a job and also increasing the manufacture, sale and profits of weapon manufactures. Peace, dialogue and diplomacy solutions are routinely ignored with a result that it becomes easier for leaders to go to war than to explore peaceful solutions.

i) Moral bankruptcy of warmongers, biased reporting and false propaganda

The mantra of media reporting on wars is – if it bleeds, it leads, and hence conflicts are glorified. Wars are not heroic, they are bloody, terrifying and destructive. But most of the mainstream media is subservient to the establishment and

turns a blind eye to truth and justice. Hijacking and influencing of media continues in falsifying the facts and untruthful reporting of the facts. It is evident from the war on Iraq, when media in cahoots with leaders and governments of US and UK, propagated false stories about a humanitarian war and non-existent weapons of mass destruction. War reporting is supportive of war with little criticism of government and military. Some of the well known academics, writers and journalists never oppose the war as that would be a career killer.

When it comes to warfare the media confines its debate to whether the war is justified or unjustified, legal or illegal, popular or unpopular. Columnists oppose or support one or other conflict/invasion, without challenging the necessity of the war in general and many trillions spent every year on military hardware and personnel. The debate is narrowed and focused on weapons of mass destruction, the human rights record of a regime `scheduled for change', and the legal conditions necessary for invasion. The practical alternatives to war are ignored.

Leaders in Eastern and Southern Europe, (like Turkey, Russia etc.) where democratically elected populist (leaders) strongmen, increasingly dominate deploying the power of the state and intimidation to crush dissent, demonise opposition and tame the media. They are succeeding in domesticating and chilling the media. Journalists/reporters do not get jailed or shot like in Russia, but they lose their job if they criticise the ruling party in Eastern and Southern European Countries.

Writing about the financial meltdown, people responsible for the economic crisis on the Wall Street and other countries are not being fully exposed, investigated or punished leaving citizens to ponder at the role of media.

j) Use of Science, latest technology and research in universities to develop satanic weapons

Misuse of brain power i.e. the tendency of science/engineering/technology to be put at the service of the military system rather than human needs is not only deplorable but encourages militarism.

MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) is a good example how science and technology is used in universities for military development. For many years till the 1970's MIT was fully funded by Pentagon. Pentagon was and remain at large extent to be kind of funnel to which taxpayers pour funds deluded into thinking they are being defended and saved from wherever the threat maybe coming from and the money goes in to next phase of developing high tech weapons.

Universities and students are now becoming incubators for corporate employers and cheap laboratories for war making machine and private sector patents. The forces of technology, globalisation and wealth are exercising the authority in cooperation with governments nowadays.

In the name of global security and science, new technology is being used to develop and produce insane weapons and fight the asymmetric wars of the future. In universities, the scarce resources, are being manipulated to develop and produce new high tech deadly weapons for warfare. Worldwide, between 1.2 and 1.5 million people work as scientists and engineers in military research and development. Industry and public research budgets add up to 100-120 billion dollars per year. Of this, some 25 billion dollars are spent on research in universities. Regarding UK universities, the most recent assessment was published in August 2012, using freedom of information requests, this study found that 17 of the UK's most prestigious universities including Imperial college London, Cambridge and Oxford received a total of £83 million over the 3 years up to until 2011 for military research, thus increasing the military influence in schools and universities.

The research includes working on viruses and bacteria, flying drones, vaccines, food, sound and electromagnetic technology, anything with a camera, x-rays and radiation, forays into space, psychological advances, mosquitoes, vehicles of any sort including unmanned drones of every size, time travel and remote viewing, microchips and computers, robots, and even the environment and weather. We face a future of extreme unpredictability and chaos if this research is allowed to continue.

One of the UK's biggest arms manufacturers British Aerospace (BAE), is involved with "Big Bang" science and engineering fair for young people. Since its launch in 2009, it has become the largest event of its kind in the UK, with

over 50,000 visitors last year. The corporate influence starts with sponsorship of the fair. Top of the pile are the 'lead sponsors' which each pay £100,000 for the privilege, which includes BAE Systems.

BAE Systems is the UK's largest employer of engineers – but it is also the world's third largest arms company, building warships, fighter aircraft, missile systems and many other military technologies. Among the most controversial of BAE's activities is its involvement with Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system and the proposed replacement. It has also been widely criticised for selling military technology to regimes with poor human rights records.

Our young scientists and engineers – and indeed our society as a whole – deserve a better vision for the role of science and technology. Science and technology have an enormous potential for positive use, but if misused they can also cause immense damage by fuelling war and environmental destruction, and exacerbating social injustice.

The role of Universities is to promote wisdom and not just acquire knowledge – wisdom being the capacity to realise what is of value in life, to oneself and others, by intellectual and educational means, which enables us to achieve what is of value, not what we know. What we lack is a worldwide system of universities rationally devoted to helping us learn how to solve our problems of living, above all our global problems, increasingly in co-operation with each other.

All our actions should be guided by strict ethical conduct which does not encourage violence, cruelty or aggression, or accepting a job which relates to militarism, i.e. one should not engage in activities that are harmful to other beings or environment like dealing in weapons or making them.

k) <u>MIC Giving powers to military alliance NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) to police the world and fight its wars</u>

NATO is a tool following the agenda of US and its allies of global military dominance. And it is not bringing peace and security, but dangerous instability in the world. The suffering and the dangers NATO has brought with its intervention in wars, is evident in different countries including Afghanistan, Libya and others. Its dangers are even greater as NATO continues to assert its need for nuclear weapons for defence and still holds a policy of first use of nuclear weapons ignoring the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which states that nuclear weapon states should disarm in good faith. NATO is building its missile defence programs in European bases, aimed at Russia. Outside Europe, NATO is expanding its influence from the Mediterranean to the Pacific with enormous cost. NATO is the military wing of a political and economic free market globalisation agenda which by force is harming the economies of the developing world.

Elites Losing Control

The inevitable demise of our current neo-feudal system was summed up by George Orwell when he said, "For if leisure and security were enjoyed by all alike, the great mass of human beings who are normally stupefied by poverty would become literate and would learn to think for themselves; and when once they had done this, they would sooner or later realize that the privileged minority had no function, and they would sweep it away. In the long run, a hierarchical society was only possible on a basis of poverty and ignorance."

We may be witnessing the tipping point in history when the liars and deceivers could not hold to power anymore as concerned citizens are using critical thinking to analyze things for themselves and find the truth. There are hopeful signs as elites rule over humanity is rapidly diminishing, and thus a window of opportunity is wide open for changing the status quo. Over the last decade the global elite have been on a mad rush to consolidate power over the world.

Yet it's doomed to fail because humans are meant to be guided by their own free will, not controlled like livestock. The more the elite try to control humanity, the more general decline and disorder occurs.

Although the elite still enjoy a huge wealth advantage over the masses, they are now resigned to behaving like tyrants to maintain control. This, in turn, exposes their dark side which has been cleverly concealed for ages. Not anymore as people are freeing their minds from conditioning and entrenched power sensors.

Here are signs below that the elite are losing control over the people:

- Official lies are no longer effective.
- No confidence in politics, which is all time low around the world and the general apathy citizens have towards political parties .
- No confidence in media, that is the reason why the establishment media failed to sell the lies about the alleged Syria chemical attack, as they have lied so many times before, after 12 years in Afghanistan and 10 years in Iraq. The myth of war and imperial adventures have been exposed and war is becoming increasingly unpopular.
- Bankers are more and more rejected: Hungary recently became the first country to follow Iceland's lead by shedding international bankers and is considering pursuing prosecution of past prime ministers who enslaved the people with debt.
- Mutiny among soldiers: Finally. Soldiers, who are outlawed from making political statements, are steadily speaking out against US military adventurism. As Einstein famously said "The pioneers of a warless world are the young men (and women) who refuse military service."
- Militarised police state: One of the darkest signs that the elite are losing their grip on power is the construction of the militarised police state specifically trained to combat domestic civil unrest.
- Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) food is being rejected everywhere: GMO leaders like Monsanto are being exposed for telling continuous lies to public and hiding the truth. The world's leading producer of GMOs is no less harmful than the PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyls, cancerous effects) – and Agent Orange, widely used by US during Vietnam War.

People are waking up in droves, at least as fast as the elite can build their full-spectrum prison matrix. To quote Victor Hugo, "No army can stop an idea whose time has come."

Our Vision – A World Without War

Our vision is to achieve a peaceful, safer, violence free, ethical, compassionate, and non-killing world. As human beings, single or community or in a family, how can we live peacefully with each other? This can be realised by uprooting wars and inequality from our society through harnessing spiritual nonviolent soft power approach – dialogue, diplomacy, conflict resolution, education for culture of peace and a foreign policy which encourages peaceful negotiations for a better world.

We need a holistic approach to peace, that includes not only absence of armed conflicts, right to disarmament, etc., but also absence of structural violence generated by socio-economic inequalities; and absence of cultural violence produced by gender violence, family-related violence, mobbing or bullying.

Our aim is that we live in a peaceful society in which violence and wars should be a rare occurrence and not the norm. By harnessing spiritual nonviolent approach, we can build a mutually reinforcing structure of political and economic cultural systems so that reversal to violence is unlikely. So there can be only peace when mankind, when you and I, have no conflict in ourselves. So if you kill another and if you are in conflict with another, you are destroying yourself. You can observe very carefully without distortion, it is all us and not you and me.

In fact it has been established in various studies that human beings are not inherently warlike creatures. Hunter-gatherer life led by the vast majority of our ancestors might have been entirely free from organised conflict, at least before the advent of agriculture and animal husbandry. So war is a recent phenomenon which may have started around 10,000 years ago when hunter-gatherer life changed to agricultural mode and animal husbandry.

Seville Statement on Violence

The belief that our ancestors have been violence free has been endorsed by scientists gathered at Seville in a conference sponsored by UNESCO. They produced a document which came to be known as Seville Statement on Violence. The statement proclaims:

It is scientifically incorrect to say:

1. That we have inherited a tendency to make war from our animal ancestors.
2. That war or any other violent behaviour is genetically programmed in our human nature.
3. That in the course of human evolution there has been a selection for aggressive behaviour more than for other kinds of behaviour.
4. That humans have a “violent brain.”
5. That war is caused by “instinct” or any other single motivation.

The statement concluded that biology does not condemn humanity to war, humanity can be freed from biological construct that violence is genetically built up in the framework of humans.

One can change the reality by finding common ground between all sides that are in conflict with another, digress from prejudices and stereotypes, staying away from propaganda that every side seeks to highlight their political, ideological, and historical differences and work towards building constructive alternatives for a sustainable and peaceful future.

Pillars of Peace

The Pillars of Peace Report by Global Peace Index provides a new conceptual framework for understanding and describing the factors that are associated with peaceful societies. The research is based on an analysis of over 4,000 data sets, surveys and indices; it is the first empirical framework that aims to measure positive peace.

The Pillars of Peace describe the attitudes, institutions and structures that are associated with peaceful societies.

The research defines 8 key Pillars that underpin peace; these Pillars are both interdependent and mutually reinforcing, meaning that the relative strength of any one Pillar has the potential to either positively or negatively influence peace.

These Pillars are: a well functioning government, a sound business environment, an equitable distribution of resources, an acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbours, free flow of information, a high level of human capital, and low levels of corruption.

Peace is not just the absence of violence, it is much more. Peace is best understood through the concepts of "positive peace" and "negative peace". Negative peace is the absence of violence or the fear of violence and positive peace is the attitudes, institutions and structures, that when strengthened, lead to peaceful societies.

Alternatives to Military Spending

The alternatives are military reduction, cutback on global arms trade, reforms of the monetary system to a wisdom based, social caring economy and addressing root causes of violence, wars, terrorism and creating incentives for peace economy.

US and Western countries need urgently to restructure their economies away from its dependence on military sector. How can it be done?

Shift workers from war industry into 'green collar' jobs – renewable, waste management, pollution control, carbon capture. To avert an ecological disaster, we should change our current lifestyle to restrain consumption and improve our relationship with other living beings, be they human or non human for a sustainable and equitable social and economic development and also for conservation of the environment.

Share green technology innovation by exporting it to developing countries so they escape smoke-stack stage of development.

Reform the arms, financial and drug industries, who work on giving bribes to win contracts, leading to economic instability. Close down corruption loopholes and fraud which has cost the UK economy $73 billion in 2011 – most notably the $43 billion BAE Al-Yamama arms deal to Saudi Arabia.

Reforming the Financial and Banking Sector

International Financial Community need to put its own house in order; to implement a swift reduction in corruption, illicit financial flows, money laundering, tax evasion and hidden ownership of assets.

According to tax justice network who have published a study "The price of offshore revisited" that reveals that global super rich has between $20- 32 trillion hidden in secret tax heavens some equivalent to the size of United States and Japanese economy combined. According to the study if this sum was taxed at 30% would have generated income tax revenues of between $190-280bn, roughly twice the amount Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries spend on all overseas development assistance around the world.

Power elite including bankers and corporations should be made to pay their due and fair share of taxes and, need to be regulated for creating a social caring, wisdom based enlightened economy where 99% of the people should be the first priority and not just the 1% elite. Any improvement in humankind can only come if the poor felt that they can have a share in the world's resources and also have a stake in the government. That will be a way forward for a transparent, accountable and representative democracy which can work for the benefit of all and also bring peace on our fragile planet earth, building a compassionate way of living.

The period 1940-1980 was the most democratic & egalitarian era in modern western history. Thanks to progressive taxes, the share of national income in the UK held by the top 1% dropped from 17% on the eve of the second world war to 6% pre-Margaret Thatcher. This was an era of more fairness and almost unprecedented prosperity – for the many. So there is a correlation between high tax levels and better social outcomes. We need to make progress in three areas:

a) trade which serves the interest of developing countries by scaling down the common agricultural policy, subsidies to US cotton farmers, and to weapon manufacturers.

b) greater corporate transparency

c) action against tax havens.

Activists and independent journalists need to challenge the narrative spun by the crony media. For too long state-champion multinationals have spoken through the media to blame Africans, Arabs and Asians for corruption, when it is these state-backed corporations that hire the local agents, pay the bribes, set up the offshore accounts, hide the fugitive capital, rig the internal investigations and sell the weapons that protect corrupt regimes from their own people. The real source of corruption lies not in the poor world but in the European and American military-industrial complexes, which wilfully subverts the industrial development of poor nations in order to extract cheap commodities and to prevent their industrialisation.

Sustainable Growth for All

Contain the endless expansion of production in pursuit of maximum private profit which is the basis of global capitalist economy. This system is environmentally unsustainable, and has also resulted in increasing inequality, enduring poverty, ruinous misallocation of resources and a series of devastating financial crisis. It is one of the main root causes of conflict/wars and underdevelopment.

Rich countries should stop stealing and extorting materials from developing countries under the guise of free trade and globalisation. Developing countries should adopt Chinese model which lifted 600 million people out of poverty, despite corruption which has been carried out by following a policy of protecting growth of state champions.

Reform UN to play better leadership role in new global economy, international peace and security, protection of human rights and tackling climate change crisis. To take steps for a more democratic, accountable and transparent United Nations, with fair representation of members.

These are some of the ways we can change the system:

A New Campaign Idea for Peacekeeping – 4D for World Peace

To highlight, promote and adopt the soft power approach for the well being of humanity, we need to reinforce the fact that there should not be any place for violence in our society. In 2012 I started a campaign, 4D for Wold Peace inspired by my book the Economics of Killing. It is a campaign for civil society groups to work not only to change government policies, but also economic incentives and cultural understandings.

The 4D's are DISARMAMENT, DEMILITARISATION, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY

This campaign aims to create global frameworks for taking actions on interconnecting global issues of disarming and demilitarising the world and the savings thus accrued to be deployed for development and democracy. World Peace and building a compassionate society is not a utopian dream. It can be realised by overcoming forces of destruction, violence, & war mongering. A film Change the World and a booklet 4D for World Peace is produced for promoting the campaign.

The work of reversing society's ills and standing up to injustice is not easy, and we need to be willing to invest the time and resources necessary to prepare ourselves just as much as a military prepares its front-line soldiers. Social change and the process of social transformation is not something that can be done overnight. One needs to frame issues which can resonate with the masses, building democratic decision making structures within the movement as well as in the larger world one that is disciplined in the face of repression. Those characteristics come with nonviolent training which can bring change.

The mission of the campaign is to take the Quantum Leap Faster, Higher, and Further to spread the message of 4D which is resolution of conflicts in a peaceful way. The campaign has many supporters the world over.

"I support this important campaign of 4D for World Peace necessary steps to peace."

- *Mairhead Maguire, Noble Peace Laureate, Northern Ireland.*

"I support Uniting for Peace for a safer world and endorse 4D for World Peace. 4D, Count me in…!" – Deepak Chopra, Best Selling Author

"Peace is not only the absence of war, it means calm and it means conditions where human beings can maintain their human integrity" – Dr. Shirin Ebadi Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Iran, says about 4D for World Peace campaign

How the World Benefits?

It will benefit by bringing fundamental shift in our ethics and values to eradicate wars, violence and establish peace to reduce debt and financial crisis in which US and most of European countries are engulfed. According to Global Peace Index 2011, if the countries cut back their violence at the rate of 25% for example, it could save global economy $3 trillion. Eradicating violence altogether, can create a stimulus of $9 trillion, enough to tackle financial, climate change crisis and wipe out hunger and extreme poverty including covering cost of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It could also provide education, stimulate culture and improve social justice. The total impact of violence in 2012 was $185 billion to UK economy.

Military spending and its reduction should be a tool to fund development. It's time for a mentality change within and among states towards new budget priorities, the demilitarisation of societies and the financial support for development efforts deriving from these sources. This can be done by uprooting the two most hideous features of the contemporary world – inequality and wars.

As I have said in my book, military spending is anti development. The developing world does not need hand-outs from industrialised nations. All it needs is a level playing field and leaders who place their country's interest over personal wealth. A Chinese proverb states "Give a man a fish and you feed him for one meal, teach him to fish and he is set for life." This philosophy should be applied to International Trade, i.e. to achieve China like levels of human development and economic prosperity.

Nonviolent Ways to End Wars and Conflicts

There are examples of people and countries working in creative ways to end violence. In 1948, Costa Rica abolished its army and since has been able to invest resources in public interest – education, healthcare, development or quite simply it invested in its people. No one has attacked Costa Rica because they have no army. The campaign against landmines which resulted in the Mine Ban Treaty – signed by 159 countries – began with the collection of data by hospital staff treating the victims of landmines.

Nonviolent peaceful means have achieved miracles. Some examples are Indian Independence Movement, the Civil Rights Movement in the US, Good Friday Agreement, Northern Ireland Peace Process, the recent Orange revolution in Ukraine, Velvet revolution in Czech Republic, Rose revolution in Georgia in Europe, and the reunification of Germany are a few examples where non violent revolutions have taken place instead of bloodshed.

Europe, with all its problems, is an example of one of the most peaceful region in the world. Europe during the first half of the 20th Century, not once (WWI) but twice (WWII) wrecked itself. Now after the creation of European Union and enhancement of trade, war between UK and France or France and Germany is inconceivable.

Gandhi wrote in Hind Swaraj, 1909, "Hundreds of nations live in peace. History does not and cannot take a note of this fact." We do not hear about peaceful living because peace is normal condition of life. So history does not take a note of ordinary and normal.

We firmly need to demolish the belief in popular entertainment and culture which takes for granted that violence and war are inevitable and part of human survival. Our environment in the school, playground, home and our media focus more on violence rather than peace. The boys are given guns and trucks to play and we see violence in everyday games. How do we expect peace in our children?

Plans for Demilitarisation and Cutting Military Spending

Any demilitarisation plan should begin with US by slashing its cold war level of military spending being the biggest player in arms race. As a start, US could easily cut 15% from the defence budget, saving US$1 trillion, by laying off the 92,000 new defence personnel hired over the previous 10 years and reducing the US presence in Asia and Europe, scaling back or terminating wasteful projects such as the F-35 fighter ($1.51 trillion over its lifecycle $680 million apiece) and the Virginia class submarine ($2.4 billion per unit), and shrinking the bureaucracy at the Pentagon that consumes 40% of its budget.

Withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan; the cost of which is already estimated at 4 to 6 trillion US dollars, hundreds of thousands of lives, could be a first step. Refraining from propping up 'venal' governments in chaotic states and imposing a spending freeze on the Pentagon until it renders itself auditable and amenable to financial oversight could be the next step. Although some of these factors are unique to the US, these could be adopted by other industrial nations with large military establishments.

In the UK we can save huge amount of money by scaling down on Trident nuclear submarine replacement, which will cost UK economy over $130 billion over its 30 year lifecycle. However, it is worth noting, nuclear disarmament is urgent and critical to global peace and security.

British involvement in wars is staggering. Both under Conservative and Labour governments, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Sierra Leone, Bosnian war etc. It is time we stop beating the war drums and start working for peace.

Telling the Truth and Civil Society Actions

We can all be true citizens of a democracy by being vigilant and serve as a conscience to uphold the principle of peace and justice. To have the courage and readiness to challenge the propaganda of disinformation, glorification of war, power, military alliances, grand military projects and replace them by spending on education, jobs, healthcare, security, safer environment etc.

The young are taking to the streets and following practical steps for social change – things that we can all do to oppose violence, wars, militarisms and promote a more peaceful, ethical and compassionate world:

- Study the problem, write to your MP, key decision makers and government ministers, world leaders and the editors of newspapers. Challenge elected officials who are making the daily decisions to fund wars. Build a relationship with your local and national elected officials by writing letters, making phone calls, and setting up lobby visits to the parliament
- Educate the public, hold meetings and run workshops like the one today. Contact your local peace, development, human rights, environmental, interfaith group to discuss the issue and take action. Governments are afraid of informed public demanding changes.
- Be your own media – call a radio talk or participate in a TV show or create a peace and nonviolent media centre. Join groups like Uniting for Peace, CND, CAAT, UNA and develop activism and actions for culture of peace
- Start 4D for World Peace Campaign, show the film, discuss the issues and take action for a more peaceful world.
- History shows that all reforms and changes in the world begins with one person. "Who should start" to bring to the world? The "individual person"... not religious leaders, not the United Nations, but each of us," Dalai Lama said. "Then, from one person to 10 persons, 100 persons, 1,000 persons. So I think any sort of movement among humanity ... must start from the individual."
- Speak truth to the power as there is nothing more dangerous living in a society whose citizens are afraid to speak the truth. We need more courageous people risking their life like Julian Assange, Bradley Manning, Edward Snowden who exposed the torture, illegal detentions and crimes perpetrated by US in Iraq, Afghanistan etc. The leaked information shows how corrupt is the military system which dominates economy and society. And how the secret state wages perpetual war behind our back.

  A harassment of whistle blowers for telling the truth is also an attack on democracy. Hail the whistle blowers who play a vital role to keep power in check and that shows the power of an individual to make a difference.
- Work for transforming your city/university to a peace city or university of peace.
- Start a global campaign against use of drones which is killing people indiscriminately, and are illegal, unethical and making war less personal.

It is not only the big efforts for peace, such as international treaties and world conferences but also the peace we strive in our daily activities which are important. I believe by being better citizens we can become better people and help to make a better world.

Our hope for abolition of war and demilitarisation lies with us – Citizen Power. We can mobilise strong grassroots movements, to change public opinion with the help of internet and social media. Change comes through from bottom up, grassroots social movements. It is easier to make connections between people, teams and ideas to make a difference and change the world. When enough people are convinced that war is not necessary then elected leaders and decision makers will be forced to change policies from war mongering to peaceful resolution of conflicts.

We need to begin education from the time children enter school about conflict resolution and the actions we all need to take to create a global culture of peace. Once David Frost challenged John Lennon in an interview, "When Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia, if people had said 'peace and love' to him, it wouldn't have done much good." Lennon said, "No, but what if they had been saying it to him from the moment he was born? That was wonderful." Gandhi also said that if we want peace in the world, we have to start with children.

As I have said in my book The Economics of Killing, diffusion of knowledge devolves power from the elite to the masses, the grip of the MIC will finally end: not with a bang but in a peaceful murmur of prosperity.

My book demonstrates that in 4D for World Peace, there is an alternative model to the deadly cycle of military and economic disaster. It is the vital necessity for disarmament on a world scale and a strict regulation of arms trading to create a peace dividend within an international legal framework. It will pave the way by which the military industrial model could be replaced by adopting equitable policies for disarmament, demilitarisation and working for sustainable development thus ending the cycle of violence and poverty.

Breaking the Patterns of War

UNESCO Declaration of Culture of Peace say, "Since wars began in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defences of peace must be constructed." So the bottom-line is, we have to change the mindset and attitudes of people with deliberate efforts for breaking the patterns and conditioning of the mind hardwired for war for thousands of years.

We are living in amazing times when it is becoming easier to build new pathways. It is very similar to pioneers and innovators of the 19th Century. We can harness the advantage of technology, internet and social media to go global with our message in a short span of time.

So can we live on this earth with great understanding of mankind, which is to understand yourself so profoundly, not according to some psychologist, analyst but as simple laymen we can observe our own idiosyncrasies, tendencies. Our brain has been conditioned to war, to hate, to conflict. It is conditioned through this long period of evolution, whether that brain with its cells, which contain all the memories, whether that brain can free itself from its own conditioning. If you have been going north all the days of your life, as humanity has been going in a particular direction, which is conflict, and somebody comes along and says, "That leads nowhere". He is serious, and perhaps you are serious. Then he says, "Go south, go east, any other direction but that". And when you actually move away from that direction there is a mutation in the very brain cells themselves because you have broken the pattern. And that pattern must be broken now, not forty or a hundred years later. This can be done if we liberate our minds and shed all shackles that rationalise using culture, religion and societal norms to justify our lack of actions. Once we transcend conditioned consciousness then we will have the vitality, the energy, to transform ourselves as civilised human beings, not killing each other.

Right now we can change both psychologically and outwardly. First the psychological revolution, not evolution, but revolution, change completely. That is the real action of humankind, not trying to fiddle around on the periphery for putting an end to wars.

For lasting peace, a country needs to go on a path of development, protection of human rights, and poverty reduction for all of its population to grow and live in harmony. For upholding peace citizens should work how trade in arms, drugs, trafficking of women, robotic warfare (drones) can be eliminated, based on the principle of our common

humanity. We also need to free ourselves of capitalism i.e. associated with cronyism, repressive force and elite politics for a more equal society.

The future of peace lies in finding the root causes of conflicts and building an ethical bases for society in which equal opportunities are available for all citizens, especially the bottom billion entrenched in poverty for whom peace is a dream. Culture of selfishness and individualism have to be abandoned for fighting hunger and poverty, otherwise lasting peace will be far from reality if we exclude a large part of humanity from prosperity.

For achieving a peaceful world, there is a desperate need to change global spending priorities and calculating the true costs of war and conflicts. The global community spends more than $1.75 trillion per year on military and weapon programmes against $129 billion (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development 2010 report) on global development, less than $10 billion on UN Peacekeeping operations, and less than $4 billion (African Development Report 2008/2009) on peace building and conflict resolution activities. This mismatch of funding need to be challenged and changed for building sustainable peaceful societies with money being spent on health, education and decent living for all.

"Remember, peace is our birth right, a Human Right and we should claim it"

The message is simple: Peace is an investment in our humanity's progress for a better future. The way to peace is to overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth and hatred with love. The bottom line is we should have increasing desire to be of service to others with greater love and compassion for building societies and cultures on the basis of peace and nonviolence.

Grassroots activists and change-makers, let me share a pragmatic vision with you. Let us create a public outcry and demand for abolition of war and military spending for eradicating violence and building a peaceful world. Let us campaign towards replacing 25 million soldiers worldwide with 25 million peace-workers, the world will be a different place. It will be a bliss to be living on the cusp of a new dawn when mankind would have taken a full turn transforming our world towards a better future, ensuring the continuation and progress of our sacred civilisation and humanity leading to global peace.

Conclusion

We are in the beginning of the 21st Century. People are throwing off their mental shackles and realising their potential. A new age of enlightenment has begun in which we have already seen worldwide rise of nonviolent activities and achievements for seeking alternatives to war and violence. There has been key moments in history where ordinary people have risen up and struggled against governments, corporations and even empires. Let me conclude by saying that slavery, colonialism, apartheid and gender discrimination in voting, all been abolished. Let's work for the day when people seeking peace, like wonderful people in this room, will be in majority, barriers to peace will be lowered and future will be safe, secure and war will be abolished. It is already happening as more and more people refuse to be frightened, faint hearted and passive spectators who refuse to accept the present system based on greed, speculation and imposition. I believe all global citizens have the passion, talent, determination and power to be agents of change. After Arab Spring, Europe's Indignados, Occupy movement and now the Turkish and Brazilian Spring where millions of people are demanding a better future, the youth and citizens of today have what it takes to change the world as world is ready to be moved. Now is **your** time and **your** moment. Let's live our pragmatic vision and change the world together.

Let me end this talk by a poignant quote from a Hiroshima Survivor, Hisako Kimura who was only aged 8 in 1945 when the bombing of Hiroshima took place.

"I must convey to the youth the sanctity of peace, the terror of war, the tremendous power of the atomic bombing. As long as I have breath and strength, I must tell the terrible story to help bring about the abolition of nuclear weapons."

– Thanks for listening

The materials and excerpts have been taken from the book The Economics of Killing.
This speech can be downloaded from www.unitingforpeace.com

Please watch 4D for World Peace film:

"Change the World" – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9GEK4FFrXk

Bio – **Vijay Mehta** is a renowned author, international speaker and global activist for peace, development and human rights. He is the chair of Uniting for Peace (www.unitingforpeace.org) and Founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity (www.fortuneforum.org).

Working since 1979, Uniting for Peace is a non-profit organisation devoted to creating and promoting a global culture of peace, nonviolence and poverty reduction. The flagship campaign of Uniting for Peace is called 4D for World Peace. It is a campaign to create global frameworks for taking actions on interconnecting global issues of disarming and demilitarising the world and the savings thus achieved to be deployed for development and democracy.

The charity Fortune Forum whose founder is Renu Mehta, daughter of Vijay Mehta, held summits (2005 and 2006) where Former US President Clinton, Former US Vice President Al Gore and Actor Michael Douglas were keynote speakers. The summits raised over a million pounds for charity and attracted a worldwide audience of 1.3 billion people (one fifth of humanity) including print and media coverage.

Vijay Mehta's books include The Economics of Killing (2012), The Fortune Forum Code: For a Sustainable Future (2006), Arms No More (2005) and The United Nations and its Future in the 21st Century (2005).

He has appeared in various TV programmes including BBC World, Press TV, Ajtak-24 hour Indian news channel, and Think Peace documentary, Canada, among others. The Sunday Times, Independent, Observer and Guardian newspapers, among other journals have written about him. His life is devoted to the service of peace, humanity and our planet.

Vijay Mehta is the recipient of the Global Indian Karmaveer (Action hero) Puraskaar (Award) by iCONGO (International Confederation of NGO's). He is now a noble-laureate 2012 – 2013 of the iCONGO team of advisors and mentors (www.icongo.in). It is an award for outstanding luminaries working for peace and social justice.

He has been appointed a fellow of the New Westminster College, Province of British Columbia, Canada in 2013.

Vijay Mehta's new book **"The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels Wars and Poverty in the Developing World"** is published by Pluto Press (UK) / Palgrave Macmillan (USA) / Amazon (Worldwide). For reviews and endorsements of the book, please visit: www.theeconomicsofkilling.org

"Vijay….a long standing activist for peace, development, human rights and environment"
The Sunday Times Magazine, London 1st February, 2009

"Vijay Mehta lends intellectual credibility to the project and wrote 'The Fortune Forum Code for a Sustainable Future', a sort of manifesto that will underpin the group's future activities."
The Independent, London 26 September 2006