

WITNESS FOR PEACE--9/24/2001

I would propose an international day of "Witness For Peace" on which, together, citizens of all nations and adherents of all faiths would gather to march and testify to their opposition to war. Some such petition as the following should be available for signatures.

"Neither humanity nor the environment can any longer endure the horrors of modern warfare. Although self-defense is essential, practicing criminally inhumane warfare is immoral. The glory that accrued to victory in the days of hand-to-hand combat goes unearned by suicidal terrorists as well as by button-pushers dealing mass death from a safe distance. Modern technological warfare only produces more victims. All religious leaders and clerics must renounce those who use religious belief as a pretext to kill others. All nations must reduce military activity to the guarding of their borders and the defense of their citizens. No longer do wars provide victors and vanquished, only victims inhabiting a barren landscape. For our own survival and that of the earth which supports us, we must find other ways to settle our differences."

The evolution of civilization has been accompanied with increasing control of violence coupled with a general increase in the efficiency of the technology to administer it. The efficiency in the application of violence threatens to overtake our capacity to control it.