

AVAAZ

APRIL 2020

GLOBAL  
CEASEFIRE  
NOW

Personal stories of war and peace from Avaaz members in 20 countries calling for an immediate global ceasefire



**More than  
TWO million  
people across the  
planet support  
the UN Secretary  
General's call  
for an immediate  
global ceasefire  
and call on the  
Security Council  
to take action.**

**Here are some of  
their stories for  
peace.**

**"Never before in the history of human-kind have we all agreed to stop war for even a short amount of time."**

- Rebecca

**"The fight against this pandemic is one that should unite us rather than divide us."**

- Falastine

**"...If there is one thing we can learn from this crisis, it is the imperative to give and preserve life, not to take it..."**

- Hamutal

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# Sartiah

## LIBYA



Peace, mercy and blessings of God.

I am Sartiah, from Libya. I live in Tripoli, but come from the city of Tawergha.

Since 2011 our country has not enjoyed peace.

As for my family, they are suffering from displacement pain. Since 2011, we expected that there would be no displacement from shanty houses that are not suitable for human beings to live in. As a result of armed conflicts, we do not enjoy peace and security, every day the odds fall on us.

**We have fallen between two fires, a corona fire, and a fire of shells, and we have not seen any global movement forcing the conflicting parties to stop the war that takes the lives of young people and children.**

**It is time for the United Nations to assume its responsibility to stop the war, especially at the present time.**

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

السلام عليكم ورحمه الله وبركاته  
سرتية  
من ليبيا

السكن طرابلس - من تاورغاء

منذ 2011 لم تنعم بلادنا بالسلام وبالنسبة لاهلي هم يعانون الم النزوح منذ 2011 كنا نتوقع بانه لن يكون هناك نزوح من تلك الصفائح التي لا ترتقي أن يعيش فيها بشر وونتيجة للصراعات المسلحة لم ننعم بالسلام والامن كل يوم القذائف تتساقط علينا اصبحنا بين نارين نار كورونا ونار القذائف ولم نرى اي تحرك عالمي يجبر الاطراف المتصارعة على ايقاف الحرب التي حصدت أرواح الشباب والاطفال . حان الوقت لكي تتحمل الامم المتحدة مسؤوليتها لإيقاف الحرب ولا سيما في الوقت الراهن

# Khalil

## SYRIA



My family and country have been torn by fierce war for nine years. Every uncle, aunt, every brother and sister are scattered all over the world, while I live in the Netherlands.

I lost everything I loved, my school, my family, my work, my friends and my country. Killings, destruction, ruins are the indelible memories.

I hope that peace will prevail in the countries of the world and that no family will be separated.

**I hope they stop killing in the name of religions, ethnicities and countries. The policies of some countries ravage our countries. Please stop.**

I wish healing and peace for my dear grandmother, who is alone amongst the bombs.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

عائلتي وبلدي مزقتها حرب ضارية على مدار تسع سنوات كل عم وعمّة وخال وخالة في بلد ما باصقاع الارض، كل أخ وأخت في بلد وانا اعيش في هولندا. فقدت كل ما أحب مدرستي عائلتي وعملي واصدقائي وبلدي. قتل دمار خراب ذكريات لاتمحي من ذاكرتي اتمنى ان يعمى السلام بلاد العالم وان لايفرق لم شمل عائلة اتمنى لو يتوقفو عن القتل باسماء الاديان والاعراق والبلدان سياسات دول تنهش بلداننا توقفو رجاءا.

اتمى الشفاء والسلام لجدتي العزيزة هي وحيدة بين انياب قصف وقتل .  
خليل

سوريا - عفرين الحبيبة

# Falastine

## PALESTINE



I grew up in the first Palestinian Intifada in the middle of ongoing Israeli curfews and lockdown of my city, Nablus. When I was 7 years old, an anti-occupation demonstration took place on our street, and that's when I saw an Israeli soldier shoot my 24 years old cousin, Talal Dwikat, with a live bullet in his head. Talal did not survive that bullet, and dropped dead on the same spot.

**Three decades later, we are again in a lockdown because of COVID-19. In Palestine, we are not only trying to flatten the curve, but we have to do this under the Israeli military occupation, which until this moment refuses to release the Palestinian political prisoners who are living in conditions where COVID-19 can spread like wild fire. And moreover, they have destroyed and closed testing clinics for Palestinians in Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.**

The fight against this pandemic is one that should unite us rather than divide us. This is the time to take colonial agendas off the table, and fight together for our common humanity. It's time for a global ceasefire to protect everyone we love!

# Munir

## AFGHANISTAN

I live in an area which has indirectly witnessed the horrors and human tragedies brought about by one of the longest wars in recent history. This is the war in Afghanistan which is still raging and will continue as it has become a big business. This is such a tragedy in our small world. We cannot describe its disastrous consequences.

Millions have migrated, hundreds of thousands have been killed. **A flood of tears from innocent eyes and torrents of blood from human bodies have been shed, enough to have inundated a large part of Afghanistan.** The world is grappling with an invisible enemy.

It is time for world leaders to emphatically intervene and press all stakeholders to announce a cease fire. Afghans deserve peace more than ever.



# Natalia

## COLOMBIA



I live in Colombia, South America. My country lived one of the longest civil wars of the world, more than 50 years of horror, kidnaps, bombs, civil killings and fear.

I'm a biologist and my career is one of the most dangerous activities in my country, since it implies walking and moving through remote areas where the guerrillas usually used to move (before the peace agreement was signed).

The lack of actual political interest has brought back the growth of the dissident guerrillas groups. Not even the world crisis that the Covid-19 has brought has stopped the attacks and horrors in some remote areas, where many indigenous people and social leaders have died, not from the virus, but from the war. During the last two years of the recent government we were able to move into remote areas without the fear of being kidnaped or killed, now the fear is back. Many park rangers from the national protected areas have died in the last year.

**We are so tired of feeling this fear. The planet is calling for a stop, it's putting the whole of humanity on hold and giving us a unique opportunity to rethink the value of life, all of it.**

Are we going to keep killing each other just because we look a little different or think differently? Are we going to keep trading animals as merchandise, as if they could be easily manufactured? Keep growing the gap between each other?

You have a breaking point to change the course of global history forever. Are you going to take action or become the group of people that had a decisive opportunity for humanity in their hands and just let it pass?

# Nour

## IRAQ

I share with you my story, which is the story of an entire generation. I am writing to you from Iraq.

Generations from the beginning of the seventies until the present day, have suffered from the scourge of repeated wars to sieges, to insecurity, sectarianism, ISIS, then martyrs of revolution, no one cared about their blood. Circumstances led to the loss of millions of innocent lives without any guilt, and still are.

We did not enjoy a normal childhood or youth, we did not taste the pleasures of life. I was born in 1988, and I cannot remember living a life that I can say is normal, from war to siege to more war and so on.

Sometimes I feel very sad for whenever I get old because I feel that I lost another year of my life, that I have not lived it like any girl of my age would live in the rest of the world in a country that enjoys a good life.

The scenes of poverty, pain of separation, emigration and fear are most felt by recent generations of Iraq. Please stop, stop the violence, stop the destruction. This planet and this life are gifts from our great Creator and we are abusing them in every way.

**Please, there is only one life granted to us, we must live it in a peaceful and beautiful way. World leaders and all influential people, please work for peace so that your memories remain something that future generations will emulate.** And you become heroes, as in myths.

From every grain of my heart I wish our planet peace and well-being.

## ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

أشارككم قصتي والتي هي قصة جيل كامل، لا بل أجيال طُحنت بطروف قاهره. أحدثكم من العراق. الأجيال منذ بداية السبعينات وإلى يومنا هذا، عانت الولايات من حروب متكررة الى حصار الى انعدام أمن ثم طائفية ثم داعش ثم شهداء ثورة لم يهتم لدمائهم احد. ظروف حصدت ملايين الارواح البريئة وبلا أي ذنب، ولا زالت تحصد. نحن لم نعلم بطفولة أو مرحلة شباب طبيعية، لم نذق ملذات الحياة. انا من مواليد 1988 لا أتذكر يوماً أنني عشت حياة يمكنني القول عنها انها طبيعية. من الحرب الى الحصار الى حرب وهكذا. أحياناً أشعر بحزن شديد كلما تقدم بي العمر. لأنني أشعر بأنني خسرت سنة أخرى من حياتي لم تكن مثلما يجب أن تعيشها أي فتاة في مثل سني في دول العالم البقية التي تنعم بالحياة الجيدة. مشاهد الفقر وألم الفراق والهجرة والخوف، هي اكثر ما شعرت بها أجيال العراق الأخيرة. أرجوكم كفى، كفى عنفاً، كفى دماراً. هذا الكوكب وهذه الحياة هي هبات من الخالق العظيم لنا ونحن نسيء استغلالها بكل الطرق. أرجوكم إنها حياة واحدة فقط تُمنح لنا، يجب أن نعيشها بطريقة مسالمة وجميلة. قادة العالم وكل الاشخاص المؤثرين، أرجوكم اعملوا للسلام كي تبقى ذكراكم شيء تتحاكى به الأجيال القادمة وتصبحوا ابطالاً كما أبطال الاساطير .. من كل ذره في قلبي اتمنى لوكنا اجمعين السلام و العيش الرغيد .  
نور من العراق

# Inga

## UKRAINE



I am writing this because I know what it feels like when you lose your loved ones.

My grandfather died in the WWII. **I saw the grief of my father who never saw his father. I see that people lost the meaning of their lives, they lost their homes** and had to leave war-torn Donetsk and Lugansk. Their homes were destroyed, and their lives were devastated.

Every night I pray to God that peace comes to Ukraine.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN UKRAINIAN

Я пишу цього листа, бо знаю, що таке втрати близьких. Мій дідусь загинув в роки Другої світової. Я бачила як страждає мій батько, який ніколи не бачив свого батька. Я бачу людей, які втратили сенс життя залишилися без дому, залишивши свої домівки в Донецьку, Луганську, де йде війна. Зруйновані їхні оселі, зруйноване життя. Я щоночі благаю Бога про те, щоб наступив мир в Україні

# Jonathan

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Hello,

I have served in the United Nations' largest peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for more than 15 years. Thank you for giving voice to the voiceless via this site.

It is with tears in my eyes that I launch this cry of distress for the population of eastern DRC, especially that of the Hauts Plateaux of Mwenga and Minembwe. I spent a month there on a service mission...

These conflicts have devastated this great and beautiful country in the heart of Africa for more than two decades. **It hurts because despair is visible on the faces of the children and women. Some have become weak from lack of food, medicine, etc. Please bring them a smile and a ray of hope once again.**

Cordial greetings.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN FRENCH

Bonjour!

Il y a plus de 15 ans que je sers dans la plus grande mission de l'ONU pour le maintien de la paix en République Démocratique du Congo.

Merci de donner la voix aux sans voix. C'est avec des larmes aux yeux que je lance ce cri de détresse pour la population de l'Est de la RDC [...]

Ces conflits ont dévasté ce grand et beau pays au cœur de l'Afrique pendant plus de deux décennies. A travers cette lettre, j'en appelle, de grâce, à la résolution de ces conflits avec l'implication directe des décideurs au niveau de l'ONU et autres organismes Internationaux. Le désespoir est visible sur les visages des enfants et des femmes. Certains sont devenus faibles par manque de nourriture et de médicaments. Prière de leur apporter une fois encore le sourire et une lueur d'espoir. Cordiales salutations.

# Hamutal

## ISRAEL



I was born in Jerusalem in 1963.

I have been through so many wars and cycles of violence in my region; my children were born into this reality, and their lives were sadly shaped by the ongoing conflicts in our region.

But war is not a natural disaster; it is waged by people, mostly men. As a woman, a mother, a feminist and peace activist I want to add my voice to the call for a global ceasefire. I want my voice – and the diverse voices of women around the world – to be heard and have impact.

**As the COVID-19 pandemic rages around the world, it reminds us how fragile and yet precious life is. If there is one thing we can learn from this crisis, it is the imperative to give and preserve life, not to take it.**

# Inoussa

## BURKINA

## FASO

One day, I was on a mission in the north of Burkina Faso. After crossing the thorny trees from Dori to Gorom-Gorom, we finally arrived at our destination. It was a small and very remote village full of happiness.

We spent three days there before going to another village near the Malian border. There, I told myself that if I were a security guard, I would not last more than a week... Later I learned that this village was attacked after our departure, and that three guards had lost their life.

**Today, we can no longer sleep peacefully in these villages because of terrorism. Each time, it is with sadness that we hear of the death of our loved ones. I have had been lucky to been able to escape these conflicts by a tight margin.**

You have to be there to understand the sadness of the people.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN FRENCH

Un jour, j'étais en mission dans le nord du Burkina Faso. Après avoir traversé les arbres épineux de Dori à Gorom-Gorom, nous sommes enfin arrivés à destination. C'était un petit village très reculé et plein de bonheur.

On y passa trois jours avant de nous rendre dans un autre village près de la frontière malienne. Là, je me suis dit que si j'étais un agent de sécurité, je ne tiendrais pas plus d'une semaine... J'ai appris que ce village avait été attaqué après notre départ, et que trois gardes y avait perdu la vie.

Aujourd'hui, on ne peut plus dormir paisiblement dans ces villages à cause du terrorisme. Chaque fois, c'est avec tristesse que nous apprenons la mort de nos proches. Moi même, j'en ai eu la chance de passer de justesse à travers ces conflits.

Il faut être sur les lieux pour comprendre la tristesse de la population.

# David

## EL SALVADOR



Since I was born, I have never experienced a war in my beloved country El Salvador. And all of that is thanks to thousands of people who during the armed conflict gave their lives in exchange for peace.

My parents, they suffered a lot, like thousands of people in those times.

**We know that there are countries that are still experiencing these difficult moments and that no one as a human being wants to experience this.**

It really hurts me to know that sometimes we do not seek the good of our own species in harmony with nature.

That is why as a simple person I would like to support a global ceasefire. I know that it is very hard to lose someone.

I put my trust in God and in all of you so that we can progress together.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN SPANISH

Desde que yo nací, nunca experimenté una guerra en mi querido país El Salvador. Y todo eso fue gracias a miles de personas que durante el conflicto armado enfrentaron y dieron sus vidas a cambio de la paz, pero mis padres, ellos sufrieron mucho al igual que miles de personas en esos tiempos.

Sabemos que hay países que aún están viviendo esos momentos tan duros y que nadie como ser humano quisiera vivirlo. En verdad me duele saber que no buscamos a veces el bien de nuestra misma especie junto con la naturaleza.

Es por eso que como una simple persona más me gustaría apoyar aunque sea con un poquito por que sé que es muy duro perder a alguien. Pongo mi confianza en Dios y en ustedes para que salgamos adelante.

# Galina

## RUSSIA



I am appealing to you.  
There has been enough  
wars and enough violence.

It is time to give the  
planet and its people  
what they deserve by  
birth right. You have  
accomplished your  
mission.

We shall let go of all  
that wars and aggression  
have brought to us.

**Let us embrace a New  
World. A world of love,  
empathy and support.**

With love.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN RUSSIAN

Я прошу вас, хватит уже войн, хватит насилия. Пора дать планете, и людям живущим на ней ,то чего они заслуживают по праву своего рождения на ней. Вы выполнили свою миссию. Благодарим и отпускаем все ,что давали войны и агрессия. Принимаем Новый Мир. Мир любви, сочувствия, эмпатии, поддержки.  
С любовью, Галина.



# Ana Paty

MEXICO



I was a child when thousands of men, women and children were killed in my country, many in front of my eyes. This is still happening even now in my country, but things have changed in my own circle, so I believe in humanity.

**From the depths of my heart, I long for peace in the hearts of all our human brothers and sisters around the world.**

I long for love and respect towards each other. There is no higher way to evidence human evolution than having true peace and respect in the world, now and forever.

# Anne Marie

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Central African Republic has not found its true path to peace after 8 years of all sorts of violence on all the people, throughout the whole territory.

I am convinced that there is at the bottom of our hearts a desire for peace and **I want to appeal to everyone for an awakening of our conscience at this very painful time for the world.**

**Let us disarm our hearts and live our future in peace.**

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN FRENCH

La République Centrafricaine ne trouve pas son vrai chemin vers la paix après 8 ans de toutes sortes de violence sur tout le peuple, sur toute l'étendue du territoire. Je suis convaincue qu'il y a au fond du cœur ce désir de paix et je veux faire appel à chacun pour un éveil de conscience en ce moment très douloureux pour le monde. Désarmons nos cœurs et vivons notre avenir dans la paix.

# Taha

## YEMEN



To His Highness Prince Muhammad bin Salman,  
and the UN Security Council,

The war in Yemen has tampered with every detail of life, and it only benefits people who are climbers, cruel, and enemies of the law.

We are between two options, to continue this slow death that takes away the soul of every Yemeni or die tired due to the reality of the situation. **The biggest tragedy in this scene are the children who build on the pain of war and feel their way in the routine of this abominable life that they do not know differently.**

We are in the diaspora with all its pain and weights. We cannot help but only send the remaining monthly study expenses to our families in Yemen so that they can bear the burdens of life that has been strained by war, explosions, poverty, anxiety, anticipation, boredom, horror and lack of hope.

The decision to suspend the war unilaterally for two weeks was a light in this darkness. Your decisions in the past five years have demonstrated strong will, now we want you to relieve us all from these burdens.

Will you do it, Your Highness? Please do this for us, our children, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia. The decision to stop the war depends on your will, and you are the decision-maker. This is how it is or how we believe it to be.

Best regards.

## ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

سمو الأمير محمد بن سلمان،  
لقد عبثت الحرب الدائرة في اليمن بكل تفاصيل الحياة، ولا يستفيد منها إلا الناس المتسلقون والقساة وأعداء القانون. نحن بين خيارين، الاستمرار في هذا الموت البطيء الذي ينتزع روح كل يماني أو الموت تعباً بسبب واقع الحال. الأكثر مأساوية في هذا المشهد هم الأطفال الذين ينشئون على أوجاع الحرب ويتحسسون طريقهم في روتين هذه الحياة البغيضة التي لا يعرفون غيرها.  
نحن في المهجر بكل آلامه وأثقاله لا نملك إلا أن نرسل ما يتبقى لنا من مصاريف الدراسة الشهرية الى عائلتنا في اليمن ليتسنى لهم تحمل أعباء الحياة التي أثقلتها الحرب الانفجارات، الفقر، القلق الترقب الملل الافق المقيت وانعدام الأمل.  
لقد كان قراركم بتعليق الحرب من جانب واحد لمدة اسبوعين، نور في هذا الظلام الخالك. نحن نعلم أنك انت صاحب القرار، ونعلم أن الحوثيين يمكن تحييدهم عن ايران او يمكن تأمين الحدود السعودية من الخطر الذي قد يأتي منهم، وذلك فقط بالحوار والإرادة. الإرادة الذي لا يملكها سواك. فقد أثبتت قراراتك في الخمس السنوات الماضية على إرادة قوية، نريد لها هذه المرة أن تنفض عن كاهلنا كل هذه الأعباء.  
هلا تفعلها يا سمو الأمير؟ نرجوا ذلك، لنا ولأطفالنا ولليمن وللسعودية. قرار إيقاف الحرب مرهون بإرادتك أنت، وأنت صاحب القرار. هكذا هو الحال أو هكذا نعتقد.

مع وافر التحايا  
طه

يماني مقيم في مملكة هولندا

# Rofay

## SUDAN

Because of the war, my country, Sudan, still suffers from the ravages of poverty, displacement and ignorance.

My countrymen do not enjoy peace, education or health because of tribal, regional, ethnic and partisan wars.

The youth of my country are forcibly displaced due to the dictatorship in Sudan, as I was forcibly displaced and deprived of my family for three years to ensure my safety and my family's safety as well.

Sudan is still one of the underdeveloped countries of the Third World.

**Therefore, we appeal to everyone who carries a weapon to put the interests of the citizens first, before the interests of their party or any side, so that everyone can live in safety.**

Drop your arms and build your homeland in peace.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

بسبب الحرب، مازال بلدي السودان يعاني من ويلات الفقر والتشرد والجهل. لم ينعم أبناء وطني بالطمأنينة والتعليم والصحة بسبب الحروب القبلية والجهوية والاثنية والحزبية. كما هجر شباب بلدي قسراً بسبب النظام الدكتاتوري في السودان كما هجرت انا قسراً، وحرمت من عائلتي ثلاث سنوات لضمان سلامتي وسلامة عائلتي. مازال السودان يحدو ركب الدول المتخلفة من دول العالم الثالث . لذا نناشد كل من يحمل سلاح أن يضع مصلحة المواطن أولاً قبل مصلحة حزبه أو الجهة التي ينتمي إليها لكي يعيش الكل بأمان. اتركوا السلاح ابنو أوطانكم بالسلمية.

# Pablo

## GUATEMALA



I am Pablo, from the Ixil People, Quiché Department, in Guatemala.

During the armed conflict (1960-1996) the State of Guatemala (army, police and paramilitary structures) razed the earth, committed massacres, genocide, more than 200,000 were murdered and disappeared.

Only in the Ixil Region, the State committed more than 114 massacres, murdered more than 16% of the population, burned crops and houses.

**Wars are very painful, they generate all kinds of harassment and violation of human rights and those who suffer the most are women, children and the elderly.**

Today, when we are all taking care of our lives due to Covid-19, a ceasefire means "Yes to Life" and solidarity between the people!

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN SPANISH

Soy Pablo, del Pueblo Ixil, Departamento Quiché, Guatemala.

Durante el conflicto armado (1960 - 1996) el Estado de Guatemala (ejército, policía y estructuras paramilitares) cometió tierra arrasada, masacres, genocidio, más de 200 mil asesinados y desaparecidos.

Sólo en la Región Ixil, el Estado cometió más de 114 masacres, asesinó más del 16% de la población, quemó cosechas y casas. Las guerras son muy dolorosas, generan todo tipo de vejámenes y violación de derechos humanos y, quiénes más sufren son las mujeres, niños y ancianos. Hoy, cuando todas y todos cuidamos nuestra vida frente al Covid-19, un alto al fuego es Sí a la vida y a la solidaridad entre los Pueblos!

# Brian

UNITED  
STATES  
OF  
AMERICA

I was an Army medic during the Vietnam war.

I will never forget the trauma and pain I witnessed through hundreds of soldiers and civilians.

**I have since then concluded that wars are promoted by bankers and gun makers, and are fought by our innocent children/youngsters.**

Please take a positive stand against the war-mongers and put war on lockdown!

Thank you.

# Fayez

## SYRIA



What I became as a consequence of war.

My youngest son Wissam has an angelic face, a father of two beautiful children, and a husband of a woman who loves life. He was kidnapped at a Shabiha\* checkpoint, and killed under torture in the Military Intelligence Investigation Branch in Damascus. His wife and two kids are refugees now in Germany, after they survived their journey in death boats. His sister fled with her four children and stayed in Turkey. His older brother with his wife and their four kids are refugees in France, his big brother is a refugee with his wife and three kids in Germany. As for me, I spend the age of post-seventy as a refugee in Britain with my wife, waiting for my return to my country or death in exile.

The war killed my son and destroyed our homes, or they were stolen by the boys of the regime. This made us homeless in a way that has made it hard for us meet properly as a family, and after a few years it will be difficult for our children to communicate with each other because of different languages.

I did not participate in any war throughout my life nor did my children. I always demanded freedom and peaceful change, but because of the others going to war, we found ourselves, as did most Syrians, becoming a fuel for it.

**It is time to stop the war and make peace. Rather, it has become an absolute necessity, and it has become a necessity to stop war advocates and those working for its continuation.**

## ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

حيث صرت في دلالات الحرب أصغر اولادي وسام صاحب وجه ملائكي، واب لطفلين جميلين، وزوج لامرأة تحب الحياة، خطف على احد حواجز الشبيحة، وقتل تحت التعذيب في فرع تحقيق المخابرات العسكرية بدمشق، زوجته وطفلاه لاجئون في المانيا بعد رحلة، خرجت من مسارات قوارب الموت، اخته واولادها الاربعة، هربت للاقامة في تركيا، اخوه الاكبر لاجئ مع زوجته واربعة اطفال في فرنسا، والاخ الكبير لاجئ في المانيا مع زوجته وثلاثة اطفال. اما انا فاقضي شيخوخة مابعد السبعين لاجئاً في بريطانيا مع زوجتي، انتظر عودة الى بلدي أو موت في منفى. قتلت الحرب ولدي، ودمرت بيوتنا، او جعلتها بما فيها نهياً لصبيان النظام، وشردتنا بطريقة صار من الصعب، ان نلتقي كما ينبغي لعائلة، وبعد سنوات قليلة سوف يكون من الصعب على اولادنا، ان يتواصلوا مع بعضهم بسبب اختلاف اللغات. لم اشارك في حرب طوال حياتي ولا اولادي فعلوها، كنت دائماً مطالباً بالحرية وبالتغيير السلمي، لكننا وبسبب ذهاب الاخرين للحرب، وجدنا أنفسنا واغلب السوريين وقوداً لها. ان الوقت لوقف الحرب، وتحقيق السلام. بل بات الامر ضرورة لا بد منها، وصار مطلوباً لجم دعاة الحرب والعاملين على استمرارها.

# Samer

## PALESTINE

I am 36 years old Palestinian who lives in Jerusalem. All my life I spent it living in huge political conflict. I remember the first time I had an experience with tears gas I was two years old. My mother held me and she was running until she reached the clinic where my father worked. I still have flashbacks of that day, but I wish it was only that day. I witnessed so many wars, uprisings, clashes, curfews, invasions...and death. In Palestine everything is different, it is so different that we get shocked by normal rights everyone has in the outside world of Palestine.

I remember going to university, I had to cross several military checkpoints, in each of them I had to say a new story to be able to move, my Identification wasn't enough. I had to explain why I'm traveling and what is the intention of going to another city. My first time in Europe I was with my friends, I remember the moment we collected our luggage at the airport, we stopped and started to look at each other with the question on our "what is next?", we could not believe that we just need to leave the airport, we stood there waiting for someone to come and humiliate us, with any checking. From that day, I realized that life in Palestine is not normal. Even if we think of it as normal, or it seems as it is, it is as close as possible to the real face of political conflict and the reality of politics.

**We have dreams and we want to build a better place for our future generation, but with conflict, that is getting harder. A lot of people of my age haven't seen the sea or experienced how would it be to lay on the beach. That is one of the most simple rights. Despite all the struggle we keep working for a better life, with a lot of hope that the conflict finishes and the next generations will be able to live in world peace, without borders, walls, or weapons.**



# Angelika

## UKRAINE



We live in Kiev, but some of my relatives live in Donetsk.

Due to military operations, my mother has not seen her sister or nieces and nephews for more than 5 years.

**Every day we are worried the bombs will hurt them, or wonder if they will suffer from other consequences of the war.**

People deserve security! And the opportunity to be with our families! Please do something.

Or what else do we need the UN for?!!

# Pablo

## VENEZUELA

My most fervent wish is for  
PEACE IN THE WORLD.

We are born, we grow, we  
develop and we culminate  
life.

All wealth, properties,  
jewelry, etc., remain here on  
Earth, nothing goes with us,  
only the memory of those who  
survive us and our good works  
remain.

PEACE is the most wonderful  
work we could accomplish.

**Gentlemen, open your hearts  
to the wonderful work for  
Peace on earth, all of  
humanity will thank you for  
an eternity.**

May God illuminate your  
minds.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN SPANISH

Mis mas fervientes deseos por la PAZ DEL MUNDO.

Nacemos, crecemos y nos desarrollamos y culminamos la vida.

Toda riqueza, propiedades, joyas, etc., quedan en la naturaleza, nada se va con nosotros, solo queda el recuerdo de los que nos sobrevivan y nuestras buenas obras. La PAZ es la más maravillosa obra que pudieramos lograr.

Señores abran sus corazones a la maravillosa obra por la Paz, la humanidad entera se los agradecerá por toda una eternidad.

Que el Dios Creador ilumine sus mentes.

# Claudia

## COLOMBIA



I am the daughter of a worker and a housewife, both of them received no education. My dad arrived at the beginning of the last century to the city of Medellín in Colombia. They were victims of what was then called 'The Violence', a war between the conservative and liberal political parties.

My dad always hated liberals because they persecuted his brothers, killing one of them. Then he became the father of 11 children in the 90's at the time of Pablo Escobar, the largest drug trafficker and criminal in our country. In 1989 they killed one of my brothers.

I remember looking at the houses on the block where he lived and learning that in each one a similar event had happened. In fact, almost all the young people at that time were drug addicts, they lived on the streets with no direction, no future different from that of becoming drug sellers. Every day in the news we heard stories of rural confrontations with the Colombian guerrillas, entire towns finished by the incursions, the explosions and the kidnappings. In my country all my life we have been at war, better times are coming but there are ongoing transformations to those wars.

**We need to evolve socially and work globally to end the confrontations between humans. Let's eliminate the feeling that we are enemies for thinking differently. We cannot allow economic interests to be superior to the need to live in harmony and grow in all aspects of our lives.**

Let's all help end wars!

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN SPANISH

Soy hija de un obrero y una ama de casa, ambos no recibieron educación. Mi papá llegó a principios del siglo pasado a la ciudad de Medellín, Colombia. Fueron víctimas de lo que se llamaba en ese entonces La Violencia, una guerra entre los dos partidos políticos Conservadores y Liberales.

Mi papá siempre odio a los liberales porque persiguieron a sus hermanos y mataron a uno de ellos. Luego él se vuelve el padre de 11 hijos en los 90 en la época de Pablo Escobar, el narcotraficante y criminal más grande de nuestro país. En 1989 mataron a uno de mis hermanos, recuerdo mirar a las casas de la cuadra donde vivía y revisar que en cada una había pasado un hecho similar al de nuestra familia y de hecho casi todos los jóvenes en ese momento eran drogadictos, se la pasaban en las calles sin rumbo, ni futuro diferente al de convertirse en vendedores de drogas. Si a eso le sumamos lo que escuchábamos todos los días en las noticias de enfrentamientos rurales con las guerrillas colombianas, pueblos enteros acabados diariamente por la incursión, las explosiones y los secuestros.

En mi país toda mi vida hemos estado en guerra, se ven tiempos mejores pero hay transformaciones de esas guerras. Necesitamos que evolucionemos socialmente y que trabajemos globalmente por la terminación de los enfrentamientos entre humanos, eliminar el sentimiento que somos enemigos por pensar diferente, no podemos permitir que los intereses económicos sean superiores a necesidad de vivir en armonía y de crecer en todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas.

Ayudemos todos a acabar con las guerras!!!

# Sallama

## IRAQ

In January of 1991 an attack by the International Allied Forces took place in Iraq. At the time, I had recently given birth to my daughter through a cesarean section. Clinics of doctors closed, I could not contact my doctor to confirm the status of the operation or to remove the sutures. Despite the curfew, I had to search for a hospital to monitor my condition, and the situation was very difficult.

At the same time because of the bombs that fell on my country, I panicked and the milk in my chest dried up. My daughter was several days old and was starving from hunger. She wanted milk, but all markets were closed and there was no fuel for cars to move and search for markets. I was finally able to provide her with some cans of milk, but they were of different types, which led to her diarrhea.

**Those were difficult days that I hope will not return in our country, nor in any country of the world.**

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

في كانون الثاني من عام ١٩٩١ وقع هجوم لقوات الحالف الدولية على العراق، كنت في حينها قد ولدت حديثا ابنتي عن طريق عملية قيصرية، اغلقت عيادات الاطباء ابوابها، لم استطع التواصل مع طبيبتي للتأكد من حالة العملية او لرفع الخيوط الجراحية، مع حضر التجوال كان لابد ان ابحث عن مستشفى يتابع حالتي، كان الوضع صعب جدا،

في نفس الوقت بسبب القنابل التي سقطت على بلدي اصبت بالذعر و نشف الحليب الذي في صدري، كانت ابنتي تبلغ من العمر عدة ايام و هي تتضور من الجوع تريد حليب و لكن كل الاسواق كانت مغلقة و لم يكن هنالك وقود للسيارات لكي نتحرك و نبحث عن اسواق في اماكن اخرى، و اخيرا استطعت ان اوفر لها بعض علب الحليب و لكن كانت من نوعيات مختلفة، مما ادى الى اصابتها بالاسهال.

ايام عصيبة ارجو ان نعمل على ان لا تعود في بلادنا و في كل بلدان العالم

# Cristina

## GUATEMALA



Security Council members, support the global ceasefire!

It is regrettable that after two thousand years of ruling over the face of the Earth, after two world wars and an endless numbers of civil wars and internal armed conflicts in each of our countries, we have not yet conceived that as human beings, we are capable of solving any possible disagreements that we have through negotiations that are initiated thanks to the only and exclusive capacity that we have as beings: communication.

It is outrageous to see how millions of innocents suffer and pay for the lack of understanding of a few. How is it that people who are totally out of conflict, overnight are immersed in a crossfire that is caused by others? Do we not have a mouth and a mind to understand each other?

**Mother Earth teaches us through her species, from the smallest cell to the most predominant animal, how nature organizes itself to keep life in balance. But we, superior beings in terms of intelligence and life development, are not capable of concluding common disagreements for the benefit of humanity.** Instead we benefit ambitious individuals in search of power.

These people could be our father, our mother, our brother, our sister, our son, our daughter. But as long as it does not harm our circle, what does it matter? As long as it doesn't harm our economy, what difference does it make? As long as I can live peacefully, how does it concern me? But if I were that one, or our loved ones were them: what would be the story?

Let's not repeat the mistakes of our grandparents. Let's be different #BeHuman #GlobalCeasefire

## ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN SPANISH

Consejo de Seguridad, ¡apoye el cese al fuego global!

Es lamentable que después de dos mil años de gobernar sobre la faz de la Tierra, pasadas ya dos guerras mundiales y un sin fin de guerras civiles y conflictos armados internos en cada uno de nuestros países, no hayamos concebido aún que como seres humanos, somos capaces de solucionar los posibles desacuerdos que tengamos a través de negociaciones que se entablan gracias a la única y exclusiva capacidad que tenemos como seres: la comunicación.

Es indignante ver como millones de inocentes sufren y pagan por la falta de entendimientos de algunos pocos. ¿Cómo es que personas que están totalmente fuera de un conflicto, de la noche a la mañana se ven inmersas dentro de un fuego que es provocado por otros? ¿Acaso no tenemos boca y mente para entendernos? La Madre Tierra nos enseña a través de sus especies, desde la más infima célula hasta el animal más predominante, como la naturaleza misma se pone en orden para mantener la vida bajo equilibrio. Pero nosotros, seres superiores en cuanto a inteligencia y desarrollo de vida, no somos capaces de concretar acuerdos comunes, en pro del beneficio de la humanidad y no del individual y ambicioso, por búsqueda de poder y ambición.

Estas personas podrían ser nuestro padre, nuestra madre, nuestro hermano, nuestra hermana, nuestro hijo, nuestra hija. Pero mientras no perjudique nuestro círculo ¿qué importa? Mientras no perjudique nuestra economía ¿qué más da? Mientras yo pueda vivir tranquilamente ¿qué me incumbe? Mas si yo fuese aquél, o nuestros seres queridos fuesen ellos: ¿Cuál sería la historia?

No repetamos los errores de nuestros abuelos.  
Seamos diferentes #SeamosHumanos #CeseAlFuegoGlobal

# Joyce

## ISRAEL

I sent this out to some friends this week, as a point of light in these dark times. And although it is a story of crisis and salvation -- it is also a story for peace.

"What a world..." the Wicked Witch said as she melted. I thought I'd send you this only-in-Jerusalem story as the world seems to be melting in front of our eyes.

When they announced the coronavirus lockdown in Jerusalem, except for buying medicine or food, people here truly freaked out. Among other things, they started buying huge quantities of eggs for Passover two weeks ago -- I mean a shopping cart full of egg cartons for a family, far more than anyone could eat. So suddenly there were no eggs to be found.

I had five eggs in one of those egg trays on my refrigerator door and was hoping to find more. Yesterday, I took something out of the refrigerator, knocked the tray and it fell! One egg bit the dust, but the other four were just cracked, and I managed to salvage them and was allocating them to the most important things I wanted to make. But I needed a whole egg for the Seder Plate!

Then Nabil called. Nabil is a Palestinian who was in my Arab-Jewish theater group 30 years ago. He is now a lawyer in East Jerusalem, and we keep in touch. He called to see how I was doing and if I needed any help. I asked him if there were eggs on his side of town. He told me not to worry, and that he would get eggs for me. I asked for two dozen.

He texted me to ask if they had to be certified kosher, which made me laugh. I mean, those of us kosher people who travel all over the world rely on hard boiled eggs for survival, wherever we may be! I said no.

Then he showed up with 30 eggs, in two flats. They looked like farm eggs; there was even some chicken shit on a couple of them! He left them outside my door and backed up six feet so I could retrieve them and talk to him. He wouldn't let me pay for them. I asked where they came from and he asked if I really wanted to know. I said yes, and that they looked like they were from a farm. "Well, they are," he said.

It turns out that the Jews had figured out that there were eggs in East Jerusalem and emptied the shelves there, too. But Nabil has friends who lives in a village near Jericho -- in the West Bank -- and they have a farm. So he called the husband up and arranged to meet him at the army checkpoint on the way to Jericho in order to pick up eggs for himself and for me. As he put it, "It took a military operation, but I got the eggs for you!"

He showed up wearing rubber gloves and a serious mask -- and needing a haircut, as we all do, since the barbers and hairdressers are closed. But he looked like a hero to me.

**Someone said to me yesterday that perhaps this awful virus is also showing that people are capable of amazing levels of chesed [a Hebrew word and concept meaning "acting with lovingkindness"]. Everywhere, the younger people are staying away from senior citizens to protect them -- and offering to help them with whatever they need. Like Nabil.**

I'm going to think about chesed at my solitary Seder and be grateful as I look at the egg on my Seder Plate.

# Ann

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Dear world leaders,

I reached the age of 15 during the Vietnam War and saw testimonies of young people who were forced to participate in massacres. I grew up in the USA between "wars against communism" and married a survivor of the coup d'etat in Chile, which was justified as a "war against socialism."

I have lived threatened by nuclear war, and then I knew the horror of 9/11 and then the wars justified by that experience. The constant result has been suffering, killing, abuse of people, and suppression of the truth.

Now we see more clearly than ever that access to the truth and being able to respond to realities is essential for our survival.

**Constant wars harm us in a thousand ways, and prevent us from forging a future together.**

The Peruvian naval force has manufactured fans to save its population. While my country is unable to protect its own people. This happens because of our doctrine of constant warfare, which turns war into business. We have lost the real sense of what true national security is.

We must disarm and dedicate our forces to saving lives.

# Bienvenu

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

I pray that all the authorities in the world who are fighting for peace are 100% committed to this noble cause. The Democratic Republic of Congo was a good country and a better place to live but since the liberation war of 1996 the country has become a real hell.

More than 9 million Congolese have died from repetitive wars in the east of the country, but no one talks about it. **The massacres continue to be perpetrated in the region, the innocent populations are killed with machetes like in a slaughterhouse...** thousands of rebel groups are in the region, which has become the world capital of sexual violence... it is time for this to end.

Thank you very much to Avaaz and to all those who want to contribute to the establishment of a World of Peace.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN FRENCH

Je soutiens les démarches de paix et je prie pour que toutes les autorités du monde qui luttent pour la paix s'investissent à 100% pour cette cause noble. La République Démocratique du Congo était un bon pays et le meilleur endroit où vivre mais depuis la guerre de libération de 1996, ce le pays est devenu le véritable enfer. Plus de 9 millions de Congolais sont morts suite à des guerres répétitives dans l'Est du pays. Les massacres continuent à se perpétrer dans la région. Il est temps que tout ceci prenne fin.

Merci beaucoup à Avaaz et à toutes les personnes qui veulent contribuer pour l'instauration de la Paix mondiale.



# Linda

UNITED  
KINGDOM



When I emigrated from the UK over 50 years ago in 1968 I never dreamed that in 1995 there would still be a reason for my son to be inducted into the Israeli army, or in 2020 for my oldest grandchild to be inducted too.

**I cannot bear to think that when I leave this world it will still be in the same state as it was when I entered it in 1944, during World War Two.**

Surely there must be another way!

# Safaa

## LIBYA

"Peace" in my country (Libya) is a word we hear but do not see. Countries vow to a ceasefire, but the war continues to kill the innocents.

Today the whole world is facing a health catastrophe, and we have been facing for a long time a humanitarian catastrophe. Can you imagine our situation and our readiness to face the health catastrophe? Our mental health is not well, nor is our physical health.

Perhaps we have an opportunity to be safe from the epidemic by prevention or luck, but we do not have an opportunity in war.

Everyone is threatened with death under the shelling, and those who do not die from the shelling die of fear and anxiety. **Perhaps it is time to stand together and stop the fire in my country and all the countries that are burning, and bring peace for a better future.**

The state of the world now reminds me of a quote from Louis Pasteur: "I am convinced that science and peace will triumph over ignorance and hostility, as nations will ultimately unite in creation, not destruction, and that the future will belong to those who have contributed more to ending human suffering".

Peace is stronger than all strengths, my prayers are for my country and for world peace.

## ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN ARABIC

السلام عليكم  
السلام في وطني (ليبيا) كلمة نسمعها ولانراها. تتوعد الدول بوقف النار ولكنه مستمر بقتل الأبرياء. اليوم العالم كله يواجه كارثة صحية، ونحن نواجه منذ زمن كارثة إنسانية ولك أن تتخيل وضعنا وجهازيتنا لمواجهة الكارثة الصحية، صحتنا النفسية لم تسلم فكيف بصحتنا الجسدية، ربما لنا فرصة بالسلام من الوباء بالوقاية أو بالحظ ولكن ليس لنا فرصة بالسلام من الحرب، الجميع مهدد بالموت تحت القصف ومن لم يمت الخوف والقلق كفيل بذلك، ربما حان الوقت للوقوف معاً ووقف النار في وطني وكل الدول التي تشتعل، وإحلال السلام لمستقبل أفضل، يذكركم وضع العالم الآن بإقتباس من لويس: "أنا مقتنع بأن العلم والسلام سينتصران على الجهل والعداء، حيث ستوحد الأمم في نهاية المطاف علي الإنشاء وليس التدمير، وأن المستقبل سيكون ملكاً للذين ساهموا أكثر في وضع حداً للمعاناة البشرية"  
السلام أقوى من كل قوة، دعواتي لوطني وللعالم بالسلام.

تحياتي

صفاء

ل

يبيا

# Mohammad

## SYRIA



Just to convey a message to the world on how hard it is to find yourself in a place far away from your children, or impossible to think of gathering due to visa regulations and limitations everywhere.

Living in a country away from home, and not even expecting to go back. Seeing militias and armies from different aggressive countries and occupations roaming all over the country, demolishing all living beings and all human-friendly buildings.

**I wonder how long should Syrians wait to get open doors to their peaceful land, and to see blooming flowers and regrowing trees burnt by explosive barrels.** The resurrection of blocks and towers leveled to ground by bombarding aircrafts of criminals and murderers controlling the air-land-sea traffic of my country.

SYRIA the cradle of all holy religions and of an old alphabet, the cradle of old civilizations and contributions to the whole world.

LONGING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL INCLUDING THOSE SPREADING HORROR WORLDWIDE.

# Carolina

## COLOMBIA



In my country, Colombia, we have suffered violence for many years and the recent Peace Agreement does not guarantee an end to it.

In my youth, I experienced the paranoia of walking around the city because it was the time of the car bombs that claimed many victims.

So many warlike conflicts created from selfishness show that the human race is its worst enemy, but if the **Covid-19 is a new common enemy, let us take the opportunity to think collectively, to grow as brothers, to face it with the same voice, and try to live together in peace for the good of humanity and the planet we inhabit.**

Thank you very much.

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN SPANISH

En Colombia, mi país, hemos sufrido la violencia por muchos años y el reciente Acuerdo de Paz no garantiza el fin de ella. En mi juventud, viví la paranoia de caminar por la ciudad porque era la época de los carros bomba que cobraron muchas víctimas.

Tantos conflictos bélicos creados desde el egoísmo dejan ver que la raza humana es su peor enemigo, pero si el Covid 19 es un nuevo enemigo común, aprovechemos la oportunidad de pensar en colectivo, de crecer como seres hermanos, de enfrentarlo en una misma voz, y de tratar de convivir en paz por el bien de la humanidad y del planeta que habitamos.

Muchas gracias.

# Sergey

## RUSSIA

Hello, dear fellow people!

**I want to remind everybody, and especially those who have power and who bear personal responsibility for what is happening around, that we all live in the same planet.**

You do not have a separate island of peace and calm – there is no place where you could hide.

So hurry up to do everything possible to establish peace and harmony. Otherwise you risk finding yourselves on the frontline of the conflict, maybe an armed one. Maybe it will not happen right now but it will happen eventually.

Please act!

### ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN RUSSIAN

Уважаемые люди, здравствуйте.

Хочу напомнить всем, а особенно тем из вас, кто имеет влияние, а значит несёт личную ответственность, о том что мы находимся на одной планете. Отдельного острова покоя и тишины у вас нет, некуда спрятаться. Так что спешите сделать все возможное для установления мира и спокойствия. Или вы рискуете оказаться на переднем плане конфликта, возможно вооруженного, возможно не прямо сейчас. Действуйте.

# Rebecca

UNITED  
STATES OF  
AMERICA



To whom it may concern,

The fact that a global ceasefire is even possible is an unimaginable gift to humanity!

I feel called to write and share my support for this epic opportunity for peace.

**Never before in the history of human-kind have we all agreed to stop war for even a short amount of time.**

The coronavirus pandemic is frightening, but if we can allow room for positivity and peace then we will win.

I am so grateful to have never known the first-hand experience of war (thank you to my ancestors for their sacrifices) and I pray that all peoples may experience this same blessing.



the global petition  
here



**AVAAZ**