

Mayors from around the world, Ladies and Gentlemen: To reduce direct violence in cities we have to move from urban violence culture to an urban peace culture and from urban structural violence to a structure of peace. The center of a city should not be a place of shame reeking of the Inquisition. And urbanization should not be justified as modern seeing smaller town and villages, less violent, as traditional.

Street names should not glorify wars and violent heroes but peace and their heroines, often women. Move warrior on horseback monuments close to the cemetery for symbolic burial. Sculptors could glorify the peace in a sweet family having breakfast, caressing each other--.

And Oslo where I grew up? The police report different violence, by younger perpetrators, even children, unrelated to poor vs rich wards (KK 17-03-17). But the main street celebrates a French general who as King of Sweden and Norway became a bastion of neutrality.

The media matter, indeed--pathologically attracted to violence --they have to reinvent themselves. The cities offer anonymity and places to hide.

Media must report violence, but less, and less prominently. Big cities produce the best arts-science-business and the worst violence and exploitation; towns, villages, isolated farms less. But the violence reporting can be scaled down, and be less up front.

The media must learn to report peace more, and more prominently, focusing not only on violent but on the peaceful wards, exploring why. Thus, the Local police and others may offer local deals to gangs, like stopping violence against impunity. Or the whole context may be more peaceful, to be explored and reported, up front.

Media could be rated on violence vs peace reporting ratios, and NGOs may organize boycotts of violent and patronize peaceful media. With prominent actor support; needed because peaceful media may be economically weak, run by peace-minded women in patriarchic societies.

Families matter, indeed, and we need more media focus on love and good marriages of famous couples, less on their violence and divorce.

The family is no longer closed to reporting violence--husband against wife, both against the children, siblings against each other--so why not open for reporting non-pathological, peaceful families?

Schools from K to U(niversity) matter, indeed, essential for the negative peace of zero bullying and for the positive peace of building good relations. For the former the SABONA formula, "what you have done is unacceptable, but why did you do it", going to the roots, turning the bully into a peace-maker. For the latter project-oriented schools with students cooperating on projects they themselves choose.

The police, government matter, indeed, but make them more reward-praise, less punishment-violence oriented. Imagine police stopping a car, giving the driver a star for considerate, perfect driving at some difficult point, not only a ticket for bad driving. And police being up front persuading gangs to change their styles, for instance by helping keeping the city clean against some reward.

But, it goes without saying, if the government itself is violent, dedicated to warfare do not be surprises if some people get the idea that violence is legitimate; and the big city is ideal for practice.

The square or plaza in the center is crucial. Violence in such places is contagious, so violent gangs try. But peace may also be contagious. Make it beautiful; reflecting cultural differences so that all ethnic groups feel at home. Make it diverse with simple eateries and good restaurants so that all classes feel at home. Make violence look out of place. Let the big cities show the way.

This conference, first of its kind, with 2.300 participants and 200 mayors, is a trail-blazer. A Nobel Peace Prize to the organizers! The world is not only states, nations, hatred and wars, but also cities, classes, structural violence and direct city violence.

The cultural program announces MADRID CAPITAL OF PEACE. Well, not quite. Spain has not complied with UN Charter Art 73 to decolonize Western Sahara but let Morocco recolonize it. Spain is in a US-led state terrorist coalition from the air and otherwise in Afghanistan. Spain is host to major US bases in Europe. And Spain has not progressed from Franco's "Spain: One, Great, Free" to "Spain: A Community of Nations" for Basques, Catalans etc. to feel at home.

But that may all happen. This conference could serve as a model for a conference to come: World Forum On State Violence, in Madrid. On the diagnosis-prognosis-therapy for the states, like this one does for cities. There is an additional factor: cities are more or less violent, but not against each other: states are more or less violent, and often against each other. Call a conference in this magnificent conference building, once a factory for lifts!--and lift us once more. Have the chief executives of states, presidents, Prime Ministers explain what they do to reduce violence within and between states. In a dialogue like here, for mutual exploration and learning; not for criticizing each other but for moving forward, together.

And that brings me to what I see as the major outcome of this conference by and for mayors, and a coming one by and for presidents and PMs: not reporting hour by hour. but a list of concrete ideas. Mayors, busy people--even from major capitals, deep gratitude to them--should be able to scan the list, "already done, not relevant for me, idiotic, hum, this one looks interesting--". And proceed accordingly.

Admittedly, it is more difficult at the state level. Cities may envy each other but only rarely hate each other, except the capitals; states may be overloaded with hatred, particularly of capital states.

Dear Organizers: Thank you for a major contribution to peace in the world, at this key meso level between the micro of persons and the macro-mega levels of states-nation and regions-civilizations. THANKS!