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# A GLOBAL NONKILLING INDEX AS A CRITICAL MEASURE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

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The paper fosters a “nonkilling” world view in contrast to “nonviolence” as a path to universal peace. Nonkilling, not as a metaphor but a finite reality in infinite reverence to life, is measurable and achievable and can be targeted to measure human development and progress. The present paper is an attempt to develop an index based on critical elements, scientific rationale, and dispassionate analysis of a country’s specific characteristics such as homicide, suicide, battle related deaths, internal armed conflict deaths and also capital punishment. The data has been obtained from reliable sources that are transparent and verifiable. It is recommended by the authors that a Global Nonkilling Index (GNI) to promote positive and structured “Affirmative Nonkilling” can be an important measure for human progress and development.

## INTRODUCTION

Independently the Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Gandhians, Kingians and secular humanists have developed the spiritual and philosophical justifications for nonkilling, nonviolence, and peace. But very little has been done on the basis of scientific data and its analysis on the subject to develop a rational approach to a nonkilling paradigm. Not much can be gleaned about internal factors and structural or societal issues that contribute to violence and killings. Thus the present study is an attempt to develop a “Nonkilling Index” based on a rational and empirical study of factors that contribute to killing, be it gun culture, terrorism, or wars. This paper proposes

that external events that lead to killing and violence are a manifestation of individual upbringing, development, and socio-psychological beliefs which, in turn, lead to internal societal inequalities, disruption, and disharmony.

History shows that enactment of peace treaties between nations and the efforts towards ceasefire were once identified as signals of peace. Today these indicators, initiatives, and pathways are called “negative peace” but are not the real affirmative paradigms to real peace, or “positive peace” in a holistic sense. The idea of peace was broadened by Johan Galtung.<sup>1</sup> He makes the distinction between positive peace and negative peace. According to him

Positive peace denotes the simultaneous presence of many desirable states of mind and society, such as harmony, justice, equity, etc. ‘Negative’ peace has historically denoted the ‘absence of war’ and other forms of wide scale violent human conflict.<sup>2</sup>

While the enactment of a ceasefire is negative peace, the restoration of relationships, the creation of an interdependent social system serving the needs of all citizens, and constructive resolutions of conflicts are factors comprising positive peace.<sup>3</sup> Based on this definition of peace, Galtung further identified violence on two grounds: direct forms of violence and structural forms of violence.<sup>4</sup>

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We propose that, as a parallel analogy, nonkilling peace may also be recognized as “*affirmative nonkilling*”<sup>5</sup> that is positive and structural such as promoting education, learning, and advocacy against killing in contrast to ‘*illusive nonkilling*’ that is negative and

non-structural such as fostering the concept of “a war to end all wars,” capital punishment, or coercive practices that are used to achieve the ultimate goal of a nonkilling society. Thus, implicitly, a society with *negative peace* could be absent of crimes even though people live under oppression, while societies characterized by *positive peace* could be witnessing human prosperity in terms of social and economic development.

The contemporary world of violence and terror by both state and

non-state actors makes it imperative for us to reconsider our positive and creative options for charting and indexing peace. The Global Peace Index (GPI) has played a significant role in promoting data on negative peace<sup>6</sup> measured broadly from 3 aspects:

1. “Ongoing Domestic and International Conflicts: It presently indicates the numbers and the intensity of ongoing civil and international wars.
2. Societal Safety and Security: It indicates levels of safety and security within a country, such as the perception of criminality in a society, the level of political instability, and the rates of homicides and violent crimes.
3. Militarization: It identifies indicators of a nation’s military capacity, both in terms of the economic resources committed to the military and the support for multilateral operations.<sup>7</sup>”

It is our view that the GPI appears to cover all of the aspects of negative peace. However, an important indicator of peace that has been left out is deliberate killings within a society, be that of the other or the self. The state and the individuals who may commit deliberate killings deceive themselves for illusionary self-preservation or for racial prejudice. These unfortunate impulses of human nature have not been adequately considered until now.

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This was the argument of Glenn Durland Paige, an American political scientist who introduced the idea of *nonkilling* and studied political leadership. Paige reviewed the ancient political thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kautilya, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau who, he finds, promoted lethality in some or the other way (Paige 2009).<sup>8</sup> Paige developed the idea of “nonkilling” at the Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) at Honolulu to foster the thought and paradigm to prevent killings all over the world. He believed that, to establish peace, first a nonkilling society needs to be developed that would be characterized not just by absence of killing but also absence of the threats that may lead to killing.<sup>9</sup> To stop killing we would first need to observe where it occurs and in what forms.

Killing has been identified with “aggression, assassination, auto genocide, contract killing, corporate manslaughter, cultural genocide, capital punishment, democide, domestic killings, ethnic cleansing, ethnocide, femicide, feticide, gendecide, genocide, honour killing, ritual killings, infanticide, linguicide, mass murder, murder–suicide, omnicide, policide, politicide, regicide, school shootings, structural violence, suicide, terrorism, thrill killing, tyrannicide, violence, war, and other forms of killing, direct, indirect or structural.”<sup>10</sup> The argument for positive peace in addition the negative peace that was promoted by Global Peace Index (GPI) can be countered with a more creative approach towards nonkilling, non-violence, and peace. In these times of global distrust, disruption, and disturbance, a *Global Nonkilling Index* can foster a more purposeful scientific approach to promote country-specific transparency, measurability, and achievability of nonkilling that will in turn foster nonviolence and peace. Developing a nonkilling and non-violent global paradigm for universal peace can be a big step towards a human evolution. Based on the concept of a Global Nonkilling Index, the parameters used were identified as the rates of homicide, genocide, suicide, war related deaths (internal & external), and capital punishment.

## NONKILLING PARAMETERS

- 1. Homicide:** Homicide implies killing of another human being. There are different kinds of homicides such as murder, manslaughter, self-defense, and mental instability. High homicide rates of a country reflect a bad social environment, in which people are either driven to kill for greed, anger, or self-defense.
- 2. Suicide:** This has been defined as “death caused by self-directed injurious behaviour with intent to die as a result of the behaviour.”<sup>11</sup> Depression is the major cause for suicide which can be caused by various factors: disturbed family life, bad economic situation, constant failures in life. In a study where reasons for killing oneself were determined,<sup>12</sup> (Linder, 2009) psychologists found that it can occur when the killer does not have control over emotions and when the feeling of guilt is overwhelming.<sup>13</sup> Causes for the emotional disturbance that leads to suicide can be by actions of the state, the

individual, or the society. Suicide may be a response to the violence or oppression an individual may have been facing in his/her life. Suicide is an important parameter for nonkilling because where homicide rates are low but the suicide rates are high, it cannot be considered a peaceful state.

3. **Capital Punishment:** This refers to execution of a person by a lawful authority of the state for committing heinous crimes. The definition of “heinous” varies from state to state; the Capital Punishment count differs accordingly. States that execute large numbers of people usually do not have transparency in their data and in the judicial process that awards Capital Punishment. This was observed particularly in the case of China, Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia whose death penalties were alarmingly high in 2015. Since the formation of Amnesty International (1989), the year in which maximum executions are observed is 2015; Amnesty reports the execution of 1,634 people globally.<sup>14</sup>
4. **Battle-related deaths:** When at least two countries are at war with each other, the fatalities resulting from fighting are described as battle-related deaths. In recent years, with the exception Africa, battle related deaths are usually not included in national death rates.
5. **Internal Armed Conflict Deaths:** This refers to deaths in a state; arising out of internal conflicts between governmental armed forces and the forces of one or more armed forces; or between such armed groups arising on the territory of the state.

Killing on a large scale, be it war, homicide, or genocide, occurs when the “other” is regarded as an outsider and subhuman.<sup>15</sup> Cases of war or genocide may be observed only in a few countries, particularly those that have authoritarian regimes even if headed by charismatic leaders. Such leaders are able to mobilize the majority even if it leads to killing. Some prominent features of such authoritarian regimes are that diverse views, religions, or faiths do not coexist. High secrecy is the order of the day in government work and the means and medium are developed to control and regulate the minds of the masses. Suicide on a large scale reflects the presence of depression among the large populace of the society while a

large number of death penalties may reflect two things: first the state has turned completely autocratic and does not tolerate dissent, or second, the society and state as a whole have failed to develop good human beings.

This paper proposes that a developed, happy and peaceful nation will show a high rate of correspondence to the Global Nonkilling Index (GNI) which is country specific. When we consider human development, killings have to be taken in account in whatever form as they occur regardless of the cause. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or the Gross Happiness Index (GHI) does not tell the whole story of positive peace. In this paper an effort is being made to promote a nonkilling worldview through a non-killing index that records deliberate killings in different countries.

## **OTHER APPROACHES TO MEASURE PEACE AND HAPPINESS**

It has been argued that there already exist indexes such as Global Peace Index, Human Development Index (HDI) and Happiness Index (HI) by which we may look into the peace and happiness quotient of a nation. But this paper focuses on the idea of peace based on human life and our very existence, which is markedly different from these indexes. The parameters of HDI are: life expectancy, education and per capita income indicators.<sup>16</sup> The parameters examined by HI are: income, education, unemployment, partnership (married or unmarried), physical and mental health.<sup>17</sup> The GPI, the largest with 23 parameters, is divided into internal and external peace.<sup>18</sup> They have defined peace as “negative peace” that is absence of war and given a 60 percent weight to internal peace and 40 percent to external. But two important parameters that both indexes missed in determining peace and happiness was- suicide and capital punishment. How can a country be called happy or peaceful if its suicide rate or its state execution is alarmingly high? The economic status, education, and other such indicators then seems to be irrelevant if its suicide rate is high.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In the Nonkilling index, killing of not just the others but also of the self is observed. The index is built on quiet simple calculations. Each of the five variables have been assigned the value of 5 (just like the GPI), making the

total score to 25. The GPI gave different weightage to different variables after holding robust discussion about them. Internal peace was given more weightage as it was argued that internal peace also affects external peace. In the Nonkilling Index each of the 5 variables is given equal weight.

The homicide<sup>19</sup> and suicide<sup>20</sup> rates are taken from the website of World Health Organization (WHO). The war deaths and internal armed conflict deaths are taken from: Uppsala Conflict Data Programme<sup>21</sup> and Global Peace Index<sup>22</sup> respectively. Capital Punishment is taken from the report of Amnesty International.<sup>23</sup> The period of the data collection is for the year of 2015 (January 1 to December 31), the reason for this is that suicide rates are collected by the WHO in every five years. The homicide and suicide rates are calculated as: number of deaths divided by the total population; the result multiplied by one lakh (100,000).

The scoring of Capital Punishment is calculated as the number of executions divided by the population of that State and multiplied by one lakh. Marks from 5 are allotted according to the highest and lowest range.

The marks are allotted according to the band prepared for each variable. The rate bands are prepared according to the highest and lowest rate of that particular variable. Thus, the higher the score the higher the killing. The average score of all 172 countries is taken as a benchmark score as to which country is performing better and which worse. The average that came out is 5.8. So countries that have killing rate above 5.8 reflect an abnormally bad score.

### Suicide Rate Band

1/5	2/5	3/5	4/5	5/5
0-5.9	6-12.9	13-21.9	22-29.9	>30

0-5.9	Decimal place	6-12.9	Decimal Place	13-21.9	Decimal place	22-29.9	Decimal place
0.1-0.6	1	6	2	13-13.5	3	22-22.5	4
0.7-1	1.1	6.1-7	2.1	13.6-14	3.1	22.6-23	4.1
1.1-2	1.2	7.1-8	2.2	14.1-15	3.2	23.1-23.5	4.2
2.1-2.5	1.3	8.1-9	2.3	15.1-16	3.3	23.6-24	4.3
2.6-3	1.4	9.1-10	2.4	16.1-17	3.4	24.1-25	4.4
3.1-3.5	1.5	10.1-11	2.5	17.1-18	3.5	25.1-26	4.5
3.6-4	1.6	11.1-11.5	2.6	18.1-19	3.6	26.1-27	4.6
4.1-4.5	1.7	11.6-12	2.7	19.1-20	3.7	27.1-28	4.7
4.6-5	1.8	12.1-12.5	2.8	20.1-21	3.8	28.1-29	4.8
5.1-5.9	1.9	12.6-12.9	2.9	21.1-21.9	3.9	29-29.9	4.9

### Homicide Rate Band

1/5	2/5	3/5	4/5	5/5
0-5.99	6-12.9	13-29.9	30-49.9	>50

0-5.9	Decimal place	6-12.9	Decimal Place	13-21.9	Decimal place	22-29.9	Decimal place
0.1-0.6	1	6	2	13-13.5	3	22-22.5	4
0.7-1	1.1	6.1-7	2.1	13.6-14	3.1	22.6-23	4.1
1.1-2	1.2	7.1-8	2.2	14.1-15	3.2	23.1-23.5	4.2
2.1-2.5	1.3	8.1-9	2.3	15.1-16	3.3	23.6-24	4.3
2.6-3	1.4	9.1-10	2.4	16.1-17	3.4	24.1-25	4.4
3.1-3.5	1.5	10.1-11	2.5	17.1-18	3.5	25.1-26	4.5
3.6-4	1.6	11.1-11.5	2.6	18.1-19	3.6	26.1-27	4.6
4.1-4.5	1.7	11.6-12	2.7	19.1-20	3.7	27.1-28	4.7



4.6-5	1.8	12.1-12.5	2.8	20.1-21	3.8	28.1-29	4.8
5.1-5.9	1.9	12.6-12.9	2.9	21.1-21.9	3.9	29-29.9	4.9

### Battle Rate Band/Armed conflict death band

1/5	2/5	3/5	4/5	5/5
0-1000	1001-5,000	5001-15000	15001-30000	>30,001

0-1000	Decimal place	1001-5000	Decimal place	5001-15000	Decimal place	15001-30000	Decimal place
0-100	1	1001-1200	2	5001-6000	3	15001-16000	4
101-200	1.1	1201-1500	2.1	6001-7000	3.1	16001-17000	4.1
201-300	1.2	1501-2000	2.2	7001-8000	3.2	17001-18000	4.2
301-400	1.3	2001-2500	2.3	8001-9000	3.3	18001-20000	4.3
401-500	1.4	2501-3000	2.4	9001-10000	3.4	20001-22000	4.4
501-600	1.5	3001-3500	2.5	10001-11000	3.5	22001-24000	4.5
601-700	1.6	3501-4000	2.6	11001-12000	3.6	24001-26000	4.6
701-800	1.7	4001-4500	2.7	12001-13000	3.7	26001-28000	4.7
801-900	1.8	4501-4800	2.8	13001-14000	3.8	28001-29000	4.8
901-1000	1.9	4801-5000	2.9	14001-15000	3.9	29001-30000	4.9

### Capital Punishment Score

1	2	3	4	5
.001 & Less	.002 to .005	.006 to .009	.01 to .09	.1 & above

**The Nonkilling Index- 2015**

Key — Score for type of killing		
Low 1-2	.Medium 2-3	.High >3

	Countries	Armed Conflict Score Internal	Battle Death marks	Suicide Rate Band	Capital Punishment	Homicide Rate Band	Total
1.	Brunei Darussalam			1.2		1.2	2.4
2.	Greece			1.5		1.2	2.7
3.	Cyprus			1.6		1.3	2.9
4.	Armenia			1.8		1.2	3
5.	Italy			1.9		1.1	3
6.	Kuwait			1.7		1.3	3
7.	Tajikistan			1.8		1.2	3
8.	Morocco			1.9		1.2	3.1
9.	Trinidad and Tobago			1.9		1.2	3.1
10.	Spain			2		1.1	3.1
11.	Bahrain			2.1		1.1	3.2
12.	Bosnia and Herzegovina			1.7		1.5	3.2
13.	Malta			1.8		1.4	3.2
14.	Albania			1.6		1.7	3.3
15.	Luxembourg			2.3		1	3.3
16.	The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia			2.1		1.2	3.3
17.	Barbados			1		2.5	3.5
18.	Germany			2.4		1.1	3.5
19.	Netherlands			2.4		1.1	3.5
20.	Norway			2.4		1.1	3.5
21.	Portugal			2.3		1.2	3.5
22.	Switzerland			2.5		1	3.5
23.	Denmark			2.4		1.2	3.6

24.	Fiji			2.3		1.3	3.6
25.	Georgia			1.9		1.7	3.6
26.	Romania			2.4		1.2	3.6
27.	Slovakia			2.4		1.2	3.6
28.	Tunisia			2.3		1.3	3.6
29.	Australia			2.5		1.1	3.6
30.	Czechia/ Czech Republic			2.5		1.1	3.6
31.	Mauritius			2.3		1.4	3.7
32.	Montenegro			2.3		1.4	3.7
33.	Canada			2.5		1.2	3.7
34.	Ireland			2.6		1.1	3.7
35.	Malawi			2.5		1.2	3.7
36.	Nepal			2.2		1.5	3.7
37.	Azerbaijan		1	1.5		1.3	3.8
38.	Bulgaria			2.6		1.2	3.8
39.	Uruguay			2.4		1.4	3.8
40.	Austria			2.7		1.1	3.8
41.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)			2.2		1.6	3.8
42.	Croatia			2.8		1.1	3.9
43.	France			2.8		1.1	3.9
44.	Iceland			2.7		1.2	3.9
45.	Bhutan			2.8		1.2	4
46.	Maldives			2.5		1.5	4
47.	New Zealand			2.8		1.2	4
48.	Serbia			2.8		1.2	4
49.	Solomon Islands			2.4		1.7	4.1
50.	Sweden			2.9		1.2	4.1
51.	Timor-Leste			2.4		1.7	4.1
52.	Qatar			1.9		2.3	4.2
53.	Cambodia			2.9		1.3	4.2
54.	Chile			2.4		1.8	4.2
55.	Israel		1.1	1.9		1.2	4.2
56.	Slovenia			3.2		1	4.2

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57.	Algeria		1.1	1.5		1.7	4.3
58.	Cuba			2.5		1.8	4.3
59.	Mozambique			2.9		1.4	4.3
60.	Finland			3.2		1.2	4.4
61.	Madagascar			2.2		2.2	4.4
62.	Hungary			3.3		1.2	4.5
63.	Kyrgyzstan			2.3		2.2	4.5
64.	Belgium			3.4		1.2	4.6
65.	Cabo Verde			2.7		1.9	4.6
66.	Costa Rica			2.2		2.4	4.6
67.	Djibouti			2.5		2.1	4.6
68.	Paraguay			2.4		2.2	4.6
69.	Republic of Moldova			2.8		1.9	4.7
70.	Ecuador			2.2		2.5	4.7
71.	Poland			3.6		1.1	4.7
72.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland			2.5		2.2	4.7
73.	Bahamas			1.2		3.6	4.8
74.	Guinea-Bissau			2.4		2.4	4.8
75.	Rwanda			2.9		1.9	4.8
76.	United Republic of Tanzania			2.9		1.9	4.8
77.	Argentina			3.1		1.8	4.9
78.	Estonia			3.2		1.7	4.9
79.	Ghana			2.5		2.4	4.9
80.	Guinea			2.6		2.3	4.9
81.	Mauritania			2.4		2.5	4.9
82.	Senegal			2.7		2.2	4.9
83.	Comoros			2.8		2.2	5
84.	Liberia			2.5		2.5	5
85.	Gabon			2.8		2.3	5.1
86.	Gambia			2.7		2.4	5.1
87.	Indonesia			1.4	2	1.7	5.1
88.	Peru			2		3.1	5.1

89.	Panama			1.9		3.3	5.2
90.	Benin			3.2		2	5.2
91.	Eritrea			3		2.2	5.2
92.	Lao People's Democratic Republic			3.1		2.1	5.2
93.	Lebanon	1	1	1.5		1.7	5.2
94.	Bangladesh			2	2	1.4	5.4
95.	Botswana			2.9		2.5	5.4
96.	Jamaica			1.2		4.3	5.5
97.	Nicaragua			2.4		3.1	5.5
98.	Papua New Guinea			2.7		2.8	5.5
99.	Viet Nam			2.4	1	2.1	5.5
100.	Latvia			3.5		2.1	5.6
101.	Namibia			2.5		3.1	5.6
102.	Republic of Korea			4.4		1.2	5.6
103.	Malaysia			2.1	2	1.6	5.7
104.	Togo			3.3		2.4	5.7
105.	Burkina Faso			3.4		2.4	5.8
106.	Kenya		1	2.5		2.3	5.8
107.	Belarus			3.7		2.1	5.8
108.	Guatemala			1.4		4.4	5.8
109.	Democratic Republic of the Congo			2.8		3.1	5.9
110.	Turkmenistan			2.9		3.1	6
111.	Brazil			2		4.1	6.1
112.	Equatorial Guinea			4.6		1.5	6.1
113.	Ethiopia		1	2.9		2.2	6.1
114.	Turkey		1.9	2.5		1.7	6.1
115.	Dominican Republic			2.2		4.1	6.3
116.	Japan			3.3	2	1	6.3
117.	Haiti			2.7		3.8	6.5
118.	South Africa			2.8		3.7	6.5
119.	Sri Lanka			5		1.5	6.5
120.	Uganda		1.1	3.4		2	6.5
121.	Uzbekistan			1.5		5	6.5

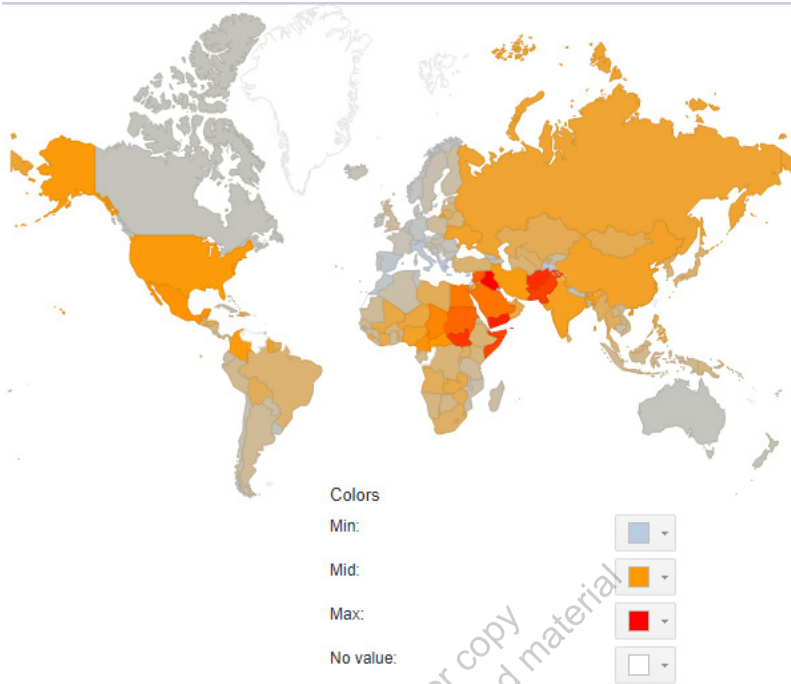
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122.	Lithuania			4.6		2.1	6.7
123.	Thailand	1.2	1	2.9		1.6	6.7
124.	Belize			2.3		4.4	6.7
125.	Honduras			1.7		5	6.7
126.	Myanmar	1.8	1.6	1.7		1.6	6.7
127.	Libya	2.4	1.2	2		1.3	6.9
128.	Angola			4.5		2.4	6.9
129.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			3.8		3.1	6.9
130.	Swaziland			3.5		3.4	6.9
131.	Zimbabwe			4.5		2.4	6.9
132.	Democratic People's Republic of Korea			3.3	2	1.7	7
133.	Jordan			1.6	4	1.4	7
134.	Kazakhstan			4.7		2.3	7
135.	Lesotho			3.1		3.9	7
136.	Mongolia			4.8		2.3	7.1
137.	Sierra Leone			4		3.1	7.1
138.	Suriname			4.6		2.5	7.1
139.	Philippines	1.5	1.5	1.6		2.7	7.3
140.	Zambia			3.5		3.8	7.3
141.	Congo	2.2		2.7		2.5	7.4
142.	Côte d'Ivoire			4.7		2.7	7.4
143.	United Arab Emirates			2.2	4	1.2	7.4
144.	El Salvador			2.5		5	7.5
145.	Mali	1.4	1.1	2.5		2.5	7.5
146.	Oman			1.8	4	1.8	7.6
147.	Burundi	1.5	1.1	3		2.1	7.7
148.	Niger	1.9	1.1	2.3		2.4	7.7
149.	Singapore			2.3	4	1.4	7.7
150.	Russian Federation	1.2	1	3.5		2.5	8.2
151.	Guyana			5		3.3	8.3
152.	Ukraine	3.3	2.1	1.4		1.6	8.4
153.	China	1.1		2.3	4	1.1	8.5

154.	Nigeria		2.8	3.3		2.4	8.5
155.	India	1.5	1.4	3.3	1	1.6	8.8
156.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1		1.6	5	1.7	9.3
157.	Colombia	1.4	1.1	2		4.9	9.4
158.	United States of America		1	3.3	3	2.2	9.5
159.	Central African Republic	3.1		3.7		3.1	9.9
160.	Cameroon	2.1	1.9	3.5		2.6	10.1
161.	Mexico	5		1.8		3.3	10.1
162.	Chad		1.2	3.2	4	2.3	10.7
163.	Egypt	2.4	1.7	1.5	4	1.8	11.4
164.	Saudi Arabia	3.1		1.6	5	1.9	11.6
165.	Sudan	2.5	2.1	2.6	3	2.1	12.3
166.	Syrian Arab Republic	5	5	1.5		1.3	12.8
167.	Somalia	2.7	2	2.3	5	1.9	13.9
168.	Pakistan	3.1	2.3	1.3	5	2.4	14.1
169.	South Sudan	5	1.4	2.4	4	1.7	14.5
170.	Afghanistan	4.5	4.2	2.2	2	2.1	15
171.	Yemen	3.5	3	2.6	4	2.4	15.5
172.	Iraq	5	3.6	1.7	4	2.9	17.2

### A World View of Killings

Below is a bird's-eye view of the killings that occurred all over the world in 2015. Different colors are used to highlight the extent of killings. Colors indicating maximum value represent nations with maximum killings and those with minimum value indicate the least killings.



### Limitations

Subsequent years' data for homicide and battle related deaths are not verifiable. Hence, it is proposed that Global Nonkilling Index would be released every (3 or 5) years to ensure verifiability and validity of the collected data. Also, there are certain countries like China, North Korea, and Syria whose data of Capital Punishment is not accessible and these countries are believed to have been executing a large number of people every year. This index also recognizes female foeticide as a different form of killing that is prevalent in many countries but due to data unavailability has not been included in the index.

In the future it is proposed to release the GNI every year once the sources are established to be transparent, verifiable and duly validated.

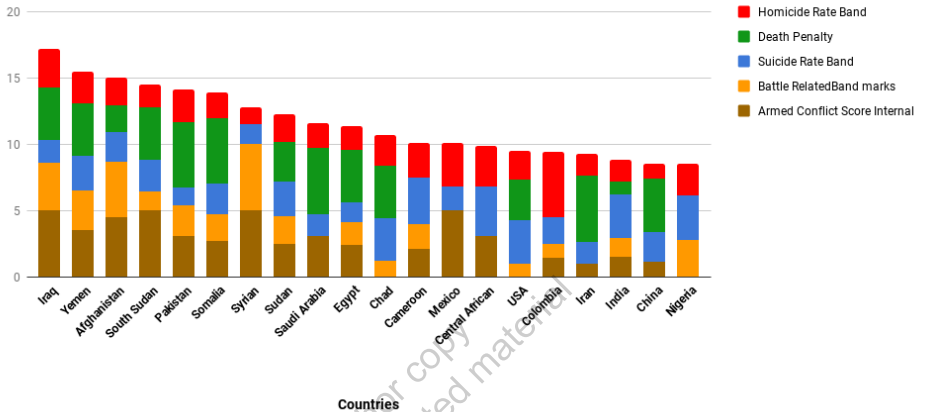
### Utility of the Index

The Nonkilling Index helps us identify which factor is responsible for the killings in the respected nation. The graph below shows the top 20 nations



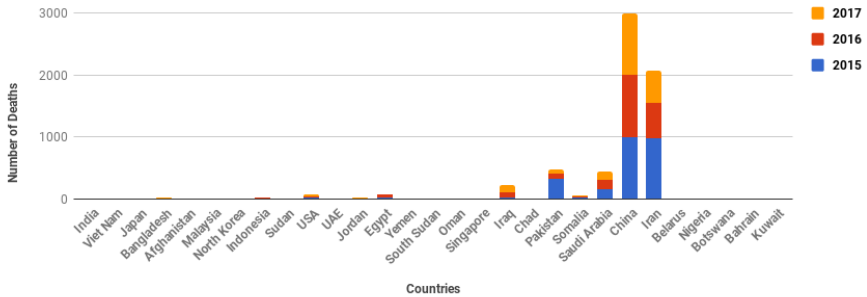
that experienced the most killings in 2015. Most of these countries are not just facing war (internal and external) but also have high Capital Punishment due to which their score has drastically increased. The death penalty of Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Pakistan, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Chad, USA, Iran and China are alarmingly high due to which their overall killing score has drastically shown a hike.

**Top 20 Nations With High Killing Score- 2015**



Capital Punishment as a deterrent is used in very few nations and at fewer instances yet there remain some nations whose Capital Punishment rate every year is unbelievable. To have a closer look at the nations with regard to Capital Punishment data was collected from the period of 2015, 2016<sup>24</sup> and 2017.<sup>25</sup> The graph below would portray the picture.

**Death Penalty**

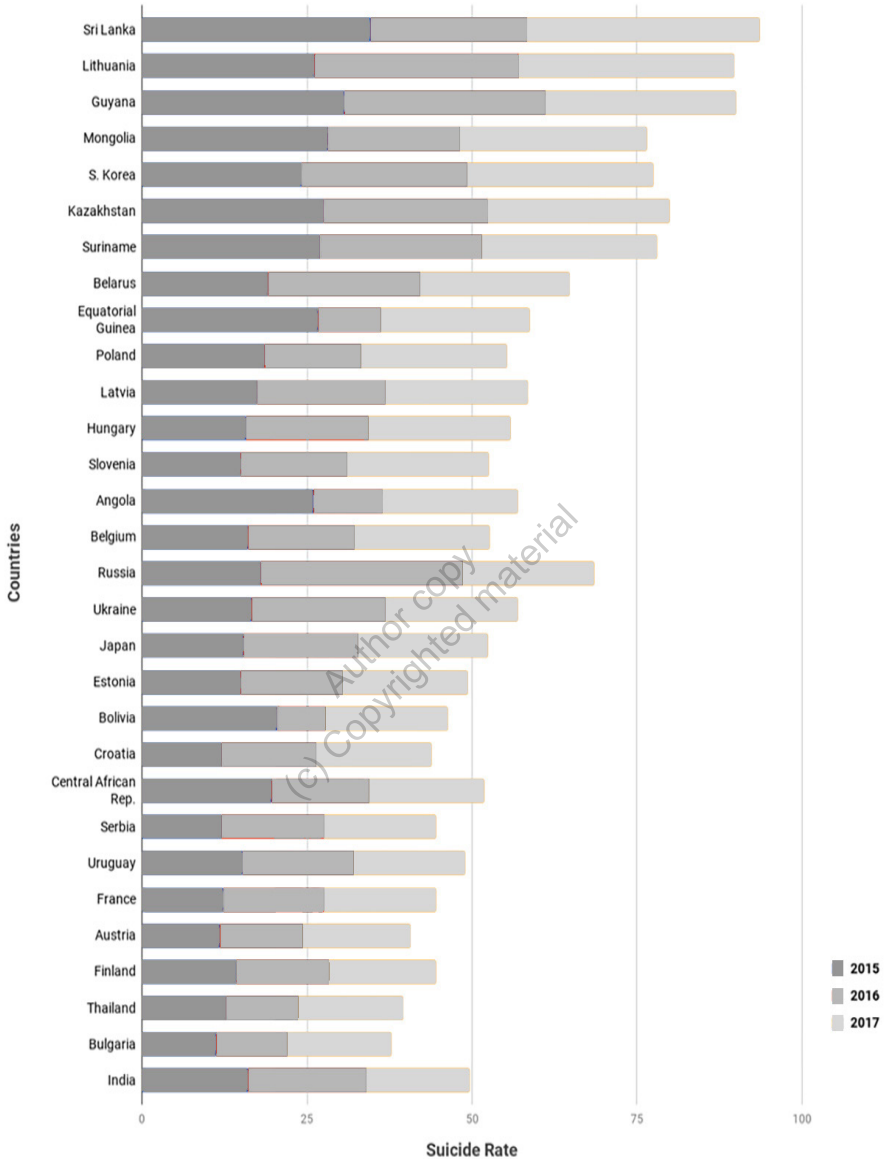


Each country mentioned in the chart has executed at least one person in either of the 3 years. But countries like Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, China and Iran have a high constant rate in all these 3 years. These countries are executing their people in hundreds and thousands every year. In the name of legal punishment this kind of mass killing is being ignored by the world community.

It is similar with suicide. The average of world suicide rate for the years 2015, 2016<sup>26</sup> and 2017<sup>27</sup> is around 10 for each year. Every year approximately 70 countries are above average. A person who commits suicide is often considered as a person suffering from some kind of depression. But when such acts of “self-murder” are observed to be widely prevalent in a large number of countries it reflects that something is wrong with the environment. Sometimes the mere threat of war or fear of war is responsible for suicide deaths. It has been found through studies that PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) leads to suicide as well. In fact PTSD-related suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States.<sup>28</sup> Some veterans of the Afghanistan War, Gulf War, Vietnam War have been found to be suffering from PTSD. However, researchers tend to lose track of military personnel once they retire, and do not track veteran suicides for all branches of the military,<sup>29</sup> and not all suicides are counted as suicides. Additionally, veterans with PTSD who kill themselves through drinking, smoking, or drugs taken because of war trauma are not counted as suicide.

The chart below shows the top 30 nations with the highest suicide rate in the world for the year 2015, 2016 and 2017. Amongst them are countries that have a high ranking of GPI in 2017<sup>30</sup> such as Austria (4<sup>th</sup>), Slovenia (7<sup>th</sup>), Japan (10<sup>th</sup>), Hungary (15), Finland (17<sup>th</sup>), Belgium (19<sup>th</sup>), Bulgaria (28), Croatia (31), Latvia (32), Poland (33), Uruguay (35), Estonia (36), Lithuania (37), Mongolia (46) and South Korea/Korea Republic (47).

**Top 30 Nations With Above Average Suicide Rate**



From the above graphs and figures it can be observed that the Nonkilling Index differs in some way from the Global Peace Index as it provides new insights about those nations that the GPI has marked as peaceful countries.

## CONCLUSION

In this index, out of five parameters, two parameters, Suicide and Capital Punishment, have been highlighted which are considered to be the factors contributing to the peace and happiness of a society. Ironically these have failed to find their place in those indexes that are particularly built to measure peace and happiness of a country. The purpose of the index is to show that despite economic prosperity of nations, killings in different forms continue undermining the peace, prosperity, and development of a nation. This index would help in creating such approaches that can only be adopted once the nations are aware of the kind and extent of killing(s) being faced by them. Thus in order to have a better perspective, a Global Nonkilling Index (GNI) will not only foster an *affirmative nonkilling* approach towards *positive peace* but also promote a different approach and paradigm needed in solving societal problems.

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## NOTES

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