Editor's Mail

Rebels with no cause in troubled areas

Dear Editor:

What is it in the human make-up that, at times, brings out the worst side?

During modern history, man's inhumanity to man has probably been in its most prolific period.

In most cases, religion seems to be the main ingredient, caused by intolerance, bigotry, sheer brutality and bestiality.

There was the partition of India where thousands of Hindus and Moslems were slaughtered by each other.

In the Middle East, we see Arab against Jew.

In Cyprus, Greeks were fighting Turks and Christians were battling Moslems.

Then there's the ongoing struggle in Northern Ireland where brutality has reached bestial proportions, culminating in the recent deaths of two British soldiers in plain clothes. They were dragged from their car, stripped, beaten into insensibility and then shot.

All this in the name of what?

In many cases, what started out as conflicting religious philosophies, ended with fanaticism and torrorism on both sides. The acts of terrorism and destruction no longer had anything to do with the real belief in a 'cause' but in the capability of causing death to as many people as possible, irrespective of who they are.

It has been the British soldier in these modern events who have been caught in the middle and shot at by both sides.

In India, their very presence in time of partition, saved the lives of thousands of Hindus as well as Moslems who would have been slaughtered had they not been there.

During the creation of the State of Israel, it was the British soldier again who was caught between the Arab and the Jew.

In Cyprus, before the UN troops took over, it was the British soldier who prevented hundreds of Greeks and Turks from having their throats slit. And now, under extreme provocation in Northern Ireland, they are doing their best to keep the lid from blowing off.

If they were to withdraw from Northern Ireland, as so many people south of the border wish, there would be civil war in a very short time.

Every established religion believes in the existence of God; presumably the same God. So why all the intolerance, bigotry and hostility — in the name of religion?

Sincerely,
Adam Johnstone,
R.R. 1, Stouffville

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