

Recipe for Ending War

by Joyce Wycoff

The big guys have had enough time.

They've done their talking and backroom negotiating,
yet war still spreads like oil across the water.



We've listened to the history,
seen all the fingers pointing this way and that.
We've seen them draw their lines in the sand and heard them count their bombs.
Most of all, we've seen the devastated cities and heard the wailing
of broken bodies and the keening of destroyed families.

Enough is enough. It's time to try something new.

5-Step Basic Recipe for Ending War

Ingredients: 12 mothers, each with a young son, chosen from side A of the conflict
12 mothers, each with a young son, chosen from side B of the conflict
12 guns, loaded

Step 1: Give the mothers binding power to continue the war or negotiate peace.

Step 2: Put sons in one protective enclosure, each set of mothers in another.

Step 3: Bring out all the mothers on side A and line them up as a firing squad complete with guns.
Bring out one son from side B and tell the firing squad of mothers that they can choose to shoot the boy or negotiate peace.
If they shoot, proceed to Step 4.

Step 4: Bring out all the mothers on side B and line them up as a firing squad complete with guns.
Bring out one son from side A and tell the firing squad of mothers that they can choose to shoot the boy or negotiate peace.
If they shoot, proceed to Step 5.

Step 5: Repeat Steps 3 and 4 as needed until sanity prevails and peace is negotiated.

If this recipe should fail, give up, there is no hope left for the world.