



Current Issues in Prayer

June 2017

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:
That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.



Getting started:

Take a deep breath and come into the presence of the Lord. As you thank the Lord for what you have received today, take some moments to remember those who might have been injured or who might have lost their lives today, especially those innocent people injured or killed in wars.



Short story:

A bereaved man sobbed as friends led him out of the mosque. Mustafa Naji al-Mrabet's left hand and feet were bandaged, there were bloodstains on his robes, and the valve for an intravenous needle still stuck out of his arm. He was both a husband and a father, deep in mourning.

Nearby, his brother-in-law, 26-year-old Abubakr Ali sobbed like a child. Ali pulled the blankets covering two small coffins.

Inside lay the battered bodies of his nephews, Mohamed and Motez al-Mrabet, aged 3 and 5. Their mother Ibtisam lay in a coffin beside them. Family members said that a third child, 8-year old Naji, was receiving intensive care after suffering serious injuries.

All three were killed after their house on the outskirts of Zlitan in Libya was hit by an airstrike. This happened during the early hours of the morning. The missed target was a command and control facility held by government forces. This story is one of many involving innocent civilians who live in war torn areas and whose lives is constantly in danger. Many governments around the world remain supportive of the arms industry when their laws are weak in controlling the arms trade. Amongst the victims there will always be innocent people who are the most vulnerable.



[<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/08/04/libya.family.killed/index.html>]



Time to reflect:

Billions of dollars are spent annually on arms and munitions. The security of countries has to be safeguarded; but is it justified to spend such an enormous amount of money on arms? Since a considerable amount of arms is bought by underdeveloped countries, would it be more beneficial if this money is invested in health and education?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, grant our national leaders the wisdom to understand the impact of the arms trade and not to ignore the serious consequences on the lives of afflicted people. Help them understand that human life is far more precious than any sum of money generated from this trade.



Inspiration:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed".

Former U.S. President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a speech on April 16, 1953



Hands on:

I try to keep myself informed about arms trade and about countries currently involved in conflict. I try to create awareness about promoting peace and the impact of the arms trade by posting comments on Facebook and bringing up the subjects during conversations.