

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

VOV Is Working

I was very moved by SGI President Ikeda's comments on terrorism in the Sept. 28 *World Tribune*, "Importance of Dialogue Cannot Be Overstated" (p. 1). After the disasters in the Eastern United States, it is very tempting for Americans to dismiss dialogue as inappropriate for an event that has been compared with the Pearl Harbor attack. To be honest, for a considerable time I did.

On Sept. 11, the religious firestorm that has raged in the Middle East leaped across the Atlantic Ocean and struck the United States. Since then, none of us has slept very well, have we? On Sept. 15, I sent an e-mail to the United Arab Emirates embassy in Islamabad about valuing human life. Other e-mails followed to the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London and the Iraqi Mission to the U.N. I also e-mailed the Chief of Police in Karachi. Today I wrote e-mails to the *New York Times* and *Newsweek* proposing that Sept. 11 be called Faith Day, a new national holiday celebrating our freedom of religion in the United States. On a television news report, the faces of Islamic students in New York City told me that our Victory Over Violence campaign is really working.

Let's keep up the good work.

—RICHARD GUISE LYONS, Ph.D.
Saitama, Japan

A Solution To Be Proud Of

Regarding a quote in Linda Johnson's article "What I Know for Sure": "Second, killing in response to killing only perpetuates the karmic cycle" (Oct. 5 *World Tribune*, p. 9)—I believe that defense is moral and therefore does not create negative karma.

I feel it is in fact positive to save an innocent life by killing a murderer so as to avoid further loss of innocent life. Of course, we do what we can to use appropriate force, with the least loss of life on both sides. I believe it is a right of an individual to defend his life and liberty. The only time I believe force or fraud is justified is to defend against violence.

I differentiate between murder and defensive killing. I would agree with the statement above if the word *killing* were substituted with the word *murder*. The best victory over violence is prevention. Therefore, using all means available, not just dialogue, we must take beneficial actions of social and economic intercourse amongst all peoples of the world.

I am praying for a solution to the attack we have suffered at the hands of malicious murderers. A solution that we the people of the world will all be proud of. One of justice, compassion and wisdom that leaves the world in a much stronger position than before this terrible act of war. One that creates the most value for all.

—NEAL LEIMAN
Costa Mesa, Calif.

True Martyrdom

Thank you for your thought-provoking coverage of this issue. I really enjoyed Shin Yatomi's article, "Violence Is Weakness, Prayer Is Power" (Oct. 5 *World Tribune*, p. 2). His comments about sacrifice dovetail nicely with President Ikeda's recent guidance that "martyrdom" in its true sense, a term misused by religious extremists, means sacrifice with the intent to save and bring happiness to others lives, not to destroy them.

Until the recent terrorist crisis, I was unaware to what extent Buddhism expounds nonviolence, even in response to wanton destruction. In reviewing the SGI Charter, I could not find the word nonviolence anywhere. Perhaps it's time to revise it.

— ANDY BRUCK
Jacksonville, Fla.

Letters printed here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the SGI-USA or the World Tribune. Letters should be brief and are subject to condensation. Not all letters can be published or acknowledged, but they are all read. Please only send letters related to articles in the World Tribune. By mail: Mailbox, World Tribune, PO Box 1427, Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907. By Fax: 310-260-8910. By email: wt@sgi-usa.org.