

HUMAN RIGHTS, TERRORISM AND INTERNAL SECURITY*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivraj Patil**

Human rights can be generally understood as those rights which are inherent in human-beings without which they cannot live as human-beings. These are the rights which every human-being is entitled to enjoy and to have them protected. They are inherent, equal, universal, inalienable, indivisible, inter-related and inter-dependent. The 20th is considered as the Century for 'Democracy and Human Rights'. Human rights demand treating others as we expect others to treat us. They are natural rights come by birth of human beings. No effort is needed to acquire them. We should always remember and recognize that human dignity is the spine of human rights.

The human rights have long process of evolution. Basically, human rights are integral part of human life and it is the possession of these rights that distinguish human beings from other species. At all times and in all ages, right from the beginning there was oppression of human beings by human beings, leading to struggles and revolutions for restoration and protection of human rights. In history and ancient scriptures, references to the basic human rights can be easily noticed. The *Rigveda*, one of the oldest documents of human civilization declares that all human beings are equal and they are all brothers. The *Atharvaveda* proclaims that all human beings have equal right over food and water. The *Vedas* were the primordial source of *Dharma*, a compendious term for all human rights and duties. The observation of *Dharma* was regarded as essential for securing peace and happiness to individuals as well as society. All such works were intended for securing happiness to all. *Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavanthee* was the ethos of our motherland.

It is interesting to know that the International Human Rights Movement was born in an out of the Second World War. It is ironic that Adolf Hitler, who was responsible for the terror and violence, gave rise to the awakening of the conscience of mankind, opposing repetition of such barbaric and inhumane crimes. This led to formation of United Nations Organisation. The 20th Century had witnessed unprecedented human losses, devastations and destruction of the two world wars. At the end of the World War II the United Nations was established in 1945 to fulfill the long cherished aspirations of the world community for world peace, prosperity and happiness of all human beings inhabiting in any part of the world irrespective of race, religion, region, caste, creed, colour and community.

The United Nations Charter is a landmark document which proclaimed that the people of United Nations: "Re-affirm faith in the fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of

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men and women; and in universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.” The day, 10th December, 1948 was remarkable in the modern history of mankind. That is the day on which the United Nations made the *Declaration of Human Rights*. This declaration was not either a sudden or miraculous event. It was the effect of a cumulative and continuing movement of human conscience and changes in thinking that went on over a long period.

The proclamation of *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* on December 10, 1948 is not mere a declaration it represents the collective wisdom of the world community to work together towards a world without injustice, indignity and ignorance; a world without cruelty and hunger. The *UDHR* declares: “All human beings are born free and equal in rights and dignity”. Human rights broadly constitute two cartograms of rights:

1. Rights which are essential for the dignified human existence, *viz.*, the right to have basic human needs like food, clothing, shelter and medical care; and
2. Rights which are essential for the adequate development of human personality such as the right to education, the right to freedom of culture, the right to freedom of speech and expression, and the right to free movement.

Martin Luther King said: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice every where”. It is more so when the whole world has become a global village due to tremendous advancement in science and technology and transport and communication. Mahatma Gandhi also said: “Peace all over world can be established not on gun power but on pure justice.”

It is a matter of common knowledge that wars produce hunger. But people seem to be less alive to the fact that hunger can lead to war. It is undebatable that hunger and peace cannot co-exist. In other words, while hunger rules, peace cannot prevail. All democratic institutions have onerous and great responsibility and duty to respond to the challenges, to maintain the abiding faith and continuing confidence of the society, which the society has reposed in them, because they essentially exist for the society.

Contemporary evolving concept of human rights can be stated in terms of three generations of human rights. First generation of human rights is mainly concerned with the civil and political rights of the individual; in other words, the 'liberty-oriented' rights. These were meant to impose with 'negative obligations on the Government to desist from interfering with the exercise of individual liberties'. These rights were among the major concerns of all liberal and democratic movements since the 19th Century.

The second generation of human rights can be said to be 'security-oriented' and provide for social, economic and cultural security. These rights are positive in nature as they make it the duty of the State to ensure for the realization of these rights. The *United Nations Declaration of Human Rights*

indicates the consensus of principles which form the basis of the first and second generation rights.

The third generation of human rights relatively are of recent origin. They have come into existence in response to various new concerns over which the international consensus has emerged in recent years. These included the environmental, cultural and developmental rights. They relate to rights of groups of people rather than individual. The developing countries have played a significant role in bringing about international consensus on these rights. The most important example of these rights is the *Declaration on the Right to Develop* adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by the United Nations on December 10, 1948 gave global focus and thrust to the Human Rights. This Declaration guarantees rights to life, liberty, property, and equality before law, privacy, fair trial, safeguards against torture, slavery and other degraded practices, protection of family and minorities, free expression, opinion, association, assembly, movement, religion, conscience and culture. These rights have been accepted by most of the countries and they are reflected in the Constitutions of many countries. Most political and social systems accept these rights as basic minimum of civilized existence. When the Constituent Assembly adopted the recommendations and drafted the Constitution of India, the *Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948 had already been made hoping that ultimately Nations will embody these human rights in the constitutional documents.

It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that this great Nation of ours, accepting and recognizing the principles of *UDHR*, made them an integral part of its constitutional obligations. This shows firm commitment and great concern of our country to human rights. The resolution of people is set out in the Preamble to the Constitution to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and to secure to its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The resolution embodied in the Preamble assures the dignity of the individual which is the basic principle underlying the *UDHR* and in order to give effect to this assurance, provisions are made in Part-III and Part-IV of our Constitution as Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. The rights conferred by Part-III are fundamental and they are enforceable by courts. The Directive Principles laid down in Part-IV are not so enforceable but they are none-the-less fundamental in the governance of the country. The *UDHR* speaks of two sets of rights – (1) Civil and Political and (2) Economic and Social rights. Broadly speaking, the traditional civil and political rights were enshrined as Fundamental Rights under our Constitution, while the economic and social rights were set forth as Directive Principles. Thus in Part-III and Part-IV, the Indian Constitution sets out *Declaration of Human Rights* elaborately consistent with unity of the nation and the interest of the general public.

The Government of India has, by enacting appropriate laws including

enactments, constitutional provisions and at times explaining and expanding the position of human rights for their better protection and promotion. Articles 14 and 21, the two constitutional provisions, came to be considered by Supreme Court to give human dignity translating the declaration of Human Rights into reality. These two Articles guaranteeing the right to equality and the right to life and personal liberty have received deeper and meaningful considerations at the hands of the Supreme Court.

In *Chameli Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh and Othrs.*¹, the Supreme Court expressed the view that right to shelter is a fundamental right available to every citizen and that Article 21 encompasses within its limit the right to shelter, observing thus: “In any organized society, right to live as a human being is not ensured by meeting only the animal needs of man. It is secured only when he is assured of all facilities to develop himself and is freed from restrictions which inhibit his growth. All human rights are designed to achieve this object. Right to live guaranteed in any civilized society implies the right to food, water, decent environment, education, medical care and shelter. These are basic human rights known to any civilized society. All civil, political, social and cultural rights enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and Convention, or under the Constitution of India cannot be exercised without these basic human rights. Shelter for a human being, therefore, is not a mere protection of his life and limb. It is home where he has opportunities to grow physically, mentally, intellectually and spiritually. Right to shelter, therefore, includes adequate living space, safe and decent structure, clean and decent surroundings, sufficient light, pure air and water, electricity, sanitation and other civil amenities like roads *etc.*, so as to have easy access to his avocation.”

The Supreme Court interpreting the provisions of Articles 39(e), (f), 41 and 47 of the Constitution gave directions to the State Government regarding fulfillment of legislative intentment of Section 3 of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The Court observed that the tender age of the children should not be abused and they should have enough opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner. The Court took note that India was a party to the International Covenant on the Right of Child, 1989.

Gabrial Mistral, the Nobel Laureate said: “We are guilty of many errors and faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the foundation of life. Many of the things we need can wait, the child cannot! Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made; and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer 'tomorrow'. His name is 'today'.”

Respect for human rights is the greatest inspiration for integration of humankind, both internally and internationally. These are the days of modernization, liberalization, privatization and globalization. All these must

1. AIR 1996 SC 1051.

have element of humanization. Humanize the globe so that human rights violations are less. Though they may not be totally eliminated but can be certainly minimized. 'All human rights for all' should not merely remain as declaration on paper but it must be the spirit of living in day-to-day life. Treat others as you expect other to treat you, will really serve the purpose of human rights. Recognition of the inherent rights of all human beings as well as equal entitlement of each individual to all human rights forms the core of human rights doctrine.

Terrorist activities are serious violation of human rights. Even as on today thousands are being tortured and many are being deprived or denied their basic human rights such as rights to food, clothing and shelter. Terrorists' attacks not only kill innocent persons but these attacks are threat to the very welfare and dignity of the entire human family. In particular the people living in and around the places of terrorist attacks suffer mentally, emotionally and physically in as much as they move holding their breath and they live under constant fear. Wrong conviction of terrorists make them blind, deaf, ruthless and inhuman to the sufferings of others.

Conceptualization of terrorism is a very difficult task so much so that even the U. N. Expert Committee on Prevention of Terrorism could not arrive at an agreed definition due to political and ideological differences of the member nations. Eventually it is linked with violence. An ancient philosopher says 'Kill one, frighten 10,000' is terrorism.

In the present times, terrorism is a great threat and worrying feature of contemporary human civilization. It is unfortunate that millions of the innocent people all over the world had been the hapless victims of mindless and inhuman violence perpetrated by the various terrorist groups in recent years. Violating human rights by terrorist groups are a serious and major concern for the world community. Counter terrorism operations of the State-authorities are also a concern for the community of nations. There has to be a proper and balanced approach in dealing with the terrorism. However, this Century has begun with emergence of effective international net works of terror straight away targeting some democratic States.

Our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his address at the 59th Session of the U.N. General Assembly on 23rd September, 2004 observed: "Terrorism exploits the technologies spawned by globalization, recruits its foot soldiers on ideologies of bigotry and hatred, and directly targets democracies. And yet it is a sad reality that international networks of terror appear to co-operate more effectively than the democratic nations that they target." Particular part of the globe. It is spread all over may be with a difference of degree and purpose. In this view and in the interest of human dignity which is the spine of human rights and to protect fundamental freedom of the people. It is absolutely necessary for all member Nations of the United Nations to act together with determination and co-operation to fight against terrorism. The world community should become one to fight the

terrorism wherever it is. In that process terrorist camps or training centers wherever they are found need to be removed or destroyed so that the terrorist attacks can be minimized if not totally eliminated. In this regard the U. N. Human Rights Council and particularly democratic countries have to play greater role. It is the time to build up a global strategy against terrorism. Financing terror is another serious concern. Countries all over the world as one world community should take strong steps and measures to see that the finance does not flow from one country to the other to aid or to support terrorism. Under International Law, nations have a legal obligations to work against the financing of terror by any country. But what is needed is stronger political will and suitable steps to check and prevent such financing. If this is effectively done it may break bones of terrorism. Similarly, there should be mutual co-operation between different countries particularly the countries which are affected by terrorism in sharing intelligence and information and helping in investigation.

Terrorism is a menace against entire humanity. One cannot be silent spectator when the neighbor's house is burning, the same may catch up ones own house at any time. Fear of death is the gravest fear. For suicide bomber even this fear is not there. Hence it becomes necessary to discourage and destroy terrorist's camps or training in any country or region. The world community must join hands in discouraging, destroying or removing terrorists camps or training centers from such a country so that even suicide bombers cannot come out. Blame terrorists and terrorist camps and not the countries but pressurize them to destroy terrorist camps and flush out terrorists from the country. Hand them over where they are required once *prima facie* evidence is made available. It is not desirable for one political party to blame a country and the other politicizing to condemn the ruling party. No political party should muddy the waters by turning terrorism an electoral issue in any country.

The Supreme Court of India in *Kartar Singh v. State of Punjab*² observed that: "Terrorism and public order are conceptually different not only in ideology and philosophy but also in causes, the manner of its commission, and the effect or result of such activity". "Public order", the Court has elucidated further, "is well understood and fully comprehended as a problem associated with law and order. Terrorism is a new crime far serious in nature, graver in impact, and highly dangerous in consequence. One pertains to law and order problem whereas the other may be political in nature coupled with unjustified use of force threatening security and integrity of the State."

It is needless to state that the law enforcing authorities have to observe the rule of law while dealing with activities of any nature disturbing public order. The observance of rule of law is essential feature and requirement of a civilized society more so, in a democratic republic. Therefore, violations of human rights by the authority of the State are detrimental to the rule of law

2. (1994) 3 SCC 569.

and to the existence of a civilized society. However, no one can take exception in dealing firmly against terrorists within the domain of law. There is need for strengthening and monitoring mechanism that have been evolved in our country to provide necessary checks and balances on State terrorism. It is better always to keep in mind the words 'Eye to eye make the world blind' of Mahatma Gandhi. It is necessary to protect and promote human rights and democratic values in the largest democracy of the world.

The fight against terrorism in the present scenario cannot be successfully fought by the State and its forces alone. Ours is a largest democracy in the world with a huge population coupled with many diversities. Being Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic, has to function within domain of law and the Constitution. The task of fighting against terrorists in this set-up is difficult and delicate. But at the same time security of the country and preservation of public order cannot be ignored or minimized. The State has obligation to protect lives and properties of the citizens of the country.

In my view, terrorism can neither be contained nor curtailed by Government only through armed or police force. The State and its agents have to win over the community to which the terrorists belong and local community. The experience shows that in Punjab the *Khalistanis* had to give up their Movement when they lost sympathy or tacit support of Sikh Jat farmers. It is claimed that the terrorists cannot survive when they lose sympathy of their own community. If that support is withdrawn the miscreants will have no legs to stand. More often criminal elements join the committed terrorists. They start interfering with lives of innocent people and torture them. Many terrorists are brain washed to the extent that the rule of the Almighty is possible only through murder and mayhem. When terrorism strikes in the name of religion, culprits are attracted from all parts beyond the geographical borders. It is absolutely necessary for the community to come out and oppose terrorism resorted to in the name of God as no religion preaches or allows killing of innocent. Persuading the community to oppose terrorism is not an easy job. Thousands of ordinary muslims are led to believe that there is a bias against their religion. The obvious solution lies in removing the feeling of alienation from their minds and make them realize that they are treated as equal citizens. The distrust needs to be dispelled.

Some muslim religious leaders and enlightened muslims have already expressed against terrorism as being totally anti-Islamic. Secular and enlightened muslims and muslim organizations have condemned senseless and inhuman terrorist attacks, even from religious angle, quoting from *Quran* that 'whoever kills a person unjustly it is as though he has killed all mankind; and whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind'. Recently I read an article by Julio Ribeiro published in *Times of India* who is the former Chief of Mumbai Police. He writes: "The perpetrators, in Hyderabad, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and other cities used cycles, scooters, cars and in Delhi, dustbins to plant bombs. How many cycles, scooters or dustbins

can one protect? How many CCTVs can one install? How many more policemen and intelligence officers can you recruit? The bad boys will always find ways to hit you in the unexpected places and by the most untried methods. The solution is to get round the community so that few trouble makers are marginalized.”

We cannot deny at times there were violations of human rights by the State apparatus. But look at them in a given situation and in a proper perspective. If there is excess, action is needed. It appears the vast majority of the people in this Country are of the view that the violation of human rights need to be condemned irrespective of the fact whether they are State forces or terrorists. Justice P. N. Bhagawathi, former Chief Justice of India has observed: “When terrorists kill innocent persons they are definitely violating human rights and they must be condemned. I do not agree with human rights activists who condemn only violations by security forces. Otherwise, terrorists will derive strength from these activists and make capital out of their criticism”. Justice H. R. Khanna says: “No exception can be taken in dealing firmly against militants within the domain of the law”.

Besides this, human rights of all are to be respected so that the human beings can leave with human dignity. The time demands that every one in the Country be it from Civil Society or State machinery is required to be vigilant and be co-operative in the fight against terrorism. If people in the community do not either support or sympathize or become silent spectators, it may be very difficult to terrorists to attack. The Civil Society from every nook and corner of the country realizing the gravity, danger and consequences of terrorism, considering it as an attack on the entire humanity should be ever vigilant and co-operate with State authorities and forces by not giving place to terrorists or inform about them or about the suspected persons to the State authorities to facilitate to prevent the acts of terrorism. Remember the words of Martin Luther King: ‘The only thing necessary for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing’.

Questions are asked that after 9/11 and after bomb blast in U.K. targeting tube trains, acts of terrorism were not seen in those countries again. If that be so, why in India these inhuman acts of terrorism take place periodically without even a gap of 6 months? Situation in which our country is placed is somewhat different. But that cannot be an excuse. More effective steps should be taken from all angles. Recent bomb blasts in Mumbai, Jaipur, Bangalore and Hyderabad naturally make people to think that there have been failure of intelligence in this Country or failure of action by State. Forces fighting against terrorism could not reach the place or take action against terrorists quickly and that the politicians and the bureaucrats failed to take action well in-time to prevent the acts of terrorism. These feelings got aggravated especially after the recent acts of terrorism in Mumbai where forces were practically engaged in war like battle with terrorists for about 59 hours in which large number of innocent persons including children and few

officers of State force and few terrorists died. After the recent terrorist attack in Mumbai, feelings of people in the Country and *Mumbaikers* in particular are deeply hurt, tempers ran high, they were emotionally charged and they expressed their anger. They are forcefully calling the country to fight against terrorism unitedly, firmly and with determination to finish it. They are even cautioning politicians also to act appropriately saying that the public memory on this grave issue will not be short lived. One can see silver lining and a positive fall out that people from all sections and particularly youths all over the country are pledging to fight against terrorism and incidentally against corruption and incompetency, unitedly. Further Mumbai episode has drawn elements of unity and patriotism, as can be seen from response and our actions of people on TV channels and in print media. Terror is a horror. Never before people of this Country were so angry, hurt and up-set as this time after attacks of terrorism in Mumbai saying enough is enough and justifiably so. Generally a decision informed by reasons is better than a decision taken charged with emotions. Attack on or war with Pakistan is not a solution to put down the menace of terrorism totally. Pakistan is also not free from terrorists attacks. It is better for India and Pakistan together to fight against terrorism rather than fight among themselves. The terrorists and extremists may take advantage, in the event of war between India and Pakistan and even it may help the terrorists from the neighboring land to enter Pakistan. It would in the interest of both the Countries that Democracy and Civil Government are strengthened in Pakistan. Further economic development of our Country will get seriously affected in the event of war taking place. As already stated all efforts are to be made to bring international pressure on Pakistan to flush out terrorists and remove or destroy terrorist-camps found within the territory of Pakistan. War should be the last option when it becomes inevitable, because the security and integrity of our Country is to be preserved and maintained at all costs.

In this background it is necessary to improve and strengthen the system of intelligence and armed force and police equipping them well as is done either in USA or UK There is the need for politicians and bureaucrats also to be vigilant, more sensitive and deeply committed with political will to save people and the Country from terrorists attacks. There are some issues and problems which are national. The political parties, different religions, different communities or regions *etc.* should keep aside their ideologies or thinking aside and fight against terrorism unitedly as one person. Integrity and unity of the Nation should be above all political parties or religions or regions. If India lives all of us live; if India goes none of us live. All sincere and serious efforts are to be made to go to the root causes of terrorism or nexalism or insurgency and steps should be taken to remove them so that there can be peace and harmony on the earth.

We need: **(a)** Tougher law, it is good to know that the Government has introduced a bill to set up a National Investigating Agency coupled with tough anti-terror laws in Parliament recently on 16.12.2008. NIA Bill, 2008 provides

wide ranging ambit to 'investigate and prosecute' offences affecting the Sovereignty, Security and Integrity of the Country. The proposed amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act provides that terror suspects can be held without charges for up to 180 days; police custody can be extended to 30 days; no bail if Court is satisfied allegation is *prima facie* true; no bail for foreign accused and drawing 'adverse inference' as a 'presumption' against the accused; **(b)** Strong political will; **(c)** Sensitive bureaucrats; **(d)** Honest and committed law enforcement agencies; **(e)** Expert and well trained forces preferably, one united force specially to deal with terrorists well equipped with sophisticated and modern weapons. It appeared police constables did not have even modern weapons and they were holding 303 rifles and there was a gun jam in some cases and in some cases they did not have necessary material to fire. It is high time that the forces are required to be provided with the modern and sophisticated weapons so that they can have march over terrorists and fight them effectively. There is need to form such special force in States so that they can reach trouble spot early and take appropriate action to prevent or fight against terrorism; **(f)** Active support and co-operation of ever vigilant civil society cutting across region, religion, caste, language or political ideology; **(g)** Specially trained intelligence wing; needs to be ever alert, efficient and strong. Failure of intelligence leads to serious disaster which could be prevented otherwise by timely and proper intelligence alertness; **(h)** Such forces dealing with and fighting against terrorism be independent under the control of a high level body free from political interference or influence; **(i)** Federal investigation agency; a felt necessity of the present times; **(j)** Setting up of special Courts to try the cases against terrorists expeditiously and effectively. It is needless to state that in-ordinate delay in trying cases against terrorists has negative impact besides, the evidences painstakingly collected in such difficult cases is likely to be destroyed or diluted with the passage of time; **(k)** Providing emergency medical care to manage consequent crises of terror attacks such as identifying hospitals in the locality, providing mobile medical vans – suitably equipped along with the doctors, ambulances, temporary shelter homes and information centers; **(l)** Serious and closer scrutiny of flow of finance from outside or within Country used/to be used for terrorist activities.

Media, both electronic and print particularly electronic need to be sensitive and positive in showing or reporting terrorist attack to see that they do not become source of lead for the terrorists which they could plug to suit them. One should remember that magnifying terrorist assault serves the purpose of terrorists all over the world through TV channels within no time (Fear Creation).

Terrorism, drug trafficking and violence in any form of human rights are scar on human civilization seriously affecting life and dignity of individuals. The first step for successfully meeting the challenge to the human rights violations is to remove hatred and intolerance. In this regard,

human rights education is both imperative and vital to counter the forces of intolerance. Tolerance is no more luxury but it is a sheer necessity for peace and development; may be for very survival of humanity. Martin Luther King Jr. says: "The course of human history is determined, not by what happens in the skies but by what takes place in our hearts." Hence, there is need to train the brain for benevolence, to cultivate the heart for excellence and to strengthen the hands for service by effective training and meaningful education.

There is no religion greater than the religion of humanity. No religion preaches or teaches wrong things to its followers, but yet, there is no country in the world where there has been no bloodshed in the name of religion or God. Religions of the world are like the beautiful flowers of a garden. Quintessence of religions are *sathya*, *shanthi*, *prema*, *ahimsa* and *dharma* (truth, peace, love, nonviolence and righteousness). It is unfortunate that true thoughts and spirit contained in every religion are lost sight of, and the rites and ritual are mechanically followed without true concern for the principles they stand for. The result is, religions instead of becoming flowers spreading the fragrance of love for mankind, have turned out to be dangerous weapons taking the lives of the people belonging to other faiths.

Whatever may be the appearance and differences from outside, the basic principle embodied in all religions is compassion. Compassion is a great human quality. If the people all over the world are compassionate and alive to the sufferings of others, it will lend a helping hand to save the innocent and not to kill which is the true work of religion. The spirit of universal love and brotherhood should occupy a significant place, and the entire mankind should be infatuated with love and brotherhood dismissing terrorism.

We are every day troubled by the amount of human rights violations more so by terrorist attacks to which many of our brothers and sisters continue to be subjected. We should not take lightly the disappearance and killings, the terror and torture. We should be united in our belief that the earth is sacred, and all the people dwell, have the bondage of love and brotherhood.

The present is an era of globalization, privatization, liberalization and modernization. The main focus, theme and goal of all these must lead to humanization. Humanize the globe so that everywhere the human rights are respected and obeyed touching the lives of the people, particularly of all those, the hungry, the excluded, the destitute, the voiceless, the persecuted, the sick, the suffering, the disabled, less fortunate and the unfortunate. Broadly speaking, human rights are those rights which every human being without any discrimination is entitled to enjoy and these human rights are expected to be universal both in their character and application. It is unfortunate that powerful individuals or groups have always obstructed the enjoyment of human rights. It is good that in these days lot of emphasis is laid and attention is given to human rights on various platforms which will educate the people as to the importance and need of creating an atmosphere where every

human-being in flesh and blood enjoys human rights to which he is entitled to. Talking and discussing on human rights at times has even become a fashion both at national and international levels to serve the individual purpose of the concerned rather than to serve the real purpose of the human rights. There is need for sincere and serious efforts with commitment and real concern to serve the cause of human rights. Enforcement of human rights and their enjoyment universally should be seen in action rather than in mere discussion. In other words, respecting and enforcing human rights should be a passion and not fashion.

The real and greatest threat for global peace is undoubtedly the man himself. Science and technology have brought the world together and closer; economic systems are becoming inter-dependant; intellectual ideas are circulating all over the world; and transport and communication have resulted in the meeting of cultures, races and religions. What is needed is adopting an attitude of tolerance and not of hatred.

Lets us do our bit and best to build bridges between human beings on the foundation of love, brotherhood and compassion but not walls of hatred and distrust. This is possible only when we educate the people as regards human rights to which everybody is entitled to enjoy with a corresponding duty to respect and reciprocate.

