

What will become of the world if we take an eye for an eye?

Ben Moore
Columnist

Ghandi once said, "An eye for an eye and we'll all be blind."

There are two major ideas from this statement that apply to our current situation.

The mentality that follows "an eye for an eye" can blind us in our pursuit of justice. It can lead us into a blind rage that makes us lash out at people who were just as horrified by last Tuesday's events as we were.

Across the nation last week there were reports of vandalism at mosques and attacks, both verbal and physical, on Muslim-Americans.

This is also a type of terrorism. We are attacking an innocent group of people who do not expect it or ask for it. We must learn that we cannot judge an entire group of people by a few fanatics. When Timothy McVeigh attacked the Federal Building in Oklahoma we did not assume that all Christians were terrorists. In the same way we must realize that not all Muslims are terrorists.

If we are going to truly be able to sing, "I'm proud to be an Ameri-

can, where at least I know I'm free!" then we must give that same freedom to our Muslim brothers and sisters.

Another idea that stems from Ghandi's statement is that we cannot afford to play the game of "an eye for an eye". Imagine if the entire world lived by the "eye for an eye" mentality. I don't believe that anyone would be left alive on earth.

The Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Scriptures, spoke of an eye for an eye as the most extreme measure that could be taken. This was used to quell the idea of revenge in a tribal setting.

Say that even that's too much, though. In the song "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" U2 asks "How long, how long must we sing this song?"

Put in another way the question asks: how much killing will it take before we realize that nothing is worth killing?

It is time that our leaders realize that an "eye for an eye" helped to get us where we are now. The people who committed these horrible acts believed that they were just as justified in these killings as we think we would be in killing them.

The nation's leaders believe that

revenge is something that we must have, though. Their rage and anger are as fervent as the terrorist's. Thus the blind are leading the blind according to Ghandi's statement.

I do not believe that the nation is blind. In fact the unity we have shown in the last week is one of the most beautiful and amazing things I have ever seen. This kind of unity is what we need right now.

Our nation must now lead the way to a true freedom, a freedom from hatred and violence. Let us make the ideal of this type of freedom a reality throughout the world. We can have justice by locking up the perpetrators of this violence. If we kill them because we are seeking revenge we will still be slaves to the systems of hatred and revenge we seek to destroy.

It is time that we stand as a nation and embrace all people of every background - these are the principles on which we were founded and we must continue to abide by those principles. Let us have justice. But let us not do so at the expense of other innocents who want the same freedom.

To die for freedom is one of the greatest sacrifices a person can make. To kill for freedom is one of the greatest injustices on this earth.

Both my hometown and my life will remain changed forever

Jaelyn O'Sullivan
Columnist

"In the city of God there will be a great thunder, two brothers torn apart by chaos, while the fortress endures, the great leader will succumb. The third big war will begin when the city is burning."

- Nostradamus 1654

I went to bed at 2 a.m. Monday morning following hours of reading and thanked God that I could sleep all day and only have to get up for class at 5:30 p.m. that night. Suddenly loud ringing in my dreams woke me and I stumbled out of bed to find my phone. Groggily

I answered to hear my Mom's frantic voice on the other end, "Turn on the TV, we are under attack." I chuckled, thinking my mom was still trying to get me up early even though she was 500 miles away. Only the picture on the screen erased my smile and I stood frozen as the two tallest buildings in my hometown stood engulfed in a towering inferno. My roommate was gone, my suitemates gone; all going about their lives, and mine was slowly shattering. My family, my friends, I was helpless. I could not cry. I could not breathe. My mom and I, miles away from each other, watched in horror as the skyline that shone so brightly at night from my

window was reduced to rubble. I walked the halls looking for someone to talk to. Silence. All of a sudden the impossible happened, the first of the towers collapsed, and then deafening silence. I lost communication with my Mom. The only response was my echo, "hello," "hello." My family, everyone was silenced. Slowly people in my hall began to emerge and it was then I realized my helpless state. More and more people tried to call home, only to find that both DC and NYC were shut down. My Staley girls all watched: scared and horrified. Our fears came to life and all we could do was console each other and dry our tears. I finally regained

The United States must defend itself

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In 1941, America was the target of an unprovoked, unmitigated and unjustified attack that left thousands dead and many more wounded.

Americans understood the meaning of this day of infamy and responded appropriately—the sleeping giant was awakened. War was declared and the evil was eventually vanquished.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001 America was again the target of evil.

Make no mistake about it: what happened that Tuesday was an act of war. America must now rise to the occasion and defend itself, or it will only face similar vile acts of destruction in the coming years. An unequivocal declaration of war by Congress must be adopted today.

But against whom? In 1941, Japan at least had the honor of acting in the open in its attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. During the military engagement, Japan's colors and insignia were displayed on all of its planes and ships for any and all to see. The slaughter that was perpetrated last week against innocent civilians was committed by cowards who have hidden be-

hind a veil of secrecy and suicide.

America knows, however, the countries who officially sponsor such terrorist organizations. The names of Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, and Sudan easily roll off the lips of any American official asked to identify the countries who have provided terrorists with training facilities, asylum and financial support.

A declaration of war against terrorism should simply contain a list of every country and organization that has in the past, or stated an intention for the future, of committing or aiding terrorist acts against the U.S.

It has been America's inaction against these countries and organizations for the past 30 years or more that has permitted terrorism to fester and grow like a cancer. And just as cancer kills healthy bodies, terrorists killed thousands of innocent Americans and forever marred a beacon of civilization and progress—the New York City skyline.

It is time to cut out and obliterate the cancer of terrorism—and its supporting ideology of Islamic Jihad—before it spreads and ultimately consumes more innocent and healthy lives.

The memory of the gleaming twin towers of the World Trade Center and its thousands of productive inhabitants who perished on Sept. 11 deserves no less.

contact with my family. Though some were still stuck in Manhattan, everyone was okay. I guess my purpose for writing this article is more therapeutic than anything else. I now know that we as a nation are not invincible, or indestructible. I watch in horror as my city—my downtown playground becomes the graveyard of lost bodies. I watch on as my nation tries to stand proud and tall when most of us want to weep at the devastation we have suffered.

I pray for all those who wait for a call undelivered. I pray for those

who never got to say good-bye. And I try to stand tall for everyone who is still standing at this point. We should not let our lost brothers or our burnt fortress bring us to our knees. Our cities will burn, but we will not let them destroy us. For the first time in my life I say, God Bless America!

I want to try to start a group of some sort or if there is one can you let me know about it. I just want to talk about what would happen if there is an all war and how we as Elon students can get involved and deal with it.