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THE WORKS OF AFRICAN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS AS TEMPLATE FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN AFRICA

Frederick Omoyoma Odorige
Doctoral School of Military Sciences,
National University of Public Service Hungary.
E-mail: fodorige@hotmail.com

Abstract
Since the establishment of the Nobel Prize in 1901, the prize has been awarded 104 times to 141 laureates between 1901 and 2023. This number is made up of 111 individuals and 30 organizations. Thirty Africans have won the Nobel prize as of 2021. In that number, 14 of them have won the Peace Prize for 12 times as of 2024. This number is significant because it clearly reflects a continent in need of peace. It shows the efforts made by individuals and groups of persons towards addressing issues and conflicts peculiar to their environments. However, little or no scholarly work has been done to harness the works of African Nobel peace prize winners with a view to applying them as a template for achieving continental peace. It is this gap that this research sets out to fill. It identifies and examines the activities of the peace winners and holistically apply them as models needed to ensure and promote peace in the African continent. In so doing, it proffers recommendations on new actions that countries and the African Union could employ towards realizing its goals and objectives in a contemporary setting. Amongst others, it recommends the encouragement of the use of nonviolence and peaceful civil disobedience during political tensions; using negotiation as tools for reconciliation and that threats of the use of nuclear power as a medium of combat must be fully sanctioned. These models could be taught in schools, institutionalized as government and non governmental policies or supported as national projects.

Keywords: Nobel peace prize, African winners, template, peace, AU

INTRODUCTION

There never was a good war, or a bad peace - Benjamin Franklin

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Nobel Peace Prize annually *to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses* (Nobel Prize, 2013).

The activities of the 14 African peace prize winners include the use of negotiation during conflicts, campaigns for non-violent resistance; contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace; prevention of the use of nuclear energy; peaceful unification against apartheid; building of pluralistic democracy; creation of greater visibility to war-time sexual violence and better organized activities for a more peaceful world.

Only 3 African women (Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Wangari Maathai) have won the Nobel peace prizes in Africa out of the 14. Therefore, it could also be justifiably argued that women should be encouraged to take up more responsibilities in governance especially in the areas of conflict management, humanitarian activities, international relations and peace studies.

Apart from coups, Africa reportedly *comes second in the number of armed conflicts per region with more than 35 non-international armed conflicts* according to Reliefweb (2023). By mid-2023, at least 110 million persons have been displaced (UNHCR, 2023). Despite its huge natural resources, such intermittent conflicts impede development within the continent.

Trade between Africa and the EU is huge. According to reports (European Union, 2022), *in 2021, there was an increase in goods exported from the EU to Africa (+€21 billion compared with 2020) as well as an increase in goods imported to the EU from Africa (+€41 billion compared with 2020). Thus, the EU recorded a trade in goods surplus with Africa of €4 billion, which was the lowest since 2014.* If this is so, then it will be normally expected that outputs needed to boost such trades, could be impeded by conflicts. The insecurity on Nigeria forests which has discouraged many farmers from going into their farms, justifies this view.

There is an imperative need to prevent conflicts from gestation periods before they become full blown wars. The ways to accomplish these are by using the various works of African Nobel peace prize winners who used negotiation for peace (Anwar Al-Sadat, Menachem Begin, Yassir Arafat and Abiy Ahmed); nonviolent civil disobedience (Albert Lutuli); campaign for democracy and environmental protection for the prevention of poverty (Wangari Maathai); prevention of the extreme use of violence (Mohamed ElBaradei); campaign against sexual molestation (Denis Mukwege); campaign for the *building of a pluralistic democracy* (National Dialogue Quartet); campaign for peace, reconciliation and forgiveness (Nelson Mandela, FW de Klerk and Kofi Annan); respect for the protection of human rights (Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee) and campaigns for unification (Desmond Tutu), as potent instruments of interaction.

It is paramount to identify the root causes of such conflicts and to formulate strategies towards nipping them in the bud. Marginalization and inequality in the distribution of national resources, bad governance, the violations of human rights, small arms proliferation, are mostly the causes of agitations and conflicts within the continent. This is exacerbated by the delay in responding to the early warnings.

METHODOLOGY

This research will use the systematic qualitative content analysis, to review and evaluate each and every activity of African Nobel peace prize winners in relation to their location and what prevailed in their respective societies at the time of their works. It will further analyze and compare their peculiarities and how the absence of such activities led to avoidable conflicts in any part of the continent. The goal is to create an applicable template that could be practically used as conflict prevention mechanisms and promote sustainable peace within the continent. The multiplier of this applicability is that it could also be applied in promoting international peace and drastically reduce the number of internally displaced persons and refugees.

The qualitative content analysis offers the flexibility and easily help in creating statistical and discourse analysis. This will enable the analysis to focus not only on the result, but on the processes and shortcomings in conflict resolutions in Africa. Data shall be sourced from existing literatures, documents of the organizers of the Nobel prizes, publications by the peace winners and from open sources of the internet.

Though I anticipate that there could be problems associated with different cultures and the histories of the various African countries, I believe that the peculiar difference in the cultures and politics of different countries in the continent will help in providing opportunities for conducting deeper analysis and reaching empirical conclusions.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research raises some critical questions. Despite having the Peace and Security Council (PSC) as a standing decision-making organ of the African Union which was established for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts,

i). Why does the number of conflicts continue to rise?

ii).Why are there delays in responding to conflicts before they blow out of proportion?

iii).Who are those Africans that have won the Nobel peace prize? What activities led to their winning such coveted prizes?

iv). How could their highly esteemed prizes be efficiently used to positively impact regional, continental or global peace?

v). What are the areas of activities through which they won the prizes and how could their various activities be harnessed?

vi). How could such activities be replicated and transformed into tools for the prevention of conflicts and the enhancement of peacekeeping and peacemaking?

It is in search of answers to these questions, that this research has been designed.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The various conflicts in Africa according to Afolabi (2009), have led to the *destruction of lives and property, the internal displacement of people, a region-wide refugee crisis, poverty and disease, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, human and drug trafficking, illegal exploitation of natural resources and banditry.* If the causes of conflicts and wars in Africa are tailored along the lines of peace as exemplified by

Nobel peace winners, conflicts could be better prevented and alleviated in the continent if given institutional backing.

Robert and Michele Root-Barnstein in their article (2002) states that *Laureates are usually likely to be what we call "creative polymaths." That is, they purposely integrate formal and informal expertise from widely varied disciplines to yield new and useful ideas and practices...Many of these laureates discover problems by looking at topics in new ways, or they solve them by transferring skills, techniques and materials from one field to another.* I believe that the ability of laureates to use their expertise in formulating new ideas to solve problems in new ways, are the creative actions need to promote sustainable peace and good governance in Africa.

Zartman (1995) believes that the issues of governance lie at the root of conflicts in Africa. In my opinion, this is the summation of all the causes of conflicts in Africa. When issues bordering on welfare and security are mismanaged by those in government, it is usually met with public resentment. It makes it imperative to have systems that prevent conflicts both from the people and from the actions of those in government. That is why the examination of the causes of conflicts and how they ought to be addressed, form a part of this research. Mayer (2002) posits that the causes of conflicts could be viewed from three dimensions. These are *conflict as perception...conflict as feeling' and 'conflict as action.* As a figment of perception, he believes that conflicts emanate from the self conviction that *one's own needs, interests, wants, or values are incompatible with someone else's.* As a product of feeling, conflict is usually the offspring of emotions expressed through *fear, anger, bitterness, sadness, hopelessness or the combination of these*. The third dimension are the culmination of activities and actions expressed in ways that could be 'violent or destructive'. Mayer`s definition evokes the anger, fear, feeling and perception that occurred during the apartheid system in South Africa. It was based on these local problems that Nobel peace prize winners such as Albert Lutuli, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu created actions for peace through the propagation of forgiveness and tolerance.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This research uses the Grounded theory approach to describe the phenomenon in question by applying interpretivism to emphasize the importance of understanding the applicability of the works of Nobel peace prize winners across the political and social sphere of Africa. Grounded theory was developed by two sociologists, Barney Glaser and Anselm Strauss (1994) and they believe that the theory provide a rationale which justifies the idea that the *gap between a social science theory and empirical data should be narrowed by firmly grounding a theory in empirical research.* In this case, the gap between the activities of the Nobel peace prize winners and their applicability in related scenarios is what this research is set to achieve.

Glaser and Strauss also believe that grounded theory gives the researcher freedom to generate new concepts in explaining human behavior. It is on this premise that this research develops the peace template concept for Africa by using the works of the winners.

The wide flexibility of the Grounded theory according to Ralph, Birks and Chapman (2015) gives it the possibility to combine traditions in positivist philosophy and general sociology. The African Nobel peace prize winners are from different backgrounds and they used various fields in accomplishing their works. The imperative of combining their works towards generating a template based on peace, makes this research easily applicable.

Using this framework provides possibilities for exploring the goals, intentions and values that directs the actions of the peace winners in their various contexts and immediate environment. The goal is to collect the reasons why they were awarded the prizes, the activities of each of the winners and to identify, interpret and relate them to previous conflicts and how they could be used in the future to prevent and ameliorate unforeseeable conflicts.

JUSTIFICATION OF RESEARCH

There is a gap between the activities of Nobel peace prize winners and how the society benefits from them in sustainable manners.

This research is a summation of the activities of the Nobel peace prize winners and how they could be panaceas against conflicts in Africa. It justifies the need to develop a preventive and conflict resolution templates and pathways towards peace and development in the African continent and beyond. Africa continue to experience gender disparity in governance; conflicts that ought to have been quelled through negotiations or nonviolent response; hunger and famine caused by climate change and environmental degradation; sex and kidnapping as a weapon of war; coup after coup, and delay in responding to crises before they are blown out of proportion.

Various coups have also taken place in Africa as a result of power tussle, foreign interest or perceived marginalization. Findings by Powell, Jonathan & Clayton Thyne. (2022) shows that o*ut of the 492 attempted or successful military coups carried globally since 1950, Africa accounts for the largest number with 220, of which at least 109 have been successful.* While the Nigerian government granted amnesty to the Niger Delta militants based on negotiations, the same government used soldiers to shoot unarmed citizens who protested against police violence in October 2020. In that protest tagged EndSARS, BBC (2021) reported that at least 48 casualties were recorded after the army opened fire on the demonstrators.

The 2011 Egyptian revolution, which was also referred to as the 25 January Revolution, Egyptians protested against police brutality and the result was fatal. Abdel-Rahman (2012) reports that *violent clashes between security forces and protesters resulted in at least 846 people reportedly killed and over 6,000 injured. Protesters retaliated by burning over 90 police stations across the country.* At the end, president Hosni Mubarak was forced to resign from office after 30 years in power.

It is in cognizance of these problems that this research sets out to provide practicable solutions towards addressing the anomalies. For sustainable peace to be achieved within the continent, the cultural and behavioural elements of the people must be taken into due cognizance. It is within such understanding that African Nobel peace prize winners developed local concepts towards solving local problems.

This research successfully proposes that if the activities of African Nobel peace prize winners are expanded and promoted by various governments, non-governmental institutions and academic institutions, the multiplier impact could develop new systems of achieving sustainable peace in a broader sense while raising a new generation of leaders through cultural reorientation.

THE WORKS OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS

The population of Africa is estimated to be 1.316b and it has won 24 Nobel prizes between 1951 and 2019. Out of the 30 Nobel prizes won by Africans, 12 were won on peace by 14 persons. Their names and works have been enumerated below. It confirms that in countries and continents were there are conflicts, more Nobel peace winners emerge.The prizes were won by taking actions towards addressing issues peculiar to their environment and local communities. The works of African Nobel peace prize winners also shows that no meaningful development can take place amid conflicts and chaos. Indeed, there is neither good war, nor bad peace.

1. 1960 Winner: South Africa`s Albert Lutuli:

"for his non-violent struggle against apartheid."

The teacher, tribal Chief and trade unionist became the president of the African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement in 1952. His activities were inspired by philosophy of nonviolence propagated by Mahatma Gandhi. Instead of resorting to violence during the apartheid regime in South Africa, Lutuli stood and spoke strongly at the forefront of the campaign of civil disobedience against the policy of racial segregation.

In contrast to the style of Lutuli, some of the conflicts and wars in Africa were caused by the inability of the people to resort to alternative means of addressing their grievances. The conflicts started like

skirmishes just like that of Ethiopia and Eritrea before it became a full-blown war *that killed an estimated 70,000 people from both sides* (Aljazeera, 2019).

In the case of the Nigerian civil war of 1967, the war was declared by the government of Nigeria after Odumegwu Ojukwu declared secession for Biafra nation. That war was fought without recourse to alternative solutions like the campaign for civil disobedience or meaningful negotiation. Apart from this war, other causes of conflicts in Nigeria included ethnic and religious riots, military coup and counter coup, control over the oil-rich region of Niger Delta, and the subsequent attack on persons of Igbo extraction that lived in the North. Decades after the 1967 civil war, proponents of Biafra have resorted to applying the method of civil disobedience every 30 May and on Mondays, as a method of honouring those that were killed during the Nigeria-Biafra civil war. The Inventory of Conflicts and Environment Case, ICE, Studies on the Biafra War (1997) states that *during the two and half years of the war, there were about 100,000 overall military casualties, while between 500,000 and 2 million Biafran civilians died of starvation.*

There was civil war in Guinea-Bissau between 7 June 1998 and 10 May 1999. It was initiated through an attempted coup against the government of President João Bernardo Vieira led by Brigadier-General Ansumane Mané. Military coups rarely gave way for civil disobedience due to its violent characteristics. Options are hardly considered, and the planning are usually done in secret due to its dangerous consequences. The fact that the coup was not designed to be nonviolent as in the nature of coups, it makes it difficult for their actions to be in line with the principles of Albert Lutuli as peace could not be expected.

2. 1978 Winners: President of Egypt Anwar al-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. *"for negotiating peace treaty between two countries."*

For many years, Israel and Egypt fought a war with many names - the October War, the Yom Kippur War, the Ramadan War, or the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. However, after 14 months of diplomatic negotiations between Israel, Egypt and Jimmy Carter the US President, and another twelve days of secret negotiations, Carter was able to settle the standing conflict between Egypt and Israel in Maryland, USA, in what became known as the Camp David accords which was agreed on 17 September 1978 and signed in Washington, D.C., United States, on 26 March 1979.
The success of this negotiation changed the politics of the Middle East and formed the basis of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.
The benefit of negotiation was show-cased when Egypt and Israel decided to drop their ego for a peaceful settlement after many lives and national resources had been lost on both sides.

The fruits of negotiation is what the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia are currently enjoying after many years of conflicts. Anwar al-Sadat and Menachem Begin successfully used dialogue and negotiations in resolving conflicts. By successfully mediating for peace, Jimmy Carter also showed the importance of a third party interference.

However, when internal conflicts in Africa are being fueled by external forces, it makes negotiation difficult because the external forces are focused on inciting the conflicts in order to create an environment that could aid their looting of the natural resources of the people and the supply of arms and ammunitions. For example, during the several violent conflicts in Zamfara state of Nigeria, it was suspected that the conflicts were fueled by external forces who were bent on looting the gold deposits in the state. Ogbonnaya (2020) posits that *those who sponsor illegal mining also fund banditry and cattle rustling in these communities.* Section 1(1) of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 gives the federal government absolute ownership and total control over all mineral resources in the country. However, this right has been encroached upon by politicians, traditional rulers, business and government officials, who connive with foreigners to exploit the natural resources. Some Chinese involved in illegal gold mining have been arrested and unlawfully released in Zamfara state. 17 other illegal Chinese miners were arrested (Pulse, 2020) and released in Osun state without prosecution. Sponsors of illegal mining reportedly supply the lethal weapons used during violent conflicts. In the

ensuing conflicts in Zamfara state, reports of continuing killing and kidnapping has become very worrisome.

3. 1984 **Winner: South Africa's Desmond Tutu.** *"for his role as a unifying leader figure in the nonviolent campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa."*

Tutu was an advocate for peace and nonviolence in apartheid South Africa. He encouraged other countries to impose economic sanctions on South Africa as a way of drawing attention to the policy of discrimination in his country. He preached forgiveness and also advocated for the idea of his country to be known as "the Rainbow Nation," instead of the one that would be remembered for its atrocities and discrimination. In his words, Ogbonnaya (2020) *Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering—remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened (ibid).* In 2009, President Barack Obama of the United States also presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Unifying a people and preaching forgiveness are ways of avoiding conflicts. Whenever there is discrimination by way of religion, region, tribe, race or socio-political affiliation, people begin to feel marginalized. It is this feeling of marginalization that brings about conflict. For example, the Igbos in eastern Nigeria declared the 1967 war because they felt marginalized. The agitation for secession was re-ignited in 2014 - decades after the war, because some of the people still feel marginalized. In another instance, the Rwandan genocide from 1 October 1990 to 18 July 1994 occurred because of marginalization, hate, and discrimination between the Hutus and Tutsis. Sadly, within a period of 100 days, 1,000,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu were reportedly killed due to late assistance by the international community. Peace negotiation was later signed after the August 1993 Arusha Accords in Tanzania. Thereafter, peace-keeping forces of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) intervened.

When Paul Kagame finally came into power under the Rwanda Patriotic Front, he also used unification, reconciliation, and negotiation as tools for promoting a united country. With consistency and focused leadership, Rwanda is currently developing at a steady pace as the country reduced the percentage of people living below the poverty line from 57% in 2005 to 45% in 2010 (Hutt, 2016). In both cases, peace was finally restored only when concrete steps were taken to unify the people.

4. 1993 Winners: South Africa`s Nelson Mandela and Frederik Willem de Klerk. *"for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new, democratic South Africa."*

Both men employed strategies to bring an end to apartheid in South Africa. This was achieved mostly through negotiations, nonviolence and the introduction of policies that culminated in bringing apartheid to an end. The will to forgive and put the bitter pasts behind us is a potent instrument for development and a way of positively looking ahead; unbridled by the anger of the past. Despite spending 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela continued to preach love, peace and forgiveness. One of Mandela`s (1965) inspirational quotes from his book *Long Walk to Freedom*, continue to resonate: *As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison.* Those inspirations psychologically released those who were held hostage to anger and they were also instrumental to subsequent national reconciliation.

Reprisal attacks prolong conflicts and blocks the way for reconciliation. For as long as the animosity continue, many persons bear the brunt of the conflict by death, injury or displacement. Forgiveness goes a long way into healing wounds and galvanizing people towards looking ahead without harbouring grudges against their ugly pasts.

5. 2001 Winner: Ghana`s Kofi Annan and United Nations. "*For their work for a better organized and more peaceful world."*

Kofi Annan served as the Secretary General of the United Nations between January 1997 and December 2006. During that period, he reportedly combined *pragmatism and humility* in the turbulent years of the UN. His vision and enduring spirit succeeded in building solidarity towards progress. This steadfast conduct resulted in an enviable expansion of the United Nations and several peace operations. For example, despite the political might of the United States of America, Annan was courageous to state that the invasion of Iraq which was superintended by the United States of America in 2004, was in breach of the UN Charter's law on the use of force.

However, Annan regretted his failure to act promptly in applying the UN mandates to ensure peacekeeping operations in Rwanda and Srebrenica, Bosnia, in the 1994–1995 crises.

6. 2004 Winner: Kenya`s Wangari Maathai: *"for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace."*

Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977. With that project,many trees were planted across Kenya. She also initiated programs geared towards alleviating poverty and end conflict. In her opinion, there is interconnectedness between environmental degradation, poverty and conflict. Degradation of African soil deplete the production of food because of its damaging ecological effects. The consequent hunger could lead to agitations. It was no wonder that the United Nations later commissioned the project known as the Global Assessment of Human Induced Soil Degradation (GLASOD) for further investigation into the causes of soil degradation and state of the soil. Maathai pursued activities that promoted democracy and the rule of law. She used unique forms of action to draw international attention to various political oppression in Kenya. She did this through the combination *of science, social commitment and active politics. holistic approach to sustainable development that embraces democracy, human rights and women's rights in particular.* (Nobel, 2004).

If such attributes espoused by Matthai are used by African leaders, tolerance and greater understanding will be encouraged and conflicts will drastically be reduced. In contrast to sustaining democracy and peace, the former president of Gambia Yahya Jammeh, refused to concede defeat to Adama Barrow after he lost presidential election in 2016. His refusal caused tension in the West African region. It took the intervention of other West African leaders by use of diplomacy, before Jammeh was forced to go into exile.

The exemplary conduct of former President Jonathan Goodluck of Nigeria after he lost election in 2015 was in line with what the works of Wangari Maathai entailed. There was so much tension and a palpable fear of war in the days leading to the Presidential elections. Jonathan Goodluck was the incumbent while his opponent Muhammadu Buhari who was a retired military officer, had threatened that *if what happened in 2011 should again happen in 2015, by the grace of God, the dog and the baboon would be soaked in blood* (Vanguard, 2012). This statement was fully loaded. However, while announcing the result, the incumbent made a phone call to Buhari and conceded defeat. That singular act sustained peace in Nigeria at a period when many expected post election violence.

7. 2005 Winners: Egypt's Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):
"for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way."

ElBaradei was Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) between December 1997 and November 2009.

As of now, South Africa and Egypt are the only two African countries that have nuclear power projects and they are mainly for the production of electricity. South Africa has two 970 MWe nuclear reactors while Egypt launched the construction of three 1,200 MWe reactors in 2022. On the other hand, since the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, several mentions and threats have been issued by President Vladimir Putin. He said that *Russia was technically ready for nuclear war and that if the*

U.S. sent troops to Ukraine, it would be considered a significant escalation of the conflict (Reuters, 2024).

Such threats could lead to its actualization if not checked. If it happens, it may lead to a huge challenge to international security and possibly, a disastrous 3rd World War. Therefore, the restraint by Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency, are very laudable works towards global peace and stability.

8. 2011 Winners: Liberia's former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf shared the peace prize with Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen:

"For their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work"

Sirleaf is the first elected African woman president and former Minister of Finance. Gbowee is a Liberian peace activist who organized pro democracy actions which led women to participate in a nonviolent peace movement known as `Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace.` These activities led to better awareness raising, review of key government policies and negotiation of critical issues.

If the power of negotiation is connected to some instances in Nigeria, it was a tool that was effectively used Nigeria in bringing an end to the Liberian war in 2003. After negotiations, the then-President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, offered his Liberian counterpart Charles Taylor asylum in Nigeria as a way of assisting and putting an end to instability in Liberia.

9. 2015 Winner: The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet

"for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011 of 2011"

Following a political and constitutional crises in Tunisia, the quartet, made up of four civil society organizations (Tunisian General Labour Union, The Tunisian Human Rights League, The Tunisian Order of Lawyers and The Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts) was formed in 2013 to mediate during a serious unrest. They succeeded in settling the constitutional issues during the Jasmine Revolution of 2011.

This group succeeded in using their positions and resources to jointly settle the crises through the instrumentality of negotiation. Many conflicts that have led to wars and the exodus of refugees, were caused because the people did not take actions to salvage their country before the problem was blown out of control.

Several years after the struggle by the recipients for the safety of women, UNHCR (2024) has projected that the number of Internally Displaced Persons from conflicts and violence will reach almost 63 million in 2024. During conflicts, women and children continue to suffer most. The works of these recipients could be further expanded by including more women in governance so that they could be part of policy makers.Statista (2024) records that Rwanda has the highest number of female parliamentarians in the world with 61.25%. In sharp contrast, only 3.91% of females are in the national assembly of Nigeria. This disparity contravene the Agenda 2063 of the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa - also referred to as the 2003 Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights. It mandates the attainment of full gender parity with women occupying 50 percent of elected offices at state, regional and local bodies, and 50 percent of managerial positions in government and private sector. Such inclusions could become templates domesticated as uniformed national laws across the continent. Gender parity could be encouraged if its applications are specially monitored, reported by related agencies of the African Union while defaulters could be sanctioned.

10. 2018 Winners: Democratic Republic of Congo`s Dr Dennis Mukwege and Iraq`s Nadia Murad.

"for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict."

Mukwege is a world-renowned gynecologist and human rights activist. He has treated thousands of rape victims. The Nobel Prize committee stated in Irish Times (2018) that he *helped to give greater visibility to war-time sexual violence*. Apart from those who participate in wars, several cases of sexual molestation has been recorded by peacekeepers. This a serious aspect of social malaise that must be addressed.

In related situations like Rwanda, *the mass rapes were carried out by the Interahamwe militia and members of the Hutu civilian population, both male and female, the Rwanda military, and the Rwandan Presidential Guard. The sexual violence was directed at the national and local levels by political and military leaders in the furtherance of their goal, the destruction of the Tutsi ethnic group (* Nowrojee, Binaifer, 1996).

Men have also been raped. Oxfam and Human Rights Watch (2010) reported many cases of the rape of males in eastern Congo. All of these undermine the social fabric of communities and promotion of oppression.

11. 2019 Winner: Abiy Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of Ethiopia
"*for his role in ending the 20-year war between Ethiopia and Eritrea*"

The conflict broke out over time in intermittent skirmishes and it was all about the ownership of a border around a town called Badme. The ensuing conflict reportedly claimed estimated lives of over 100,000 persons between the months of May 1998 and June 2000. With the bold steps taken by Ali, the two countries are no longer in the state of war. Families have been reunited after many years of living apart. Relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea which was severed for 20 years has finally been rekindled. However, it should also be noted that despite being a Peace prize winner in 2019, the patience of Prime Minister Ali was challenged in 2020. He was forced to order the country's military to counter the attack by Tigray People's Liberation Front, (TPLF) because the regional power had attacked the country's military base which Ali described as "the last straw." CTV News reports (2020) that he further described the group as *fugitives from justice ... using the civilian population as human shields.* with all the tendencies of *"criminal hubris and intransigence* (ibid). In a twist of events, Abiy Ahmed Ali the Nobel peace prize winner, was forced to lead Ethiopia to War!

Why has the works of these peace winners not used for peace in Africa?

Conclusion
Various forms of avoidable conflicts have occurred in Africa, ranging from communal clashes, economic hardship, police brutality, organized crimes, coups, to other forms of political upheavals. In response, various conflict resolution mechanisms have been employed by African governments to address such crises. Such reconciliation process include the formation of governments of inclusivity, setting up of reconciliation committees and panels of investigation, the integration and the rehabilitation of repentant terrorists. However, a common denominator used by governments during protests, is the use of lethal aggression by the security agencies to suppress the agitations of the people. Such aggressions have led to deaths, injuries and detentions against the rule of law. In doing this, the protests are stopped but the issues remained unresolved.

However, conflicts remain unresolved mainly because of the lack of genuine political will by leaders and the fear of sovereignty exercised by the international community which prevents them from interfering. If the activities of Nobel peace prize winners are vigorously applied, it is possible to generate a template that could be used in developing sustainable peace within the continent and beyond.

Recommendations
Such a template should be operated by established national institutions and AU agencies in the following manners:

Governments must set up bodies that criminalizes and prosecutes any security agency that kill citizens who embark on peaceful demonstrations.

Encouraging the use of nonviolence and peaceful civil disobedience during political tensions. This could be achieved through regular workshops by NGOs, taught in schools and propagated by Ministries of Information.

Use negotiation as tools for reconciliation. This must be based on mutual respect and fairness. Such negotiations must be legislated as a national culture; the action must be based on a certain deadline and the conclusions must be binding on all parties.

Threats of the use of nuclear power as a medium of combat must be fully sanctioned.

Training and retraining of peacekeepers and others on avoiding sexual molestation as instruments of war. At the end of conflicts, those who default must be seen to have been prosecuted.

Like the quartet of Tunisia, non-governmental organizations and notable labour and trade unions must have a platform where they practically address critical national issues.

Close the gap of communication between government and the people through regular media chats and reliable information flow which could result in cultural reorientation.

Encourage massive agriculture and embark on diverse environmental protection programs. Food security is national security.

Promote gender parity in governance and in critical policy making.

The African Union must establish a quick response military team to quell conflicts.

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