

# **WARS BETWEEN STATES AND GLOBAL HEALTH: THE SDG THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHOSE TO IGNORE**

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Since the beginning of the Second World War (1939), wars between countries have killed and injured above a billion. Some wars decimated millions within minutes (e.g. nuclear bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki), and others continue to destroy the very fabric of societies (e.g. Iraq). They have displaced millions and permanently crippled billions, mentally and physically. Furthermore, they destroy natural ecologies, contaminate environments, and contribute to climate change. In summary, wars between states have the ability to destroy all the development agendas listed in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals-2015, overnight. The SDGs offered a historic opportunity for individuals, civil society groups, nation-states and humanity to demand and pledge towards a globe free from wars and continue its march towards global peace. Though global peace is a prerequisite for any form of development, the SDGs ignore it and instead focus on conflicts, violence and human rights within countries. This gives inadequate attention to wars between countries and global peace. We need a fresh goal for the globe. This may be the last chance for the millions of innocent victims destined to die from wars in future...