

To whom it may concern, here is my submission on the above.

Who decided to go to war? Politicians, and their patrons, who want to protect their own or their class's wealth, power and privilege. These people, usually men, do not go to for ideological reasons. These people are not injured or killed, nor their families. They do not lose their wealth, their homes, or their countries.

The people who suffer through war are the poor, as usual, and women and children, who go hungry, who have to flee to camps, while the national resources are spent on arms, resource which end up in the pockets of those who promote war.

Meanwhile the efforts of generations are destroyed, bridges and water treatment plants, museums and schools, while the vulnerable cover in bunkers if they are lucky. They see their houses crumble, their children suffer.

But the military who drop these bomb don't see any of this, all they see are computer screen from a safe distance. It is like a computer game.

All wars end. Finally, our leaders, the men in suits and the men in uniforms, the United Nations the USA and EU and all interested parties sit around a table and sign a treaty. Written with the blood of the young.

Why can't we skip all the suffering and put the effort into finding the solution without all the tragedy and loss.

Is Ireland neutral or not? And if we are neutral, why are we facilitating US military in Shannon. And if we asked them to leave, would they go? I think not. So what do you call that? Guest who outstay their welcome? Squatters? Colonialists? Invaders?

Let us find out now. Let us ask the people of Ireland, many of who naively believe that Ireland is a neutral country. Let us ask do they want to go to war, to join PESCO, to kill poor people, as the much revered Mohamad Ali once said.

Yours, Ann O'Dea, 27 St Finbarr's Terrace, Galway, Ireland