

UN Chief Calls for Global Ceasefire Amid “Absolutely Devastating” Pandemic



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By [Elias Marat](#) | [Creative Commons](#) | [TheMindUnleashed.com](#)

([TMU](#)) – The head of the United Nations has issued a passionate appeal for a global ceasefire to take effect across the world that would give authorities and medical professionals alike the ability to focus exclusively on defeating the coronavirus pandemic.

In the appeal issued on Monday, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanded that the global truce be adopted for the sake of defeating the threat of CoViD-19 to all of humankind and especially the vulnerable—women and children, the disabled, marginalized, displaced and refugees.

In his address, which was delivered to reporters via live

video feed in consideration of social distancing guidelines, Guterres said:

“The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war.

That is why today, I am calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives.”

The comments come as Syria reported its very first confirmed case of CoViD-19, signaling an ugly turn for a country already ripped apart after a decade of war, while other cases continue to emerge in military flashpoints like Afghanistan, the Gaza Strip, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The U.N. chief stressed that the coronavirus doesn't discriminate on a basis of *“nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith.”* Instead, *“it attacks all, relentlessly.”* However, the most vulnerable—those in war zones—would likely face *“devastating losses”* from the disease due to being caught between a war and a devastating pandemic.

[#COVID19](#) does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly.

Meanwhile, armed conflict rages on around the world and the most vulnerable pay the highest price.

That's why I'm calling for an immediate global ceasefire.

– António Guterres (@antonioguterres) [March 24, 2020](#)

Additionally, those health systems in countries devastated by war have already been either destroyed or reached the verge of total collapse, ensuring that those health workers brave enough to venture into the field are often placed directly in the line of fire or into the crosshairs of warring parties.

Addressing warfighters across the globe, Guterres said:

“Pull back from hostilities. Put aside mistrust and animosity. Silence the guns; stop the artillery; end the airstrikes.

This is crucial... To help create corridors for life-saving aid. To open precious windows for diplomacy. To bring hope to places among the most vulnerable to COVID-19.”

To warring parties: Pull back from hostilities. Silence the guns; stop the artillery; end the airstrikes.

This is crucial to help create corridors for life-saving aid, open windows for diplomacy & bring hope to places among the most vulnerable to [#COVID19](#) – [@antonioGuterres](#)

– UN Spokesperson (@UN_Spokesperson) [March 23, 2020](#)

Continuing, he stressed:

“End the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world. It starts by stopping the fighting everywhere. Now. That is what our human family needs, now more than ever.

... If the fighting goes on, we might have an absolutely devastating spreading of the epidemic.”

The U.N. secretary-general has been calling for a global response to the pandemic which he has said places the lives of “*millions at risk.*” The United Nations will soon unveil a detailed humanitarian relief plan that would be worldwide in scope.

During a question-and-answer session with reporters at the “virtual” press conference, Guterres expressed that he felt “*strongly determined*” to make the most of the U.N.’s mandate

despite the organization's existing duties in the humanitarian, peacekeeping, diplomatic, cultural, and other fields.

He explained:

"It's a moment in which the U.N. must be able to address the peoples of the world and appeal for a massive mobilization and for a massive pressure on governments to make sure that we are able to respond to this crisis, not to mitigate it but to suppress it, to suppress the disease and to address the dramatic economic and social impacts of the disease.

And we can only do it if we do it together, if we do in a coordinated way, if we do it with intense solidarity and cooperation, and that is the raison d'être of the United Nations itself."