

# Collective Punishment, Cowardice and Criminality

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*Collective punishment is a war crime. Those who inflict it on civilians are terrorists.*

To endeavour to disguise the crime by calling it 'collateral damage' when it is perpetrated deliberately against tens of thousands of mainly women and children, is not only a crime but an act of extreme cowardice.

It doesn't take bravery to point a missile at a residential family home, from a Lockheed Martin F-16 war plane, screaming 500m over a completely defenceless village, at midnight.

It doesn't take bravery to drop banned, white phosphorus on a school, hospital or clinic.

It doesn't take bravery to shoot to kill an unarmed, female journalist doing her professional job by reporting the truth; or a hospital doctor trying to save the life of a mutilated child.

It doesn't take bravery to deliberately starve two million people of food and water.

It takes a special type of cowardice.

The type where the perpetrator pretends to be a professional soldier, operating under the strict moral code of the international laws of war, in accordance with the UN Charter, the Geneva Conventions on Human Rights, the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court – when, in fact, he is a war criminal.

So, of the two terrorist organizations, fighting each other today, which is the most extreme example of cowardice and criminality?

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*Hans Stehling is a regular contributor to Global Research.*

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