

Malungo Germano
UD269HHU71326

COURSE NAME:
Humanity and Human Rights

Assignment Title:
Seminar International Development: I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
December/2019

TABLE OF CONTENT

Table of content.....	2
Introduction	3
The activism of Malala: Who is Malala Yousafzai?	5
Why is the female education so important?	10
How to fight for the female education?	15
Conclusion	24
Reference	26

Introduction

In December, 9th, 1998, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universality Recognized Human Rights and Fundamentals Freedoms. This instrument, commonly called United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders recognizes the rights and responsibility of individuals, group and associations to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights. The referred Declaration came to reinforce the protection of Human Rights Defenders, in its article 12, it says, that everyone has the right to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights.¹

Human Rights defenders are individuals, groups or association who strive to reclaim the human rights. They defend and advocate for human rights, by educating and raising awareness of situation affecting the rights of person. They press Governments to account for their actions, as result in countries where the democracy is not yet rooted, Human rights defenders or HR activists are not well come. They are always subject to reprisals, arbitrary detentions, surveillance, harassment, extrajudicial executions, tortures, degrading treatment.

According to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, published on July 2019, from the 2014 to June 2019, 1,153 communications have been sent to States. Of those communications, 28 per cent referred to arbitrary detention; 19 per cent to

¹ United Nations General Assembly (December 1998), Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universality Recognized Human Rights and Fundamentals Freedoms, Article 12.

torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; 18 per cent to extrajudicial executions; 9 per cent to abductions; 8 per cent to violence against human rights defenders and 0, 5 per cent to forced displacement and this has affected 2810 human rights defenders. The Special Rapporteur also received information on other practices such as criminalization, office break-ins and digital attacks against human rights activists. In 2017, in Mexico, an investigation identified the use of a powerful software called “Pegasus” to infiltrate the technological devices of high-profile human rights defenders.²

More than 20 years ago, since the Declaration was adopted, but human rights defenders, over the world continue to face difficulties to perform their activities of advocacy, they are constantly persecuted. One of the victim of this persecution is the young Human Right Defender, Malala, the girl who stood up for female education and was shot by the Taliban. There are many human rights defenders who are facing the same situation, but in this paper we will focus only on the activism of Malala, a young human rights defender and we will also refer to the examples of some human rights defenders who stood for the rights before Malala.

In the first part we will learn about Malala. Who is Malala? What she did for female education, what is happened to her and what she is doing today. In the second part we will approach the female education, where we will see, why is the education so important in general and in particular for the women. Finally, this essay will discuss on how we can fight for our rights, as Malala did? What lesson we can learn from those who fought for the rights before us? How

² UN, July 2019, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Page 5, 14 and 15. Retrieved from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/74/159>, December, 25th, 2019

can we be inspired from the example of famous women and men who promoted human rights and stood for what they believed to be correct, logic and reasonable?

1. The activism of Malala: Who is Malala Yousafzai?

Malala is a young human rights defender, from Swat Valley, Pakistan. She was born in July 12th, 1997, in land where the role of daughters in life is simply to prepare food and give birth to children. In most families the girls stay at home while the boys went to school. They have just to wait to be married.³ Although the environment in which Malala was growing up was against female education, but Malala did not allow to traditional concepts to destroy her passion for education. Malala family had great passion for education, this came from her father and this can be understood through what herself wrote about her father:

*Education had been a great gift for him (Malala's father). He believed that lack of education was the root of all Pakistan's problems. Ignorance allowed politicians to fool people and bad administrators to be re-elected. He believed schooling should be available for all, rich and poor, boys and girls.*⁴

This was what Malala's father was believing, later this become also the way of thinking of Malala. Since the childhood, Malala was thinking to become a doctor, but her father encouraged her to become a politician. Her father talked frequently to her on politic issues. She was

³ Yousafzai M and Lamb C. (2013), I am Malala, the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, Weidenfeld Nicolson, Page 22, London, 2013

⁴ Ibid, Page 33

incentivized in political activism by her father and she has chosen to do her activism on the education for all. She has started very early her activism, fighting for the female education. In 2009, she was 12 years old, she wrote a blog under a pseudonym for BBC URDU, detailing her life during Taliban occupation of Swat. A journalist made a documentary about Malala life, in New York Time.⁵ This publication has called the attention of Taliban and they looked for a way to put end of her life.

In October 9th, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by the Taliban in Swat, Pakistan. The case was very serious, she was in critical condition, she was hit in the head with a bullet and remained unconscious hovering between the life and the death. She was medically dead and was taken by helicopter to the Military Hospital. On October 15th, 2012, she was transferred to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, in the United Kingdom. This hospital is known in the United Kingdom for treating British soldiers wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Malala was shot because of her activism on education for all in which she dedicated her life since early age. She was accused by the Taliban to promote Western values in her village, which was a conservative part, dominated by radical Moslem. Malala grown up in environment where living Taliban who think that girls should not go to school, but Malala went to school and promote education for all.

⁵ Joan Marques (2019), Lead with Heart in Mind Treading the Noble Eightfold Path For Mindful and Sustainable Practice, Springer, Switzerland, Page 67

Although Malala was shot because of her activism, but she did not allow this sad and negative circumstances to push her to give up, contrary she became more motivated to continue to fight for female education. After to be recovered, she set up her own Foundation and fighting for female education. She believed that each girl, and boy, has the power to change the world and that all they need is a chance or an opportunity.⁶ and her advocacy has grown up at international level, supporting education advocacy groups with a focus on Pakistan, Nigeria, Jordan, Syria and Kenya.⁷

Almost of the countries of the world has condemned what Taliban had done against Malala. Many people at local level as well at international level had reacted against Malala's shooting. For Ban Ki-Moon, the former UN Secretary General, this assassination attempted is considered as a heinous and cowardly act, while the former United State of America president, Barrack Obama described it as reprehensible and disgusting and tragic.⁸ Malala has received and continue to receive support from high rank people for her advocacy on education for all, as it is described in some statements bellow:

«UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has reiterated his support for Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani Nobel Laureate and girls' education advocate, who has come under a renewed volley

⁶ Yousafzai M and Lamb C. (2013), I am Malala the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, Weidenfeld Nicolson, Page 293, London.

⁷ Ibid Page xxii.

⁸ Ibid, Page 223.

of attacks in her homeland. Moon's deputy spokesman, Farhan Haq, told reporters on Tuesday:
"The Secretary-General has made clear his support for Malala, for her goals, for the cause of

Atlantic International University
A New Age for Distance Learning



girls' education and he continues to stand by that. So he is very clear that the work she's doing is in line with the work of the United Nations, and we will support her in those efforts.»⁹

As we can find in various publications, Malala received a lot of support in order to go ahead with her advocacy. She made a petition, demanding global leader to end the education emergency, and she received a great support in this petition, 8916 people signed the petition, and was supported by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who stood with Malala and asked to global leader to put an end to the education emergency. Here is below the petition:

“Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I stand with Malala in demanding that the leaders of the world end our global Education Emergency. After the recent violent murder of 14 girls in Pakistan who simply wanted an education, I support the civil rights struggle of 57 million girls and boys who will not go to school today — or any day. Side by side with Malala, we demand that at the United Nations General Assembly, world leaders agree to fund the new teachers, schools and books we need — and to end child labor, child marriage and child trafficking — so that by December 2015 we meet the

⁹World Hiden, (2014), Ban-Kin Moone Reiterates Support for Malala Yousafzai, Retrieved from: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/ban-ki-moon-reiterates-supports-malala-yousafzai>, on December 22nd, 2019

Millennium Development goal promise that every boy and girl be at school. We must be united in this fight, and we must act now,"¹⁰

The other support given to Malala was various visits that she received. She was visited by the President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama and their daughter Malia in the Oval Office, on 11th October 2013. Many people wrote on the case of Malala, and her story is travelled all around the world and can be found in various books, articles, magazines, videos and it's translated into over 40 languages and according to *Publisher weekly*, in 2017, the book had sold almost 2 million copies and there were 750,000 copies of the children's edition. 328,000 copies of the book had been sold in the UK, netting over £2.47 million.¹¹

Nowadays, Malala she is known all over the world as the girl who fight for female education, the one who wants every girl to go to school or the one committed to the education for all. She is known for human rights advocacy, especially the education of women and children in her native village Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwest Pakistan. Her advocacy has grown into an international movement, and according to former Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, *she has become "the most prominent citizen" of the country.*¹²

Malala's story is a non-fiction story, it's a good inspiration, a lesson, that all people can learn and apply in the life. This story has shown to the world the human rights activism in practice.

Malala stood up for female education, because she understood its importance, although this

¹⁰ Global Citizens, (2013), Petition: Stand with Malala, Retrieved from: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/petition-stand-with-malala/>, December 1st, 2019

¹¹ Cowdrey, K. (2018). Malala signs We Are Displaced with W&N. Retrieved from: <https://www.thebookseller.com/news/malala-publish-new-book-year-wn-747416> on November 29th, 2019

¹² Marques J. (2019) Lead with Heart in Mind Treading the Noble Eightfold Path For Minaful and Sustainable Practice, Springer, Switzerland, Page 67

was not correct to her culture, but she had the genuine courage to change what the majority considered correct (girls cannot study). She demonstrated to her community that girls have the right to education. Malala was not a PHD in law, neither Human Rights professional or a Lawyer when she started to fight for girl education, but she was a simple teenager who recognized the importance of the education for all and has decided to stand for that.

2. Why is the female education so important?

Education as defined by Macmillan English Dictionary, is the activity of educating people in schools, colleges and university and all the policies and arrangements concerning this. It's also defined as the process of providing people with information about an important issue.¹³ Education is one of the fundamental needs and right that all human beings have to enjoy. Education empowers man and the community. Getting a good education improves the life, opens doors for job and turn the life happy. The benefits of education are not limited only to individual, but it also extended to the whole society. More educated people you have, quicker your community can develop. Education also helps to increase the number of health expert, engineers, teachers who can serve the community. Where there are a lot of people trained in health, the possibility to protect life is always higher.

The education is important for the life of any human being and for all societies, it is not something that has started in the modern time, even in the time of our ancestor, education always existed, although it not worked like today, but it existed. The education is a way to improve life, man and woman need to have at least the basic education, learning to read, to

¹³ Macmillan, English Dictionary for Advanced Learners, 2006

write and to calculate can help a man in daily life activities, such banking, shopping, getting information from a newspaper, book magazine and so on.

Today, things are changing the capacity of reading, writing and calculation are becoming more significant for the life of human being in many aspects. In the present time, the written tradition is more used than the oral one. In many places you can go you will find information in written form. Without the basic education, we can be lost, in many situation of life.

The education is the way which brings people to knowledge and with knowledge we can change our society as affirms Mandela: *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”*¹⁴ It is also a way to prepare our future as states by Macolm *“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”*¹⁵

As previous referred, education is important for the individual, as well as for the entire society, but to maximize its impact in our society we need to give the opportunity to all human being, girl and boy, man and woman, contrary to what we learnt from some culture that the education is only for man. Although some economic problems that some country can face to build schools for all children, but our wish should be to see the education be provided to all, as states Kafoumba: *“One thing I wish I can do is, to provide education for all: no child left behind and change, the world for good!!”*¹⁶

¹⁴ Seventy Education Quotes (2019), Retrieved from: <https://www.google.com/search?q=education+quotes>, December 18th, 2019

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶Kafoumba D. (2013), Why is Education So Important in Our Life? Retrieved from: <https://edlab.tc.columbia.edu/blog/9886-Why-is-Education-So-Important-in-Our-Life>, on November 30th, 2019

The non-access of girls in education is not only in Swat, Pakistan as underlined in the first part of this work. This can also be found in other part of the world, like in Western and North of Africa, terrorist group, such as Boko Haram¹⁷, Al-Qaeda, Taliban and others radical Muslim seek to prevent the social and economic empowerment of girls. They are working to widespread attack on female education. Those who want the status quo, the enemy of change and evolution want not to see girls attend school, because getting education will empower them, will transform them, will make them self-confident and finally decision maker in their community. Conservator leaders use traditional concept and sometimes they misinterpret religious concept, so that to convince people that there is no equal right between man and woman.

The Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women recommends to States to eliminate all principles or traditional practices which are in the base of discrimination against woman, as mentioned in its article 5:

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures: (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;”¹⁸

It has been over 40 years since this instrument was adopted, but many countries continue to have difficulty to abolish practices which are in the base of discrimination against woman. Discriminating women in education can be an obstacle for the development of a country, taking into account that in many countries the number of women is higher than the number of men. If

¹⁷ Yousafzai M and Lamb C. (2013), I am Malala, The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, Weidenfeld Nicolson, London, Page 22

¹⁸ United Nations, (1979), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Art. 5

we deny all women in the country the access to school, how many illiterate people the country will have? Empower women through the education is to empower all the society, because women spend more time with children than man. An educated woman can transmit good knowledge to children, that is why all society have to create condition for female education. Education is important in the life of woman, just the secondary education can bring great benefit for woman as well as for the family, the community and for the entire society. Here are some outcomes of the research carrying out by May Rihani, on the relevance of high school for woman:

** The percentage of girls who are married at the ages of 12, 13 or 14 will decrease, and the age at which they marry will be delayed. The World Bank says in one of its reports that "some 65 percent of women with primary **education** or less globally are married as children, compared to 5 percent of women who finish high school."*

** Once married, the young women will have a say in how many pregnancies they should have, resulting in a decrease in the number of pregnancies. In some rural areas in northern Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Afghanistan, for example, the number of pregnancies per uneducated woman is often eight or nine pregnancies; that number decreases when the woman is educated.*

** Educated mothers with functional and analytic literacy have lower infant mortality rates, as well as lower percentages of maternal mortality.*

** Educated women assume more responsibility in the decision-making process within their households and their communities.*

** Educated women are not limited to traditional labor that is often unpaid: they look for, and*

*find, paying jobs or run businesses, and, as a result, lift their families from poverty. By completing secondary **education**, the vulnerability of girls and young women is reduced, as are abuses and gender-based violence, at home and within their societies.¹⁹*

Observing the above results can help to understand the importance of the education for woman. Many problems that the world are facing today can be avoided by providing to girls the access to education. Just the secondary education for woman can resolve many problems in the world. The early marriage, the early pregnancy, the infant mortality and the maternal mortality can be reduced in the world if we provide the opportunity to all girls to reach at least the secondary school.

This research has shown that above mentioned cases reach more uneducated women, this means that the access to education for girls can change the situation of women in the world.

Traditional concept is not the only reason that prevent girls to study in Africa, the army conflict, the drought, extreme poverty are also among the reason preventing children to attend the school, as mentioned by Leah Rodriguez, more than 75 million children have their education disrupted by conflict and crisis and are unable to attend the school.²⁰ In certain country girls and boy are allowed to study without any discrimination, there is no Boko Haram or Taliban to shoot them and neither traditional law impeding girls to attend school, but there is no educational infrastructure. In some places there is school, but places are limited, the number of children is higher than the existing classroom. In some rural communities in Angola there is

¹⁹ Rihani M. (2015), Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, Vol. 32 Issue 3, p 44.

²⁰ Rodriguez, L (2019), How Global Citizens Helped Launch the First Fund for Education in Conflict and Crisis, Global Citizens. Retrieved from: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/education-cannot-wait-case-study/>, on December,20th 2019

no school, children are attending school under a tree. In the area affected by drought, many children are not attending school because of the lack of food and water. In some cases, the extreme poverty of the family obliges children to accompany parents in the farm for making agriculture, and as result some children do not have time for school, they have to work with parents, although their age, but they do not have choice, they are bound to work.

Education as a fundamental human right, a right that all human beings have to enjoy by the simple fact to be human person, is recognized in various international human rights instruments: International Convention on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (Article 13), Child Convention (Article 28), Convention on the elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (Article 10) and in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Article 24). International HR Law foreseen also the non-discrimination in the education and the free primary education.²¹ This cannot be only for man, because both are human being, having the same fundamental needs. It is also important to understand the interrelation between the fundamental rights: All human rights are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. This means improving one rights can facilitate advancement of others. Likewise, the deprivation of one right adversely affects all the others. The non-access to education for woman is an obstacle for the development of a country, all citizens must to have same opportunity for education. To limit the education just for man is to limit also the possibility of the development of a country. Education is important for all human being, a woman as a human being and equal in dignity with man cannot be exclude to education. In any society where this right is denied or provided but not for all, people has to stand up and fight for that.

²¹ OHCHR (2014), Les Droits des Femmes sont des droits de l'Homme, United Nations, New York et Genève, Page 43 and 44

3. How to fight for the female education?

Malala is the best and ideal reference for human right defenders, she is an inspiration of courage, determination and the non-violence fighting. If Malala was an object, we could cut her in several parts and put each part of Malala in the countries where the access of education is denied for girls, so that Malala fight for them. Looking at the global story, we will see that many people fought for the human rights, some of them, did not get benefit of their fighting, they die without to see their dreams be realized, but their work and strategies remain till today. Some have managed to see their dream become a reality.

To fight for human right, people need to look at to those who stood up for the right, imitate their courage, enthusiasm and resolution. Malala is an example in our day, but before her, the world has a long list of men and women who stood for what they thought correct, reasonable and logic. Martin Luther (1483-1546), Olympe de Gouges (1748-1793), Mahamat Gandhi (1869-1948), and Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) are important figure that the world needs to have has model of fighting for the human rights.

In sixteen centuries, Martin Luther protested against the catholic church, one of the issue was the translation of the Bible into other language. In Middle ages the Roman Church had become the dominant religion in Europe and had restricted access to Bible, the common people were forbidden access to Bible in their languages. According to Roman Church in that time, God intended the Bible to be only for priests and for those with special training. Luther fight against this and managed to translate the Bible from Greek text into German, his passion for the truth

pushed him to bring the truth of word's God to all people.²² Today the Bible is available in languages of the people and according to Bible Translation Statistics, the Bible has been translated into 698 languages.²³ Many people are enjoying reading the Bible in their mother tongue, this was not possible to be done, but Luther stood up and changed what the majority considered as incorrect, sin and punishable by death according to the law in that time.

In eighteen centuries, Olympe de Gouges, a French woman fought for the role of woman as citizen in France and the case of children born out of marriage. According to her, those children should have treated as legitimate children in matter of inheritance. Two years after the French Revolution (1791), she published a pamphlet *Déclaration des Droits de la femme et de la Citoyenne* (Declaration of the Women Rights and Female Citizen), as a reply to the *Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme et de Citoyen* which was adopted by the French National Assembly, two years earlier. Beside the rights of woman and children born outside of marriage, she fought also against the black slavery, although she was white, but she did not accept the ill-treat of black people. Her final exhortation was: « *Femmes réveille-toi* (Women wak up) », in the first article of the Pamphlet, Olympe says: « *the woman is born free and she is equal in right with man* ». In 1793 Olympe was arrested and decapitated.²⁴

Nelson Mandela is one of the greatest man of twentieth Century, he fought for the equal political rights in South Africa. In 1939 Nelson Mandela, student at Fort Hare College, he joined other students to protest about conditions at the college. In 1953, Nelson Mandela with

²² Rodney Grilliot (2017), *Martin Luther: His 500-Year Legacy and Spiritual Impact*, The Way Magazine Nov/Dec. 2017, Page 17-21, American Christian Press, Knoxville, OHIO, USA, Published by the Way International.

²³ Wycliffe (2019), *2019 Bible Translation Statistics*. Retrieved from: <https://www.wycliffe.net/en/statistics> on December 11th, 2019

²⁴ Rodrigues J. P. (2017), *Olimpe de Gouges, Importante Feminista Francesa*. Retrieved from: <https://pgl.gal/olympde-gouges-importante-feminista-francesa/> on December 27th, 2019

the ANC protested for the right of education. The South African Government passed a law which separated the black school system from the white school system. «*There is no place for the African in South Africa except for some types of work they are going to do in life*», said the minister of African school, Dr, Hendrick Verwoerd,²⁵

Although the pressure, Mandela did not give up to fight against apartheid, here is one of his statement in the court:

«*I hate apartheid. I have though it all my life. I fight it now and I will do so until the end of my days...I am guilty of no crime...*» What courage and determination this man had? Logically he could say: «*Please to apologize, do not put me in the prison, I won't repeat it again*», but he did not change his mind because of the pressure, instead he said:

«*When I come out of prison, I will take up again the struggle against injustice. I have no doubt that history will say that I was not guilty and that the criminals who should be in front of this court are the members of the government.*»²⁶

Nelson Mandela did not fight for a personal interest, but for the justice and for the well-being of all South Africans, he believed in a nation where all people (white and black; woman and men) could live together with equal rights. This was the objective of Mandela and he was prepared even to die for this purpose,²⁷ Nelson Mandela could become enemy of white men and fight for their leaving or asked them to leave South Africa, but he did not think that way

²⁵ Akinyemi R. (2004) Fact files, Nelson Mandela, p. 9, Oxford University Press.

²⁶ Ibid, p. 16.

²⁷ Ibid, p. 19

and he did not do that, in contrast he believed in a nation where black and white could live together with equal rights. What kind of humanitarian heart this man had? This marks a great difference between Mandela and others African politicians. He was inspired by those people who looked for to reach pacifically their political objectives. He was impressed by the radiophonic allocution of Winston Churchill (1874-1965) and influenced by Gandhi (1869-1948), leader of Indian Nationalist Movement, the model of the non-violence fighting.²⁸

Nowadays is Malala who is standing up for education for all. She did not find excuse to give up, she could say, «having the privilege to be in United Kingdom, with international protection, I cannot longer stand up for the girl education, I will keep quiet to avoid another attack against my life», but she did not do that. She could think to organize a terrorist group and make vengeance against Taliban, but she did not do that, she was not enemy of Taliban, but she was just convinced that it's reasonable that every girl has access to education. That what she was pacifically defending and she has chosen the non-violence fighting, instead of vengeance against Taliban. As well trained by her father, she was Peace's girl, this can be understood through what she was imagining a couple of hours before to be shot by Taliban. Here is what Malala was imagining:

«Like my father I've always been a daydreamer, and sometimes in lessons my mind will drift and would imagine that on the way home a terrorist my jump out and shoot me on those steps. I wondered what I would do. maybe I would take off my shoes and hit him, but then I'd think if

²⁸ Nelson Mandela (2011), Deixamos a Liberdade Vencer. As Palavras que Mudaram o Mundo, Babel, Lisboa.

I did that there would be no difference between me and a terrorist. »²⁹

There are some common qualities that we can observe to all those people who fight for the

Atlantic International University
A New Age for Distance Learning



right, these qualities help them to overcome obstacle and to reach their objectives. Here are some of those qualities:

- *The determination:* They were all resolved on the change that they wanted to see. Malala, Mandela, Olympe De Gouge and others were fully resolved to change things;
- *The persistence:* They were persistent in their objective; they did not allow to circumstances or obstacles to bring them to give up;
- *The fearless:* They were not afraid, although the risk to lose their life, but they did not succumb in the fear. Malala knew that the danger was inside, but he did not allow the fear to dominate her mind, and change her objective.
- *They considered more important their objective than other things.* They did not consider the voice of majority as the best one. By doing frequently wrong practice, this can appear like the good one. Children who born in a determined area, will learn from adult, they will think and act as they see adults doing, even wrong practices will appear like good one. This is more frequent in the rural area where the source of learning and freedom of conscience are limited and children consider as rights everything which come from adults surrounding them. It requires a courageous activist, like Malala, to challenge the majority on the practices which does not dignify the human being. The

²⁹ Malala Yousafzai with Christian Lamb (2014), I Am Malala the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, page 4, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London.

majority is not always the best option to follow. In sixteen centuries, people who believed that the Bible could not be translated into other languages or could not be accessible to all people were more than those who believed the contrary. But this fact did not change Luther opinion, Luther did not give up because of what the majority was believing. As his motive was not to please men, he looked ahead in his objective and stood up on what he believed correct, logic according his understanding of the Bible.

- *The love:* They loved people and their countries, this is an important element for the fighting of human rights, the one who fight for the human right has to have the love for people he wants to release, as well as to have the patriotism. You cannot help someone that you don't love. Mandela excelled in this point, he loved even those who were persecuting him, he wished to live with them in peace and with equal right. This is the supremacy of the love, to love those who hate you and wish the best for them, as states the Bible in Romance 12 :14 *"Ask God to bless those who persecute you-yes, ask him to bless, not to curse."*³⁰ After five years in power, he dedicated his life in philanthropic activities, assisting children from parents affected by HIV/SIDA. He showed that his interest was not to be president, but the welfare of all South Africans (blacks, whites, Indians) and the end of apartheid.

The referred qualities are required for human rights defenders, but human rights issues are not only the job of human rights defenders. Everyone has the responsibility, individually and in association with others, to promote and strive for the protection and the realization of human rights, but the first responsible is the State. Each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, to promote and to implement all human rights and fundamental freedom. Creating all necessary conditions in the social, economic, political and others fields as well as the legal

³⁰ Good News Bible, Today's English Version, "Romance 12: 14", American Bible Society, 1976

guarantees required to ensure that all person in their country enjoy all the rights in practice.³¹

Build schools and create conditions to allow to all children to attend the school without any discrimination. To pass laws which condemns traditional practices that is in the basis of discrimination against female education. Once the State fail to accomplish his responsibility, human rights defenders have to stand up and do what Malala did, fight for the rights.

To defend the human rights, we need to have the same attitude that had those who defended human rights before us, although the context can be different one country to another as well as one period to another, but qualities above mentioned can bring success anywhere and in any time.

The female education right deserves a special attention for all, because protect human rights is to protect ourselves. The death of the former president of Iraq, Saddam Houssein has left for the world great lessons to learn concerning the protecting of human rights. It was ashamed to see a former Head of State, to be killed like an animal. He was sentenced to death by hanging for crimes against humanity and was executed on December 30th, 2006. Although it is ashamed what is happened to this great man, but in all, there are great lessons to learn in order to avoid such things happen again. The lesson to be learnt is this: Protecting human rights is to protect ourselves.

Saddam did not properly protect human rights, although some visible efforts on social, economic and cultural rights, but civil and political rights were not effective. He has led his country with dictatorship, capital punishment was legal penalty in Iraq, simple offense done against the Head of State was legally punished by death penalty. Its regime was accused of

³¹ United Nations, December 9th, 1998, Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and to Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamentals Freedoms. Article 1 and 2,

genocide and massacres. Its government used the extrajudicial execution as a tool to eliminate political opponents and human rights defenders, as affirms Human Right Watch Briefing Paper:

« The executions that have taken place over this period constitute an integral part of more systematic repression - characterized by widespread arbitrary arrests, indefinite detention

Atlantic International University
A New Age for Distance Learning



without trial, death in custody under torture, and large-scale "disappearances" - through which the government has sustained its rule. »³²

If Saddam during his regime has taken in serious the human rights protection, putting the human dignity as priority and in its just value, ratify the UN Convention on the abolition of the death penalty and eliminate traditional practices that do not respect the human life, such as hanging and others unhuman treatment which were in fashion in its time, he could certainly find a way to escape to be killed. He could not be killed like an animal and even a non-experimented lawyer could find arguments to defend him. But he died according to laws and customs that himself promoted and practiced. By this fact we can learn, that protecting human rights is beneficial for ourselves, because we are also human being and human rights is for human being that we are. No matter the position we can be today, but one day, we can fall in crime, if the human dignity is respected in our society, we will be treated with all dignity, although our crime, but in contrast, our situation will be worst. That is why any effort, collective

³² A Human Rights Watch Briefing Paper, Iraq: The Death Penalty, Executions, and "Prison Cleansing. Retrieved: <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounder/mena/iraq031103.htm>, on December 12th, 2019.

or individual done for the protection of human rights is for the well-being of all human beings, let's defending human rights, and learning good practice from those who defend human rights before us, and acting as Malala did.

Conclusion

All the human rights are important for all human being (male and female) and the right of education is a right that can open doors for the enjoyment of others rights, such, as the right to work, the right to food, the right to water, the right to habitation, the right to health, the right to information, the freedom of movement and so on. Having a good education background can open doors for good job opportunities and a good job offers good salary and good life's conditions. A good salary can ensure a good alimentation (the right to food), a good health (right to health), the freedom of movement (you can travel as you want, because you work and you have money). You can improve your education as well as you can send your son to school (education right). The access to justice also can be taken into consideration because you can face situation which will need money to pay an experienced lawyer to defend you in the court. Education is a great investment in the life as says Benjamin Franklin: "*An investment in in knowledge pay the best interest*".³³ Money is useful for all and in most of case it comes from a good background education.

Taking into account the importance that the education represents in the life of a human being, we can understand that this cannot be denied to women, because women also are human being and must enjoy all the right that men enjoy. All human beings come from a woman body, the first care, the first protection, the first education any human being receive are come from a woman. A good education to a mother can help in the child protection as well as to the child

³³ Franklin B, 70 Education Quotes(2019), Retrieved from: <https://www.google.com/search?q=education+quotes>, on December 18th, 2019

education. Women need the full access to education, so that they give their best to children. The female education is extremely important in the process of the development of a society, then this cannot be denied to woman. Education is a right as mention in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to education and this has to be free and open for all (boy and girls). Elementary education shall be compulsory and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.³⁴

It is not just a matter to say equality of rights between man and woman, having good law on woman, but without to empower them to exercise this equality, we need to provide means to women to exercise the equal rights, one of the means is the education. As Malala stood up for education for all, anyone also can stand up for female education, helping all girls in the world to enjoy their right of education by giving the best for the promotion and protection of this fundamental rights. Girl Wake up and Stand for your dignity, education is not a privilege that you can have today and loose tomorrow. It's a human right, you have it by simple fact to be a human being, a person. Nobody can remove it from you, even yourself, you cannot deny your rights to education.

³⁴ United Nations, 1948, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26

REFERENCES

- Akinyemi R. Fact files, Nelson Mandela, p. 9,16 and 19 Oxford University Press, 2004,
- Cowdrey, K. (2018). "Malala signs We Are Displaced with W&N". The Bookseller. Retrieved from: <https://www.thebookseller.com/news/malala-publish-new-book-year-> November 29th 2019
- Franklin B, 70 Education Quotes (2019), Retrieved from: <https://www.google.com/search?q=education+quotes>, December 18th, 2019
- Global Citizens (2013), Petition: Stand with Malala, Retrieved from: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/petition-stand-with-malala/>, on Dec. 1st, 19
- Grilliot R, Martin Luther: His 500-Year Legacy and Spiritual Impact, The Way Magazine Nov/December 2017/ Page 17-21, American Christian Press, Knoxville, OHIO, USA, Produced by the Way International.
- Kafoumba D. (2013), Why is Education So Important in Our Life?, Retrieved from: <https://edlab.tc.columbia.edu/blog/9886-Why-is-Education-So-Important-in-Our-Life>, November 30th 2019
- Macmillan (2006), English Dictionary for Advanced Learners,
- Marques J, (2019), Lead with Heart in Mind Treading the Noble Eightfold Path For Mindful and Sustainable Practice, Page 67, Springer, Switzerland
- Nelson Mandela, (2011) Deixamos a Liberdade Vencer, As Palavras que Mudaram o Mundo, Babel, Lisboa

- OHCHR (2014), Les Droits des Femmes sont des droits de l'Homme, United Nations, New York et Genève, Pagina 43
- Rihani M. (2015), "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education", Vol. 32 Issue 3, p 44.
- Rodrigues J. P. (2017), Olimpe de Gouges, Importante Feminista Francesa. Retrieved from: <https://pgl.gal/olympde-gouges-importante-feminista-francesa/> Dec. 27th, 2019
- Rodriguez, L, (2019) How Global Citizens Helped Launch the First Fund for Education in Conflict and Crisis, Global Citizens, Retrieved from: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/education-cannot-wait-case-study/>, December, 20th 2019
- United Nations, (1998), Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and to Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamentals Freedoms. Article 1 and 2,
- United Nations (1979) Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, Article 5
- United Nations, (1948), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26
- UN, (2019), Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Page 5, 14 and 15. Retrieved from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/74/159>, on December 25th 2019
- Yousafzai M and Lamb C. (2014), I am Malala the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, Weidenfeld Nicolson, London.

- World Hideen, (2014) «Ban-Kin Moone Reiterates Support for Malala Yousafzai», Retrieved from: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/ban-ki-moon-reiterates-supports-malala-yousafzai>, December 22nd, 2019
- Wycliffe (2019), Bible Translation Statistics. Retrieved from: (<https://www.wycliffe.net/en/statistics>, on December 2019