A peaceful democracy

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The present representative electoral system is not truly democratic or fair. In ancient Greek democracies[1], women and slaves were disfranchised, but all other citizens could become involved in all aspects of government. In the present system we are essentially represented by only a few political groups. In an ideal democracy a country would be governed by all of its citizens, and there would be no politics. This situation is presently unattainable byt a very close approximation to this state can be achieved by randomly selecting the governing body from the public by what virtually amounts to a giant lottery. In this 'random' parliament[2,3], ordinary citizens are selected to be parliamentarians from a large population database using random number generators and computer technology, and there are no elections.

One of the main problems with the present electoral system stems from the fact that the marginal winner receives all of the spoils of victory. In many countries it is almost impossible to hold fair elections, because of the problems associated with distances, coordination, interference and vote rigging. This can lead to civil conflict since the losers may find it difficult to accept the result of an election. This is especially significant since a small shift in the votes can completely reverse the result. Minority groups are also unrepresented in this system. As is frequently observed, elections rarely lead to lasting peace. Each side remains theatened that the other may dominate them.

These problems should not occur in the random parliament since there is no single winner and all groups (workers, managers, peasants, young, old, poor, rich, and so on) are proportionally represented. The more even distribution of power to the general community should result in a much fairer society for all. This system should eliminate civil unrest in countries where there are difficulties with holding 'fair elections, and in countries where there are many ethnic groups (such as in Bosnia), or tribal groups (as in African countries). The non-political nature of the system should also quash political ideology and aspirations. The randon parliament is of the people, by the people and for the people. The system is as fair and as democratic as can possibly be achieved at present.

The United Nations (UN) has been largely unsuccessful in its persistent efforts to gain peace in many troubled regions around the world. In our view this may be largely due to the 'false' democracy that is offered to these countries and the problems associated with this, as outlined above. It is ironic that in some cases the UN even tries to physically impose this 'western democracy'. Admittedly it may be difficult to initially generate databases of citizens in some of these countries, to implement the random parliament, but once this has been established it should be relatively easy to maintain. Note that the electoral system also requires a population database. The UN could monitor the implementation of random selection systems.

The details of how the random parliamentary system can be implemented has been discussed elsewhere[2,3]. Initially it may be prudent to select people from the community to join the present (elected or non-elected) parliament, and then allow the process to evolve by continual deselection and selection of parliamentarians. This should ensure that there is a smooth transition from the present system, and that the random parliament always has people in government with some experience.

An interesting feature of our proposed random parliament is that all parliamentarians will be on the same side, working together towards the unified principle of governing their country in the best interests of all. The parliament will not be split into two opposing halves as in many current governments. Critics of our proposal may suggest that the present political parliamentary system is more stable since the government is guaranteed power for a fixed term in office (say 3 or 4 years) in which time they can implement their policies. However, one should bear in mind that the other main political party is constantly opposing the implementation of these policies and when they come to power they generally undo most of the policies of their opponents and start to implement their own, only to have them in turn unravelled by their opponemts later. In the random parliament everyone is on the same side, and there is a collective stability in the system.

References
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3. G.A. Christos, **In search of democracy**, Curtin Gazette, Vol. 7, No. 1, 1994, pp 22-24.