

Jane Anderson
Belton - Honca Path High School

LESSON PLAN

"Rule of law"

STANDARD: Summarize differing ideas about the purposes and functions of law, including the "rule of law" and the "rule of man" and the idea that the "rule of law" protects not only individual rights but also the common good and summarize the sources of laws, including nature, social customs, legislatures, religious leaders, and monarchs.

OBJECTIVES: Outline the history of our laws. Compare our system of laws with others. Use critical thinking to read articles, analyze them, and communicate opinions on them.

Step one:

Give a brief lecture on the evolution and sources of our laws.

Step two:

Hand out the articles on "Eye for Eye Justice". Students are to read the articles, and then respond to what they read in five to seven sentences. They can agree with the methods in the article, disagree, or have questions about the article. Everyone must respond in some way.

Step three:

Choose three students randomly. These three will come to the front of the room and sit. They will discuss the issues presented in the article along with their responses. The rest of the class, including the teacher, are not allowed to speak until the three have concluded their discussion. While the discussion is going on, the rest of the class can write down their questions for the three. Then the rest of the class has their turn to speak.

Step four: Hand out the letter to the editor

Students are to read the letter to the editor, and then they are to write a letter to the editor in response.

Step five: Summary: Read and discuss some of the responses to the letter. End the session with a summary of the evolution of laws in our country, and the likenesses and differences in our rules and eye for eye justice.

Monday, 14 August, 2000, 13:55 GMT 14:55 UK

Eye for an eye justice

By Frank Gardner in Cairo

An eye for an eye - that is the way Saudi justice has always been. But this time it has been taken literally.

The Saudi authorities have reportedly removed the eye of an Egyptian as punishment for his attack on another Egyptian six years ago.

The Saudi newspaper Okaz reported on Monday that Abdel Moti Mohammed had his eye surgically removed in a hospital after being sentenced by an Islamic court in Medina.

He was found guilty of throwing acid in the face of another Egyptian, Shahata Mahmoud, permanently disfiguring him.

They were said to be having an argument over money.

Operations

Mahmoud's face was allegedly so badly damaged that it remained disfigured after 30 surgical operations.

He said it was enough to stop him returning to Egypt for fear of his family's reaction.

Under Saudi law the victim can pardon his attacker, but in this case he chose not to, despite being reportedly offered over \$200,000 to drop the punishment.

The victim was quoted as saying that the removal of Mr Mohammed's eye would stop his family in Egypt from taking revenge on his attacker's relatives.

Punishments

The Saudi authorities apply strict corporal punishments for thieves, adulterers and anyone caught drinking alcohol.

They also execute convicted murderers, rapists, armed robbers and drug smugglers.

The London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International, has sharply criticised the Saudi justice system. But the Saudi Government has defended its record, saying that no-one has the right to criticise its application of Islamic law.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/880138.stm

Should we take an eye for an eye?

As a Somali man stabs to death his father's killer in a public execution and Kenyan women call for the castration of rapists, will justice be done if we take an eye for an eye?

The public execution in Mogadishu was ordered by an Islamic court. Under Sharia law those who commit murder are punishable by death.

Residents in the nearby area say they have noticed a drop in robberies, murder and general lawlessness since Sharia law was introduced.

New proposals to combat sexual offences in Kenya no longer include a provision to castrate rapists but many female activists throughout Africa still argue that castration is the only effective way to deter and punish those who rape.

Is justice more effective when the punishment mirrors the crime? Do you think it is fair to take an eye for an eye? Tell us what happens in your traditional courts or other systems of justice? What works where you are?

This debate is now closed. Thank you for your comments.

Your comments:

In most American states the death sentence still stands and it is so because it is American law. So I don't see anything wrong with Somalian laws if they apply the death sentence. The death penalty is the death sentence anywhere.

Kabir Ahmed Andidi, Kaduna, Nigeria

I don't believe in "an eye for an eye". It might sound fair, when the culprit is guilty. Imagine if the culprit is not guilty, his friends and family might look for a way to revenge, justifying that the latter was murdered. There we see a vicious circle of revenge which might even become a civil war!!

John Mutahi, Nairobi, Kenya

An eye for an eye was implemented to set limits on revenge

Jim Banks, USA

It is better to forgive than to carry out revenge, but it is also better to carry out an eye-for-an-eye than to take revenge on an entire family or clan. As I understand it, an eye-for-an-eye was implemented to set limits on revenge. As for those who speak of those who are "unevolved", they are self-righteous judges far from the reality of Somalia.

Jim Banks, Cambridge, MA, USA

Please, the issue is not a matter under our judgement, its Allah's Sharia. Eye for an eye does not

mean as most of the people think. If the loss of part of your body, by the cause of another, is accidental (not intentional), then you are not subject to the rulling. But intentional killing is worthy of the reward of eye for an eye.

Mohamed Yusuf, Hargeisa, Somaliland

Sharia again! Why do we waste our breathe when we are facing a fringe who cannot think for themselves, but swallow hook line and sinker obsolete religious dogmas that have nothing to contribute to the betterment of humanity. When shall we wake-up from our slumber?

Fodei M. Conteh, Cyprus & Sierra Leone

Could someone really explain why the man murdered the boys father over his education?

Ylvo Vivo, UK

Like many others, I believe it is a way to reduce crime.

Yemti Harry Ndienla, Buea, Cameroon

Forgiveness is the key to any kind of healing process.

Placide Matsiaba, Port-Gentil, Gabon

It is better not to allow children and women to watch public punishments

Liban A Hussein, Pakistan

The Islamic rules are clear cut. If you kill someone and the relatives of that person decide to kill you, in Islamic law, no one can stop this, but it is better not to allow children and women to watch public punishments.

Liban A. Hussein, Islamabad, Pakistan

Yes and No. Yes, because there are societies who understand the eye-for-an-eye law only and, No, for the civilized society. It depends on where it is happening.

Habeal Seyoum, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

By saying that an "Eye for an eye makes the whole world blind", although a good point, it is only half thought out. Without taking back that eye, only the side of justice/good will be blind. The side of evil will then still have its eyes and freely attack its weakened victim.

Martin, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

The Somali teenage example has not solved any problems for the society. This was an episode of two "murders".

Maxwell Ukpebor, Ikoyi, Lagos

I can understand why the boy has done this, because I would have done it if I was in his shoes. He obviously wanted revenge and, when you are angry, you do not think about what you are doing.

Rhys Fussell, Ashford, Kent, UK

This is an absolutely abhorrent case of medieval justice in the 21st century, a classic case of the law of the jungle prevailling in a lawless and failed state.

Charles Osunwoke, London, UK

The traditional method of paying blood money has not been sufficient deterrent for killers

Dear Editor:

I am writing regarding the article entitled "An Eye for an Eye" in a recent edition of your paper. I believe that we should adopt this as our rule of law. I am tired of my prices going up because of shoplifters. If they lose a hand, I doubt they would shoplift again. Many of our criminals need a good dose of reality therapy, and I feel that cutting off a hand for stealing would be a huge deterrent to future crimes. How many would shoplift if they knew they would lose a hand? Would it not deter others if they see the shoplifter's nub?

I also support the death penalty. Our justice system is out of control. We coddle the criminals, giving them years to appeal before they are finally put to death. If DNA is used to free a person, it should be enough to go ahead and execute them without years of appeals.

Starting right now, I am going to vote only for people who will change the justice system. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,

Concerned and Upset citizen

House votes to take pay raise

June

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS 2006

WASHINGTON — Despite record low approval ratings, House lawmakers Tuesday embraced a \$3,300 pay raise that will increase their salaries to \$168,500.

The 2 percent cost-of-living raise would be the seventh straight for members of the House and Senate.

Lawmakers easily squelched a bid by Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, to get a direct vote to block the COLA, which is automatically awarded unless lawmakers vote to block it.

The pay raise would also apply to the vice president — who is president of the Senate — congressional leaders and Supreme Court justices.

This year, Vice President Dick Cheney, House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Chief Justice John Roberts receive \$212,100. Associate justices receive \$203,000. House and Senate party leaders get \$183,500.

President Bush's salary of \$400,000 is unaffected by the legislation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ACLU founder's philosophy still exists in current day

"I am for socialism, disarmament and ultimate abolishing the state itself as an instrument of violence and compulsion. I seek social ownership of property and the abolition of the propertied class and sole control by those who produce wealth."

ACLU founder Roger Baldwin's philosophy still permeates the ACLU as it advocates that people can do virtually anything at anytime and no individual, no religion, and no government entity had the legitimate power to stop them except they have no objection to using the power of the state through agreeable activist judges to crush opposition to their anti-coercive legal agendas. Communism is the goal.

June, 2006

The ACLU supports:

■ Legalized child pornography, partial birth abortion, legalized prostitution, mandatory sex education, legalized polygamy, tax-exempt status for satanists, unrestricted abortion, adoption by homosexuals, extended constitutional protection for enemy soldiers while bearing arms against the U.S.

The ACLU opposes:

■ Legalized school prayer, parental consent laws, prison terms for most criminals, medical safety reporting of AIDS cases, abstinence before marriage education, God Bless America banners on schools, pro-life demonstrations, religious displays in public, Christian home schooling.

JOHN M. ROGERS, ANDERSON

CNN.com - Democrats: No raises for Congress until minimum wage is increased - Jun 28... Page 1 of 1

WASHINGTON (CNN) — A week after the GOP-led Senate rejected an increase to the minimum wage Democrats on Tuesday vowed to block pay raises for members of Congress until the minimum wage increased.

"We're going to do anything it takes to stop the congressional pay raise this year, and we're not going to settle for this year at Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said at a Capitol news conference.

"They can play all the games they want," Reid said derisively of the Republicans who control the chamber. "They can deal with estate tax, flag burning, all these issues and avoid issues like the prices of gasoline, sending your kid to college. But we're going to do everything to stop the congressional pay raise."

The minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. Democrats want to raise it to \$7.25. During the past nine years, as Democrats have tried unsuccessfully to increase the minimum wage, members of Congress have voted to give themselves pay raises — technically increases — totaling \$31,600, or more than \$15 an hour for a 40-hour week, 52 weeks a year, according to the Congressional Service.

In floor debate last week Republicans argued the raise for low-income workers would hurt small businesses. They offered an alternative measure to raise the minimum wage that was tied to tax breaks for small businesses.

The main proposal fell eight votes short of the 60 it needed to pass with 46 opposing; the alternative measure mustered only 53 favor, while 53 senators opposed.

Reid wouldn't spell out the specific tactics he would employ to block the congressional pay raise — which is triggered each year by the passage of an appropriations bill not by a vote on a stand alone bill to increase pay for members.

But he warned, "I know procedures around here fairly well."