

WE are not numbers

When they wage war
they might forget that people are not numbers
to collect or keep like bones
to dehumanize
to take away
 taking God's work in their hands
 for things that God did not sign them up for

When they invade lands
they ignore war as the bigger enemy
starving people into nothingness
holding progress down
 changing people's lives in seconds
killing dreams shamelessly
war is the killer of hope

When We talk about war
 We forget to keep the powerful accountable
while they do everything in their capacity
 to take our jaws out

We
 When I say We I mean civilians We
 I mean us that stand in queues to vote We
 We that are tirelessly lied to
surrendering to the *developments* that will be made

 We that just want to be able to exist and
 offer our best selves to ourselves and our families

We
 War is a carrier like a virus
that takes away everything selfishly
 like an angry sea that has not been tamed
 like bottled-up pain

We the civilians the ones bombed and killed and massacred and burned into debris
We

 Why do We have to be the bearer of the devil's actions?
 Why do We do We do We have to be sacrificial goats?
The numbers so easily forgotten to be given away to be subtracted to be given new names
 to forge dreams to be beggars of things that should be free
 peace security a sense of home

 We walk with memories of those that We buried and
 those whose bodies We could not retrieve
 and those who had just started new jobs new families
new optimisms new lives snatched away from everything that tasted like
belonging

they We the poor the vulnerable the ones trying to knit days into night
in their hunger crucify our thirst.