Most importantly, after the allotted time for the ceasefire has run out, the belligerents often renew their fighting. Following the ceasefires in both Lebanon and El Salvador the battles were rejoined with a vengeance. In Sudan, the latest indications are that the peace process has broken down. These developments make it hard to convince anyone that there is a contributory role played by humanitarian ceasefires in the resolution of conflict.

Like peacekeeping, a humanitarian ceasefire itself cannot be expected to resolve a conflict. If the potential which is inherent in the ceasefire is not capitalized upon to full advantage, then that potential is wasted. As is the case with war, peace does not have one identifiable cause. Instead, it is made up of many strands, each depending on and supporting the other. In the next section we will look more closely at the web of peace. We will pay particular attention to how the traditional and non-traditional approaches to conflict resolution examined in this paper can interact to build a sturdy web.