SLAP!

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That slap was nasty and petulant. But it isn't among the most important things happening in the world today.
Category: Observations

I don't think I've ever watched the Oscars' Ceremony; it's just not something that interests me. I'm unlikely to watch a movie just because it has won an award or two, so why bother?

However, this year, it has been hard to avoid the kerfuffle caused by Will Smith slapping the presenter Chris Rock who had made an unpleasant joke about Will Smith's wife's alopecia. From where I'm sitting, both men behaved appallingly. It was a nasty, sexist joke and Will Smith's reaction was over the top. However, I think that the reaction to the incident says something about our society which is not very healthy.

To be honest, my first reaction was what is all the fuss about? It's not that the incident wasn't unpleasant, it was. But it's also fairly banal; you could see similar scenarios played out in many inner city pubs in the UK on a Friday night - and they are unlikely to stop with one slap.

More importantly, there are far bigger things happening in the world which are simply not being covered by the media.

Just to take one example; the ongoing conflict in DRC has flared up again this week and thousands of people are fleeing into Uganda.

https://youtu.be/d0n5kUGZsZM

This could be multiplied many times over; Yemen, Myanmar and - of course - Ukraine. In a world where these sorts of things are happening, it seems strange that we should spend so newsprint and pixels on thinking about two rich people in the US having a momentary altercation.

This is not to excuse what happened at the Oscars; it was nasty and petulant. But it isn't among the most important things happening in the world today. As Christians, part of an international family, the events in the DRC should be far more important to us than what happened in Hollywood. We have brothers and sisters who are suffering around the globe because of violence and injustice and very often we are unaware that it is even happening. This needs to change.