

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind

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**Safety Measures Must be Ensured for the Miners**

People, from all walks of life, should have the same rights within a state. And, the government in the state must strive that those rights are guaranteed, and no one is left neglected. No field of life is unimportant or degrading; all have their importance and due place within a society, and a society develops when all these fields are developed and run by determined individuals.

Mining is one of the sectors that require arduous labor and the people working in this sector face a lot of difficulties and dangers. The miners have to take care of careful safety measures in order to ensure safe mining.

Afghanistan is one of the countries where mining sector is one of the most important sectors and there are great hopes and expectations from it. Afghan authorities and people believe that the sector can prove to be backbone of Afghan economy in the times to come. However, the miners working in this sector are not given their due rights and they face very thorny situation. There are no proper equipment and the safety measures are not taken care of; therefore, many miners lose their lives each year.

In one of such events on Tuesday, at least six miners lost their lives after they were exposed to methane gas inside a coal mine in northern Samangan province. Ahmad Ali Hassani, district governor of Dara Souf Bala, revealed that the miners lost their lives while they were busy on coal extraction in Chang Aab region, Dara Souf Bala district. They were residents of Daikundi province and their bodies were later submitted to their families, Hassani added.

It is unfortunate to note that neither the investors nor the workers have enough information or motivation regarding such measures. Primarily, it is the duty of investors and the owners of mine to ensure necessary arrangements. They are bound by law to do so, and they must try to follow it as strictly as possible. However, the owners of mines, mercilessly, use the energy of workers and pay no heed to their lives. Owners must understand that prevention is better than cure. Instead of giving monetary assistance to families of miners after their accidental death, equipment and preparations which can save the lives of workers should be arranged.

At the same time, it must not be forgotten that miners mostly belong to very poor families, and their families suffer serious consequences after any sort of accident. Thus, many lives are disturbed, and many social issues can erupt from such situations. Therefore, all precautionary measures must be ensured to avoid such accidents.

Government, on the other hand, must not forget its responsibilities. It needs to have strict inspections of mines and their arrangements. There must be penalties and punishments for insufficient safety measures, and no corruption must be tolerated in this regard. In certain cases, it has been noted that mine owners bribe the government officials so as to get clearance while their arrangements are in no way satisfactory. Unfortunately, the irresponsible and corrupt officials feel no humiliation in accepting bribes and paving the way for accidents and mishaps.

Alongside the miners, investors and government, the miners themselves must be given enough awareness about their rights. They must bargain with the miner owners about their safety rights and refuse to work in the premises that they feel is not safe. Ultimately, it is their lives that have to be valued more than any other thing. The international and national organizations that claim to be performing their duties in this regard must also conduct awareness sessions and workshops for the miners so that they have complete awareness about safety measures and always ensure that they are followed before they start their work.

Mining will be one of the most important sectors in Afghanistan within its struggle to rely on its own economy and resources. Nevertheless, that requires untiring efforts to be developed since the very basic infra-structure is missing in this regard. If Afghan authorities are really interested in developing the mining sector and making it shoulder the weak Afghan economy, it must guarantee the rights of the miners. The human resource would be of significant importance in the uplift of the sector, and it must be given more attention than it is being given. From the construction of the transportation routes, to the excavation of mineral resources from the untouched reservoirs, it is going to be the strong and determined shoulders of the miners and other laborers that will make the difference. Keeping in consideration the level of unemployment, people will readily accept the challenge and will take part in such development works. The authorities, therefore, need to change their policies and create incentives for the working class; otherwise, making benefits out of mining would only remain only a dream.

**The Fly and the Sweet**

By: Muhammad Rasool Shah

A fly always sits on a sweet thing. It can be better explained by a zoologist but I am sure it has a strong sense of smell as it soon finds out a hidden sweet thing and comes and sits on it. At times a sweet thing is hidden at a far corner of the room but I think its sweet smell reaches to it and thus it again finds and cherishes it.

Another important observation about flies is that when it finds a sweet thing at a certain place in a room and if you take all the flies out of the room and then you allow them to enter the room, they will again fly and directly reach to the place where they had enjoyed the sweet before. Although they don't have ability to memorize the location of a place or recognize it with the help of the things present near it, yet they have been gifted with an ability to find the exact place where they had once got food and in more good words, the thing of their choice and liking.

Same is almost the case with humans. When you like someone or something, you absolutely forget the difficulties and try to get to it by turning every impossible into possible.

When a person gets love or attention or any other thing that attracts his heart and feelings, he becomes just like a fly and time and again he flies and comes to the place where it hopes of finding the love and attention.

You may not be having time for other activities of life but when your heart is attached with a place or thing, you would be definitely inventing time for it and then you will not be having any excuse of the shortage of time.

Similarly, the route of it may be out of your way but against all the odds, you would definitely make all the arrangements in a way that you would be passing through this way.

But for any such relation to exist there is need of a sweet thing as was the case with flies. When you get something from someone or somewhere that can cherish you, you would definitely be attracted to it like a fly is attracted to sweet.

Sheikh Saadi says that if a tree is bald and barren and has no fruit on it, even the boys don't bother to throw stones to it. If you don't have anything sweet to offer to the world, they would never come to you. If a tree is full of ripe fruit, it is not only very well taken care of but people from different corners come to it for getting something; fruit, shelter, grass or just the company of friends.

At times we see that old people go through all the difficulties to meet each other and have the company of each other. Although their health, general weakness and many other factors don't easily let them to even think of traveling and going out to meet the friends but anyhow, they manage it and meet each other. Here, the company of a friend works as a sweet thing and they run to cherish it.

In the beginning, prisons were the places where ill-doers were brought just to be punished for their wrong act. Later on, it was decided that these people who had gone away from civilization, love of people and things like these should be brought back to the beauties of life so that they should not hate it and feel attracted to it. For this purpose, they were kept in places that were called Correctional places and not the jails or prisons. They were provided

with all the beauties and attractions of life. Then the above formula of fly and sweet worked. These places with good atmosphere and human attention worked as something that attracted their love and attention. Later on, when they were released into the civilized society, they had developed a love to these things and thus they decided to keep away from evil thoughts and conduct and strive hard to seek those things that were of attraction to them in the prison.

Almost same formula is used by the companies that want to attract the customers. Spacious and air-conditioned halls, attractive paintings and decoration and many other things were made keeping in view the consumer psychology that were all meant to attract the attention of customers. This made the customers feel attracted to these malls and stores and liked to visit them and of course they also did the shopping.

The same strategy is also used by modern organizations to keep the interests of employees alive in their work and to make them like and love their work and the workplace. For this purpose, awards and certificates like EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH or MOST SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYEE are given to the employees. Internet, refreshments, comfortable workplace environment and other facilities and incentives make the employees like their organization and remain loyal to it.

Usually the educational or professional seminars and workshops, especially the ones that continue for a number of days, are supposed and taken as boring. But once we had a seminar that was continued for three days but we never felt it to be long and boring. First, the activities and lectures were arranged in a way that participants were not the passive listeners but were given the chances to actively participate in the activities. With this, there were breaks after an hour or so and in every break, we enjoyed the variety of food and drinks. In one break, all the participants enjoyed the tea and biscuits, in the next break we were served with variety of delicious fruits while next break was memorable with sandwiches and coffee. In the same smooth manner, the sessions proceeded and no one felt them to be boring. Well-balanced activities and well-served refreshments made it the most memorable and productive workshop that the participants ever had.

A television advertisement is shown where a lot many children play a game and after getting tired and getting thirsty, they all gather in a house of one of the kids where they are served with cold and tasty juice. Then it is shown that children go to play outside just to enjoy the juice after the game ends.

Many people, who don't get sufficient love and attention at home, go to different places and seek for love and attention which is not legal or morally permissible.

With every passing day, we hear more and more complaints about dissatisfaction of people from home, workplace, colleagues, and jobs and more dangerously from the life itself. Thus we need to be tactical and invent such things or take such measures where people should feel themselves attracted towards the above mentioned places or people. This act of us will fill up many dangerous gaps.

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**The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Recent Developments and Next Steps (Part 2)**

By: Gabriel M. Piccillo

**Recent Developments**

The past year has seen novel tumult, starting with US President Donald Trump's controversial decision in December 2017 to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. When demonstrations erupted, Israeli Security forces killed 86 demonstrators, injuring 3,700 more between March 30th and May 15th. The time of year happened to mark the 70th anniversary of Israeli statehood and Nakbat, the mass exodus of Palestinians.

With the May 14th opening ceremony of the US Embassy, protests continued. Many in the international community criticized America's decision, claiming it made dialogue even more elusive. Rupert Colville, spokesperson for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights responded to the violence stating, "We condemn the appalling, deadly violence in Gaza yesterday," while United States UN representative Nikki Haley defended Israel claiming, "No country in this chamber would act with more restraint than Israel has." As of September 2018, little progress has been made regarding dialogue and implementing plans to bring about peace.

The potential for a third intifada exists.

Fighting between the aforementioned Gazan power-broker, Hamas, and the Israeli military broke out in May. Hamas militants fired 100 rockets at Israel. Responding to the national security threat, Israel executed missile strikes throughout Gaza. Gazan militants responded with another 150 rockets fired at Israel between the 8th and 9th of August. Subsequent Israeli airstrikes killed three Gazans. UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov called for restraint, while Egypt continues to work on a peace agreement for Israel and Hamas. However, an imminent agreement is unlikely. Divisions between the governing authorities in Gaza and the one of the West Bank respectively complicate Palestinian dialogue.

The continued passage of time is eroding principles that defined the two-state solution

On August 24th the US State Department redirected \$200 million slated for West Bank and Gaza aid to more pressing issues; the US would no longer fund Palestinian refugees. The United States has since closed the Palestinian Liberation Organization's office in Washington D.C. In response, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the US asserted this as evidence that the US had abandoned the prospect of a two-state solution.

The international community must reestablish principled, fair negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians.

**Risks**

According to former US Ambassador to Syria and Israel Edward P. Djerjian, "Facts on the ground, demographics, domestic politics, and geopolitical trends all suggest the continued passage of time is eroding some of the bedrock principles that have defined the contours of the two-state solution for decades... Failure to address the conflict may... force more unstable and challenging realities on all parties." This was a suggestion that the potential for a third intifada exists. Fortunately, Israel and the international community see that risk and are committed to mitigating it.

Israel has expressed a willingness to diplomatically address triggering issues. But compared to Israel, the Palestinians' political and military weakness, as

well as the PLO, Hamas, and the PA's internal divisions reduce the likelihood of all-out war. Violent episodes like those in May are likely. To be sure, unchecked Israeli/Palestinian violence could be disastrous. There's no guarantee the conflict wouldn't spread to Lebanon, where Hezbollah waits launch Israeli attacks.

**Mitigating Options**

Steps the international community could take to renew international commitment to peace include the pursuit of an effective two-state solution implemented through previously developed international frameworks. Negotiations are more likely to succeed if executed under UN resolutions 242 and 338's terms. These stipulate that the conflict's resolution requires, "... the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict." And, that all states in the area must respect the sovereignty of other states and, "... their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

Final Israeli and Palestinian borders should the June 4th, 1967 borders. Appropriate legal channels will resolve additional conflicts. Dialogue must address refugees. The rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees require significant international fiscal and logistical support. Jerusalem may hold the capitals of both states, with Palestinian neighborhoods under Palestinian control and Jewish neighborhoods under Israeli control. People of any religion should be able to go to any religious site in the city.

Beyond territory and refugees, the Palestinian state should be non-militarized. This, to reduce the risk of hostilities. Israel and Palestine need special security arrangements. A multinational force if developed and used throughout the Jordan Valley would be a confidence-builder for both sides. Equitable sharing of resources is also a priority.

The transportation of goods throughout the territories should be unhindered. According to Djerjian, relations between Israel and Palestine should be, "... based on principles of equal sovereignty of states, and creating supportive conditions for good neighborly relations. Progress in the peace process will be an integral part of the promotion of the wider peace between Israel and Arab/ Islamic nations. Per the Arab peace initiative: "Beyond the big issue of territorial boundaries, success will likely be measured with many small-scale programs. And their ability to create conditions favorable to long-term peace between Israel, Palestine, and the wider region."

**Conclusion**

The above challenges are significant and old. That doesn't mean they are insurmountable. The participants have resolved problems in the past and shall do so again. It will require international commitment and political will. The international community must reestablish principled, fair negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. A sustainable resolution can only be a result of sustained dialogue, a spirit of compromise, and well-mediated negotiations. The challenges are greater than the international community has not failed, but it has not succeeded. Peace is attainable. All who have suffered so without it should keep it in their sights.

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