

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



August 06, 2015

## Acceptability for Others

In order to exist with cooperation in an exceedingly diverse society it's necessary to develop respect and acceptability for others. In the absence of these factors, it might be impossible to tighten the social bonds. The varied societies have inhabitants from totally dissimilar cultural, historical, religious, ethnic or sectarian milieus. Although such societies have the advantage of being diverse and culturally wealthy, they are noticeably at risk of conflicts. As there are teams of individuals with totally different ideologies and practices there are prospects that there are frequent clashes and disturbances. Therefore, it's necessary in such societies that totally different teams ought to settle for one another's existence. The acceptability or broad-mindedness for others is best developed by realizing the actual fact that others have their reasons to be what they are. They need their own backgrounds and values and their own practices that have developed among them through their distinct history. However, people don't seem to be able to do so in such a large amount of cases. They, in fact, become the victims of utmost partisanship. They observe and perceive others in their own views and check out to weigh them as per their own values, that don't offer correct and just result. They base their analysis and understanding depending on their own frame of reference that is certain to be biased as they do not look after the objective truths.

The biased and ethno-centric approach towards others is certain to end in clashes and chaos. Such a state of affairs is actually noticeably prejudicious and might be used by others for their personal edges. History approves the fact that the heterogeneous societies that have had clashes among their completely different strata were dominated by others who solely reinforced those clashes through political means and in that manner pursued their own motives. In short, the societies that have such clashes are politically used by others and that they suffer severe loss as a result.

It is, therefore, essential for heterogeneous societies to develop a culture of co-existence. A way of belongingness to an oversized body; may be a sense for attachment to some national feelings, will solve the problem to a certain level. Binding themselves to national levels, the heterogeneous teams within the society might surrender their trivial matters and begin thinking in broader perspective. They need to be instructed to grasp that it's solely through collective efforts that they'll improve their survival potential in today's society. Their collective efforts will grow to be a synergy that may give them the chances of facing the overgrowing challenges of life successfully and dignity.

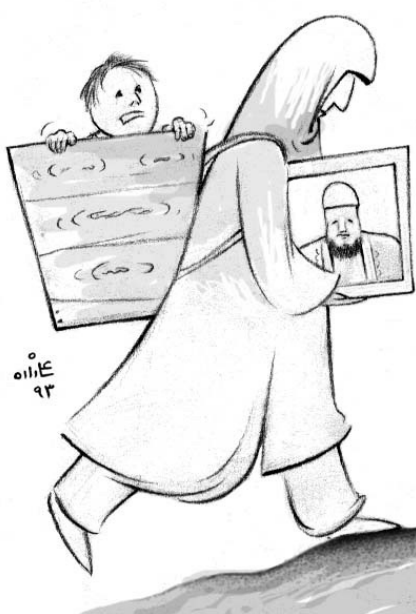
One of the simplest ways in which to exist in an exceedingly heterogeneous society is searching for the similarities among totally different teams rather than distinguishing the variations and creating them the bone of rivalry. In fact, the similarities among totally different human teams are larger than their variations. One in all of the biggest similarities among all the groups of people is that they're human beings and share an equivalent earth to survive on.

However, such ideas are solely thought to be ideal and unworkable. In reality, people are divided into totally different strata and that they use deadly weapons in their fights that kill many at a time. Each cluster, in pursuit of proving itself higher or correct, makes machinations to decimate others. Others are aliens, foreigners, infidels and wrong-doers. Religions and social and political ideologies that have got to bring folks along have, in fact, compelled them to stand largely apart and divided. This can be extremely pathetic and doesn't show in the least that humans are the most superior of creatures and have the intelligence and gumption.

Afghanistan is one among the societies that are heterogeneous to a particular extent. There are people from totally different ethnic groups who have their sub-cultures. Although they have embellished Afghan society with variety, there are instances when these strata have had clashes among each other. These clashes resulted in civil wars and influenced Afghan society negatively to a large extent. Other countries that had their interests in Afghan society used these clashes for their political functions and further added fuel to the fireplace.

However, nowadays Afghan society is standing in an exceedingly different position. It is in the course of developing a peaceful life for its folks. At this important juncture, it is extremely necessary that Afghan society should stand united and face challenges as a powerful nation. It should not let the variations among various strata to dominate their national integration. The younger generation will play an amazing role in this regard. They are educated and they have previously experienced the implications of decades of instability and wars; so, they will better decide which path to choose.

If Afghan people want to guarantee their national integration within the times to come, they will be tested by the challenges. They have to find out to hold one another's hands tightly and check out to assist one another in nation building. They need to grasp that the varied groups within the country are essentially different elements of a healthy body and without the support of any of them it might not be able to create the body completely and make it work and perform properly. And, the socio-political conditions might prove to be noticeably unkind and might gust away, like light-weight straws, all the divided people.



# The Taliban's Crisis of Leadership

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

After announcement of Mullah Omar's death, everyone perhaps agreed that the transition in leadership of the Taliban would profoundly impact the Taliban. However, few were foreseeing a potential split of the group who remained largely intact in last fourteen years of its insurgency against the government of Afghanistan. With the rifts among Taliban widening, there are now serious questions over the fate of the main insurgent group in Afghanistan. According to media reports, the head of the Taliban political office in Qatar Sayed Tayeb Agha has resigned his post, criticizing the way of selection of Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor as the group's new leader and the fact that Mullah Omar's death was kept secret for two years. In the meantime, Mullah Mansoor Dadullah, a powerful ground commander of the Taliban, has opposed leadership of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor and announced his backing to Mullah Omar's son Mullah Yaqub. Resignation of Sayed Tayeb Agha is coming as the latest signs of a growing rift among Taliban senior leaders over selection of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor as replacement for Mullah Omar.

The rising voices of opposition from inside the Taliban senior leadership to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor's succession indicates a far greater division among the Taliban than what many expected before. Initially it was thought the Taliban would overcome the leadership vacuum stemmed from the announcement of death of its supreme leader by choosing a new leader through consultative processes with participation of a large spectrum of Taliban senior members including political and military figures. The founder and former leader of the Taliban himself was chosen as supreme leader and named as 'commander of the faithful' by endorsement of hundreds of Taliban members and clerics. The top seven-member council of the Taliban, the so-called Quetta Shura, used to run the Taliban through consultations. The norm was a political tradition and a religious obligation for the Taliban leaders. However, what followed the announcement of the death of Mullah Omar, took many by surprise. The Taliban senior leadership failed to go by traditions in decision-makings for selection of a new leader for the group.

The failure, however, had roots in the group's internal politics in the past particularly during some recent years when Mullah Omar mysteriously had been kept away from running the group's affairs and died in unknown circumstances. In recent years, the newly chosen leader of the Taliban Mullah Akhtar Mansoor had managed to dominate the group's supreme council and appoint his loyalists to key positions in recent years. Taking advantage of his authority and power, Mansoor seemingly imposed himself as new leader through being chosen by a small group of senior members of the Taliban. It is also reasonable to think that the selection of the new leader of the Taliban may have been

manipulated by outside actors such as government and intelligence agencies who have considerable influence over the Taliban. The way of selection of the new leader has triggered a crisis for the Taliban. A number of Taliban members have labeled the way of selection of the new leader as a 'coup' by Mullah Mansoor and his loyalists.

With the deepening crisis of leadership of the Taliban, it is now clear that the post-Mullah Omar Taliban will not be the same group as it was for last fourteen years of war in Afghanistan. There will be a different Taliban: at best a fragmented and weakened group. Some even predict a potential breakup or disintegration of the insurgent group. The erosion of the senior leadership of the group has already begun. Some senior members of the Taliban like Sayed Tayyeb Agha, who have served for the group's insurgency over last fourteen years, have suggested their way parting from the group. Both sides are drumming on the key issues of differences. At this stage, both sides seem to be far from being able to make compromises over the leadership of the group. Mullah Mansoor's camp is continuing to monopolize the power in top decision making circles. This is while the opposition figures indicate stiff opposition to the new leadership and the circumstances of Mullah Omar's death.

However, despite the fact the Taliban will be a fractured and weakened insurgency group, it is still unclear how the main leadership of the group would tackle the ongoing leadership crisis of the group. However, given the group's resiliency during the past over-a-decade of the conflict, the less likely scenario is that the Taliban still may be able to avoid the worst scenarios. The seven-member Quetta Shura, which is the highest leadership body of the group, is very powerful. The new leader of the Taliban and his loyalists has the grip of power in the council. It is possible the supreme council of the Taliban overcome its own internal differences over the issue and cracks down the opposition who is seemingly at a weaker stance. In this case, the opposition centered on Mullah Yaqub and Mullah Qayum Zakir would get weakened against a more consolidate group under the new leader.

In any case, Taliban would further lose to other groups particularly the newly emerging Islamic State group. In worst case, the Taliban would split into two or three major rival groups which would leave them considerably weakened against a government crackdown. In lesser worse case for the Taliban, it is highly likely the group would divide into a main Taliban and other smaller splinter groups. At any case, the splinter groups could considerably challenge the main insurgency and even get involved in turf fighting across the country. This would further lead to strength of other militant groups such as the Islamic State group which is in an open battle with the Taliban. Despite that a fragmented Taliban would provide the best opportunity for the government to fight the insurgency, it could potentially weaken a chance of peace with all the insurgent groups.

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## The Rift between Taliban Toughens Peace Talks

By Hujjatullah Zia

The Taliban are wrestling with formidable challenges and the rift emerging over the election of Mullah Omar's successor is highly serious. A number of Taliban's top leaders plus Mutasim Agha Jan, the former finance minister and a close confidant of Mullah Omar, and council members are against the decision to name Mansoor as supreme leader. Similarly, the family of deceased Taliban leader Mullah Omar, including his son Mullah Yaqub, has refused to pledge allegiance to his successor, calling on religious scholars to settle a deepening rift within insurgent ranks over the power transition. Moreover, reports say that the head of Taliban's political office in Qatar, Sayed Tayyeb Agha, resigned on Monday over the appointment of the militant organization's new chief Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.

"I have decided to step down as head of the political office of the Islamic Emirate, because my political role has come to an end. I will not be part of any decision and statements of the Islamic Emirate Taliban," Tayyeb Agha is cited as saying.

He also regretted the leadership's decision to keep news of Mullah Omar's death a secret. He said he had insisted at times to receive "verbal instructions from Mullah Omar" but rejecting his requests, the leaders would say there was no need for them.

Pakistani news say that the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has also joined the dissident Taliban in rejecting Mullah Mansoor's election with a commander saying they were not consulted on the matter.

But Mullah Mansoor has said that he has been elected by the leadership council and Islamic scholars, denying the impression that he was imposed on the movement. "The leadership is not a privilege but a sensitive responsibility. I would consult the Shura members and everyone as decisions will not be taken by an individual," he told a gathering which had elected him.

The year 2014 was the deadliest insofar as attacks on Afghan and coalition forces were concerned. This was ominous as the coalition forces had thinned out and were on their way to exiting the country. But now comes a bombshell for the Afghan Taliban. Their supreme has been dead for two years. The movement would now be waging a struggle for the first time without a leader who all paid allegiance to and who defied the West and indeed the world, engaging a superpower in the longest war in its history by relying on rifles, improvised explosive devices, rockets and on radicals ready to be killed for a cause which they believed was just.

Anyhow, Agha's resignation could complicate the fragile peace process further. Afghan government, which went from pillar to post to bring the Taliban on the table of negotiation, will encounter

ter a standstill with his resignation. Agha believed that he would represent Mullah Omar's will as being directed by the Taliban's officials who kept Omar's death secret - but it was proved wrong for him too late.

Former ambassador to Afghanistan Rustam Shah Mohmand is also downbeat about the possibility of a peace deal in Afghanistan following the disclosure of Mullah Omar's death. "The Murree process is dead now. In fact, it was a non-starter," he said.

Furthermore, Mullah Omar's successor gave mixed signals on the peace process in his first audio message. Mullah Mansoor called peace talks the enemy's propaganda. In other words, Mansoor's appointment as Taliban's supreme will open a new chapter in the peace talk and the progress made in the past will turn to zero. Hence, it will take much time to coax Mansoor into coming on the table of negotiation.

What if the Taliban be divided into two groups with their own leaders? This will also deteriorate the security situation in Afghanistan. In such a case, the scenario is clear. Why Molavi Abdul Raqib, a former Taliban refugee's minister and one of the members of Dubai peace negotiation session led by Mutasim Aqa Jan, was shot dead in the Pakistani city of Peshawar during the Karzai's government? Why Molavi Noorullah Hotak, a Taliban's senior leader, was killed? All know that because they were engaged in negotiation with the Afghan government despite the Taliban's unanimous consent. Hence, starting peace parley with one group of the Taliban will never produce the desired result.

The interminable peace process met failure repeatedly for one reason or another. Since it has been proved fruitless and the casualties continued unabated in the country, I have never been optimistic about the result and persist in its futility once more.

Sources say that the Afghan Taliban are divided over Mullah Mansoor's ascendancy is one reason among many others which could delay the peace process. It is believed that certain Taliban leaders are opposing Mullah Mansoor's election since he is seen to be close to Pakistan's security establishment.

I believe that as Karzai's tolerance failed to persuade the Taliban to cease war in Afghanistan through negotiation, nothing would coax them to do so. After five commanders of the Taliban, including Mulavi Raqib, were shot dead by unknown gunmen in Pakistan within three months during Karzai's government for being engaged in peace talk in Dubai, President Karzai invited Raqib's party Tahreek-e-Islami Taliban to return to Afghanistan and urged other Taliban negotiators to go to safe places. To put it short, neither Karzai's struggle nor the US-led NATO counterterrorism strategy bore the desired fruit in Afghanistan and the only way remains is a strict and honest military deal.

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