

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



August 08, 2018

### No Way to Defend Extremism

Most parts of the world, at the moment, suffer from the threats of extremism and terrorism. Humanitarian analysts even argue that extremism and terrorism are reciprocal and have badly influenced all the norms and values of human society and have spotted an appalling stigma on the greatness and significance of human beings. Human history depicts that so far millions of people have been massacred; many international organizations had earlier feared that extremism would eradicate the human communities. Most of the basic human rights have been violated by the terrorist and extremist groups, which have strong relations with different ethnic clusters.

In view of certain thinkers, modern societies sacrifice a lot to bring transparent changes in the third world countries. They definitely assist the deprived people to modernize and bring tranquility and prosperity among them but there are many people who hesitate to accept these realities because their minds are limited to the confinement of fanaticism and religious torture cells where our thousands of young people have been sordidly pushed in the deep valley of illiteracy, ignorance and viciousness. They are bound to be limited to their wells and they do not have the capacity to think anything out of it. Their shortsighted approach, which is developed through their conditioning, sees nothing more than a single straight line that they have to follow. They are in fact the blinds with the eyesight and the brainless with the brains.

The tyrant and inhumane extremists suppress the people with the sectarian sentiments as tribal customs and religious traditions; they mistreat the devotion and belief of the people. Every day we come to know that plenty of innocent and impartial masses have been assassinated, the honor of the holy places have been ruined with suicide attacks, capricious strike on the processions have been made, and unfortunately holy Quran has been used in our own country to plant a bomb. So isn't it the real face of extremism, barbarism and of course terrorism. These elements don't have any faith, religion and loyalty but they have their particular goals and ambitions and even do not hesitate to translate the religion for their inhuman wicked desires.

Today the extremists due to their aggressive attitude have foxed the attention of everybody towards them; most of them are merely responsible for every kind of corruption and devastation. Especially the Islamic countries have been castigated for such violence and atrocities. The Islamic militants have been named terrorists; what is the actual reason? The basic reason is that they are involved in the genocide of uncountable people in Syria, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is quite sure that extremism is the root cause of terrorism and in all the countries mentioned above the people have been showing extremism and nothing else. They have been dodged in the name of religion and they do not use their minds to understand what they are taught. All they do is following blindly the teachings and taking the worst possible actions.

There are some so-called clergies who want to disguise the fact by claiming that extremism may lead the humanity towards the spiritual glory, but they intentionally regard the spirits of humanity while concealing their notorious characteristics, which they are applying in many parts of the planet earth. We must know their medieval practices and frustrated religious and tribal system with their obsolete and ill-intended teachings that are nothing except molesting the human beings.

Today we can easily find out the miseries and unsafe conditions which are undoubtedly the ultimate repercussions of extremism. Today the reputation and honor of our religion, and civilization is extremely in immense danger due to extremism. And the approach that is developed in the minds of the most of the people is really a matter of concern; so we must immensely protest against this ignorance, which has caused us rigid and poignant attitude. We are caught in the worst kind of quagmire of extremism and we do not find any way of getting out of it. The more we try to get out of it, the more we are sinking in it. We really need to know that they way we are making efforts is wrong and we need to do something else in order to get out of it. We really need to understand this clear fact that extremism has rewarded us the humiliating gift of terrorism, which is of course unacceptable for every sensible, literate and human-loving person. David Cecil's observation can really guide us in this regard: "It is often said that mankind needs a faith if the world is to be improved. In fact, unless the faith is vigilantly and regularly checked by a sense of man's fallibility, it is likely to make the world worse. From Torquemada to Robespierre and Hitler the men who have made mankind suffer the most have been inspired to do so have been inspired to do so by a strong faith; so strong that it led them to think their crimes were acts of virtue necessary to help them achieve their aim, which was to build some sort of an ideal kingdom on earth."

### Afghan Government Should Regulate Religious Teaching Institutions and Places of Worship to Avoid Exploitation

By Mohammed Gul Sahibzada

Afghanistan is among the countries whose populations have the lowest literacy rate in the world - in case of Afghanistan - based on news outlets - it currently stands at around thirty seven percent, but I haven't got access to any solid source to prove it statistically. Now, this percentage stands for the ability to read and write. There is no matrix available to show hard facts and figures about the percentage of people having solid, standard education. Most of the students attend Madrassas or religious schools in rural areas. These schools are managed, organized and thought by poorly educated Mollahs and Mawlawis, who hardly have any solid knowledge about Quran. They follow hundreds of year old syllabus whereby learning by rote is emphasized rather than teaching and learning by reasons or scientific proof. In such an environment, it is the duty of Government to put stringent measures and standards for recruitment of teachers and managers for these religious schools. Manipulation of religious sentiments and instilling wrong, heretic religions teachings in minds and souls of students who study in these religious schools have recurrently taken immense toll on Afghan society retrospectively. This phenomenon automatically renders most of the people of Afghanistan - especially those living in rural areas - impressionable and susceptible to destructive impacts on their lives of these biased, sentimental and heretic religious beliefs across the country. Fanatic, so called religious groups, for example Daesh, are the products of such biased, so called religious teachings.

Politics is all about rallying people around a single slogan, so called cause or objectives. History is filled up with cases in point whereby large number of people are rallied around a single, so called cause, built up furious force and unleashed unforgettable miseries on humanity - sometimes at a very large scale. Examples of such destruction and killing are World War1, World War2 and genocide in Rwanda - which are unforgettable historic human tragedies. With advancement of knowledge, technique and know-how in all areas of human society, hostile Governments target soft, susceptible areas in the enemy countries. Religious sentiments and beliefs are most vulnerable areas which could be targeted so easily to manipulate the entire members of the society towards achieving undercover aims.

History is filled up with episodes of such undertakings by countries at war with each other. Afghanistan has been the victim of

such undertakings by her adversaries throughout the history. In late nineteenth century, the than British Empire had funded, organized and supported undercover programs to mobilize in revolt, rural populations of Afghanistan against the Kabul regime of the time, and successfully achieved goals. Example of such undertakings is the toppling of Amir Amanullah Khan kingdom by rug, religious groups who revolted against him based on false dissemination of information about the then Queen Surayya. A British spy master, who masqueraded as Mollah and led prayers in one of the most significant Mosques in Kabul, Pule Kheshti Mosque, for twenty-five years, had disseminated nude photo-shopped photos of Queen Surayya among the people. This was done at a time when it was forbidden for women in Afghanistan to walk with bare face - let alone without Chadari (Afghan Abaya, which covers the body of a woman from head to toe). This was enough a cause for revolt under the name of religion and Jihad. In nineteen eighties, once again Afghanistan came under attack by these religious groups. Afghans were rallied around jihad and religious slogans to organize, support, train and equip them with lethal arms and attractive payment packages to fight against Afghanistan central government. The rest is history.

Yet once again! At a time when the whole international community is aligned around one single goal i.e. to stabilize Afghanistan, the only one single country - Pakistan - continues to exhaust her investment she made in bringing up another genre of religious groups, Taliban and Daesh, to use them in full scale against attempts to establish strong, central Government in Afghanistan.

Thus, an entrenched insurgency continues to take toll on Afghanistan Government and Afghan society for last twenty years now. According to Mr. Upendra Baghel, an erudite specialist in building state institutions, 'religion is used as a tool so that people don't see government failings', referring to Pakistan state patronage of religious extremists. It is local saying in Afghanistan that 'a snake should not bite you from the same hole twice', but it seems Afghans are continuously being bitten from the same snake and the same hole repeatedly! It is the tipping point for Afghan leaders at the helm of affairs. They have the biggest responsibility on their shoulders to take heed of this problem.

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### Deadly Attacks Targets Paktia Worshipers

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

A deadly suicide bombing was carried out on a Shia mosque in Gardiz City, the provincial capital of eastern Paktia province on Friday afternoon, killing at least 39 people and nearly 81 people were injured. According to media reports, when the people were offering the Friday prayer, two suicide bombers entered Sahib-ul-Zaman Mosque in Khwaja Hassan area in Gardez's PD2 at around 1:20pm Kabul time. As quoted by eyewitness, the assailants had entered the prayer hall and were wearing full-face veils. They used hand grenades against worshippers inside the mosque while there were at least 600 people inside the mosque when the attacks happened. "We were praying. Two suicide bombers blew their suicide vests here," a resident of Gardez said. "Which kind of government is this? There is no ambulance, no assistance," a resident of Gardez said. Other Paktia residents said security agencies had not informed them of a possible attack in the area.

As the media described, the blood of the worshippers had painted the walls of the mosque... There were pieces of glass scattered all over which indicate to be the latest enormous attack on cities across the country. However, a series of smaller event happened on the same day. firstly, 11 people were killed in the western province of Farah when a bus was hit by a roadside bomb in what was believed to be a Taliban attack. Secondly, 22 people were abducted by unknown assailants from vehicles on a highway linking Kabul and Gardez on the same day.

The Taliban has denied the responsibility for the attack but militant group Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for attacks on Shi'ite mosques. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group try to overthrow the Western-backed government and impose a harsh form of self-interpreted Islamic law. But they are fiercely divided over leadership, ideology and tactics, and have clashed on a number of occasions. IS views Shiites as apostates deserving of death. In the last two years, IS has attacked 24 Shiite cultural centers, mosques and schools, said Mohammad Jawad Ghawary, a member of the Shiite cleric council. "In Afghanistan they are the biggest threat for Shiites," he said. He called on the Afghan government and the international community to do more to protect Shiites.

As usual, many countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Qatar and etc strongly condemned the bombing on innocent worshippers, man women and children. They expressed their condolences to the victims' families, the government and the people of Afghanistan, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. And also, they reiterated that terrorism is the common enemy in all forms and manifestations.

The Ex-president, Hamid Karzai also denounced the deadly terrorist attack. "Unfortunately, I have been informed that outsiders as part of their machination against the people of Afghanistan have perpetrated yet another inhumane crime and martyred and harmed dozens of our countrymen during Friday's congregational prayers," he said. "It is incumbent on the government to unfetter the country, through a

national consensus, from explicit conspiracies of foreigners that is taking toll on people and nudging the country towards annihilation." He prayed for the soul of the martyrs, fortitude for the bereaved families, and quick recovery for the injured.

Anyway, this is not the first time that mosques and other holy places are targeted by terrorist groups, and the black-hearted enemies of Islam and Afghanistan have previously killed and injured thousands of pious and faithful during their prayers time in the cities of Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif. They carried out such brutal attacks with the aim of creating a rift between two Muslim brothers (Shiite Muslims and Sunni Muslims) that have long lived in their common home, defended it against the foreign conspiracies and invasion and have shared grieves and happiness with each other. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a report last month that the number of civilians killed in Afghanistan reached a record high in the first half of the year, despite last month's ceasefire, with a surge in suicide attacks claimed by Daesh. The report said that the covering period 1 January to 30 June 2018, findings include the killing of more civilians in the first six months of this year - 1,692 deaths - than at any comparable time over the last ten years since records have been kept. UNAMA attributed 52 per cent of civilian casualties from suicide and complex attacks to Daesh, mainly in Kabul and Nangarhar province. The Taliban were responsible for 40 per cent, the remainder were attributed to unidentified Anti-Government Elements.

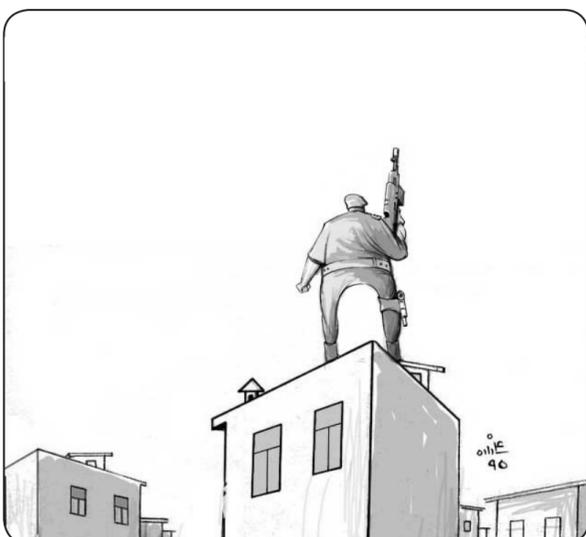
So, the government and security forces deserve to be blamed for less attention to the security of people. If the security system is functional for people's safety, we will not mourn our brothers and sisters. This is about 17 years that tourists successfully manage to enter the cities, town, markets mosques and etc and destroy everything but we have not learnt how control them. This not that much complicated because they do not come from the sky or they are invisible Ghosts; first, they come through the city gates which is open for everyone and everything.

There is no security screening device to detect the explosives and criminals. Second, where is the national security? Third, why the police repeatedly failed to control when the terrorists entered the mosques.

People do not blame the terrorist groups, because they are enemy and killing is their job. The nation blames their elected government and the security forces who have sworn to serve for the people's protection. Now what the government will do is to replace some police officers. This is not enough and will not bring positive changes to the security situation experienced since 2001. The government needs to adopt comprehensive policies to root out the terrorism.

Use new technology, detective devices and very important to work with the foreign allies that has committed in the bilateral security pact to save Afghans from terrorist groups and foreign interference.

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