

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



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## Downtrodden Security Situation Underlines Government's Unpreparedness

The piece of land we inhabit is characterized by bombings, ruthless killings, kidnapping, corruption, bad governance, administrative flaws and mass abduction. The innocent citizens get butchered, killed and dumped without anyone's prime concern. The miseries of ordinary masses do not end with ruthless killing or abduction of some individuals instead multiplies while the bereaved family is left to suffer endlessly.

Seeing at the magnitude of aggression wreaked by violence-mongers, we find barbarism an overriding element of our society. The strength anti-state elements have acquired marks the state of unwillingness to be curtailed. With the turn of every seasonal offensive the intensity of violence inclines rendering the foreign diplomats, public officials and civilians prime target of attacks. The growing attacks on foreign and civilians indicates the insurgents are underlining their pretentious presence. The individuals driven by evil motives, fear of losing what they owned, lust of having numerous monetary gains put them in the black race of domination, leading to formation of a human society we witness at the moment, characterized by rule of mob, violence, aggression, innumerable bloodshed and ruthless killings of fellowmen. Unluckily our society at present is governed by some of identical dilemmas.

Out of all the violence unleashed by Taliban amidst the rumors of division among their rank is maddening. Earlier, the series of attack at different venues have left the security officials revisit their plan to track down the militants. It was the earliest of continuous wave of attacks that rocked the Kabul city with loud bangs. Hitherto the death toll reached to 44 following the consecutive attacks that barraged the capital city, Kabul. In the latest attack on a NATO base near Hamid Karzai Kabul International Airport late Friday, at least eight security guards and a Resolute Support (RS) service member were killed.

A suicide attack took place before the attack on NATO in which the attacker dressed in police uniform blew himself up at the entrance of Kabul Police Academy, killing at least 20 Afghan cadets who returned after their two-day weekend. This attack came soon after suicide blast at the Kabul Police Academy in Kabul killing at least 27 police trainees wounding 26 others. The suicide bomber got to the main entrance of the academy and was standing with a group of police trainees when he detonated his explosives, the source added. Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesperson for the Taliban — who were toppled from power in the 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan — told AFP the insurgent group was behind the attack. This in turn followed the powerful truck bomb blast that rocked Kabul's Shah Shaheed district in the early hours of Friday morning — killing 15 people and injuring over 400. Extensive damage was caused to buildings in the vicinity — many of them collapsing all together.

Security analysts relate the escalating violence demonstrates Mullah Mansoor's attempt to boost his image among Taliban cadres and drive attention away from internal divisions over his leadership.

Formerly, the Afghan Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) report raised concerns about the increased level of violence and the spike in civilian casualties recorded so far this year. On the basis of AIHRC findings, armed oppositions are responsible for more than 70 per cent of civilian casualties, which has increased dramatically, in the country. The Afghan local police standing on the front curbing insurgent's attacks unwittingly retaliate leading to great civilian casualties. It is seen that the well trained regiment of army personnel stationed on standby reach to the rescue of trapped police personnel when they have already sought refuge amongst civic population. The Independent Human Rights Commission meanwhile chronicled a 30 percent rise in civilian casualties that is sharp increase in comparison to data in the first six months last year.

In all the worsening security state depicts the insurgents are expanding the range of their operations. The insurgents are operating at will and quite rapidly expanding operations to parts of the country where it previously appeared to have little ability to act. It also seems that the militants are familiar with important installations, and their attacks are meticulously staged. If a wise and coordinated strategy is not pursued then control over eastern and southern Afghanistan might slip into the hands of the Taliban with no apparent ability to foil this, post US pull out. The escalating violence across the country also sparks the concern over how the large strong Afghan security forces manage to tackle security measure after they are left alone to fight on ground.

It is the responsibility of a government and concerned departments within a state to ensure peace and security of its citizens. However, the governments that suffer from administrative incapacities fail to guarantee security must fill this gap. And in such states the weaker strata of the society tend to suffer the most — it must be turned a false assumption. Women, ethnic and religious minorities and the common people as a whole undergo anguish as a result. Afghanistan is also one of the countries where the government has not been able to provide enough security to its people and the common people face different sorts of problems every day.



# A Farewell to Humanity

By: Hujjatullah Zia

When a new flu infects one human being, all are at risk. When one nation pursues a nuclear weapon, the risk of nuclear attack rises for all nations. When violent extremists operate in one stretch of mountains, people are endangered across an ocean. And when innocents in Bosnia and Darfur are slaughtered, that is a stain on our collective conscience. That is what it means to share this world in the 21st century. That is the responsibility we have to one another as human beings." These words were spoken by U.S. President Barack Obama few years back in Cairo Egypt.

It is believed that human societies are like a single body — which is affected via men's action and reaction. For instance, the greenhouse gas, the nuclear weapon, terrorism, Mafia, narcotic cultivation, HIV, etc. all threaten the entire world. Similarly, one's satirical comments expressed in west will hurt another's feelings in east and vice versa. The modern technology has brought the countries very close to one another.

In spite of this nearness, our conscience is hardly moved by the tragic pictures going on around us. We are less startled by the oozing blood of a body riddled in a terrorist attack, the burning corpse of a passerby melting away in an explosion, the bloody child and its groaning mother fell victim to men's cruelty. This proximity could not bring our souls and sentiments to a single point. To be precise, despite having common enemy, we do not shake the hands of one another and do not stand as a single force to reduce the threat.

Men's selfishness and megalomania continue unabated from centuries back up to present. Simple people have been preyed upon by megalomaniacs, dictatorial regimes, radical ideologues, mercenary militants and so on. Currently, the innocent victims' blood is spilt mercilessly, by terrorists, in various parts of the world — especially in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Nigeria, etc.

In recent months, the Taliban militants make heavy inroads in Afghanistan. As a result, a massive truck bomb in a heavily populated civilian area of Shah Shaheed in Kabul went off on early Friday leaving dozens dead and hundreds wounded behind — women and children were also among the victims. The attack was one of the most serious in months and the first in Kabul since the Taliban named a new leader last week.

The Afghan war between the Western-backed government and the Taliban has intensified since the NATO combat mission ended last year and most foreign troops were withdrawn. Kabul has frequently been targeted by the Taliban and other insurgent groups seeking to destabilize the fragile National Unity Government (NUG) although the scale of

Friday's attacks was unusually large.

The attacks dashed any hopes of rapid progress in peace talks following last week's appointment of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor as leader of the Taliban, who pledged to continue the insurgency which has killed and wounded thousands this year.

Moreover, in the latest findings for the first six months of this year, UNAMA's 2015 Midyear Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict documented 4,921 civilian casualties. Of those were 1,592 deaths and 3,329 injured between January and June. This is a one percent increase against the same period last year. However, in the first six months of 2015, UNAMA documented a 23 percent increase in women casualties and a 13 percent increase in children casualties. "The rise in the numbers of women and children killed and maimed from conflict-related violence is particularly disturbing," Danielle Bell, UNAMA Director of Human Rights, is quoted as saying. "This year, UNAMA recorded the highest number of children and women casualties compared to the same period in previous years. All parties to the conflict must undertake stronger measures to protect civilians from harm." The report says that the vast majority of civilian casualties resulted from ground engagements, improvised explosive devices, complex and suicide attacks and targeted killings. UNAMA said Wednesday it notes with concern that this is a 60 percent increase compared to the same period in 2014. Undeniably, 2015 will be one of the deadliest years within the past decade. The emergence of the self-styled militants known as Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) on one hand, and the Taliban's heavy and indiscriminate attacks on the other hand increase the death toll with each passing day. Our nation's life is highly prone to terrorist acts. In short, people suffer mental and physical harms on the grounds of mounting instability. In the face of unmitigated insurgency, the world is likely to forget Afghanistan. The international community has decentralized its attention from this war-torn country. Human rights have turned meaningless. Notwithstanding the high inflation, life is really cheap. On the surface, election seemed to change the country into utopia and people flocked to the ballot boxes with high ambitions. However, their dream did not come true and democracy is no more a panacea for the bleeding wounds of our nation and the hope for peace and stability is minimizing. Currently, the folks suffer strongly and try to survive the political quagmire in one way or another. But the public's voice falls on deaf ears and only the victims' families feel the pain and anguish. Ill-fatedly, these heart-wrenching tragedies no more outrage the conscience of the unharmed individuals. We live in the world void of humanity and in the age void of human sentiments.

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## Taliban's Rise and Dubious Factors!

By: Muhammad Rasool Shah

Rise of Taliban in the country's north is not surprising. Many areas had gone into their control more than two years before, there were reports of heavy deployment, and increasing influence of Taliban in the region but the government and our security forces never took this threat seriously. Now, the situation seems to be turning like that of Iraq. We are not sure how much international community is concerned about the grave fact that country is once again going to fall into the hands of militants and non-democratic powers but it is a matter of grave concern for every Afghan. They just had a sigh of relief from decades of war, refuge and poverty and were hopeful of the future of country but once again, the country seems to be falling apart and slipping into the hands of militants.

For a common person or as shown on the media, it is a simple scenario. Taliban are getting help from local people, local people are joining them on the name of Jihad and day by day, more and more areas are falling under the control of Taliban but internally, there are so many dubious factors. In this situation, the role of government, international powers present in Afghanistan, top brass of military and intelligence, some parliamentarians or tribal chiefs and all other stakeholders is questionable. In the same way, things are not as simple as they appear. History shows that people of this area never supported Taliban or any other group and they were always the supporters of government and democracy. In the same way, due to the negative exploitation of Jihad, majority of people in the area are allergic to this term and they would not only avoid joining any such movement on the name of Jihad but they would try to stop others. Therefore, it is a wrong concept that people are joining Taliban on the name of Jihad or supporting them physically or morally.

Taliban could have done this many years before but in 2014 and furthermore in 2015, the conditions became favorable for them. According to local people, large numbers of people are joining Taliban due to unemployment. Until 2014, when international powers and thousands of NGOs and aid agencies were functional in the country, there was plenty for everyone. People got jobs, businesses prospered and economy grew but starting from the beginning of 2014, international NGOs, offices, and businesses slowly started wrapping up their operations in the country and by the end of 2014, less than 5% of them were left behind. Due to this, large number of people became jobless, money disappeared, international donations stopped flowing into the country and there was a general panic. This badly affected the rural areas where people did not have much to do and families were run by those who were working in big cities. Hopes were pinned with the new government but until now, it has not come up according to the expectations and the situation is getting worse with every passing day. The rate of unemployment is so high that highly qualified professionals are also looking for small jobs. Thousands of poor Afghans are leaving the country to Pakistan, Iran and Turkey in hope of earning some money. In such situations, they are left with no option except to accept the job of Taliban who are reported to be paying 300 to 400 dollars for those who join them. The salary increases with the rank and position.

Therefore, it comes out that, it is the failure of government to provide people with jobs that is providing the workforce or soldiers to Taliban. Another surprising factor is the overwhelming and vast supply of weapons, money and other support to Taliban. Taliban are reported to

have latest and heavy weaponry, they are well supplied with Afghan and American currency and they have such minds among them who make wonderful plans and strategies for their attacks and control. One wonders as where was our government or our intelligence agencies when they were piling up the weapons and Afghans or dollars and why were they not stopped in the beginning. I have personally great admiration to our national intelligence agency called NDS but in this case, their role is also dubious. Either their hands are tied or they are also the part of this great game being played on our soil.

It is also a general habit that when we find no other excuse for our negligence or failure, we blame Pakistan but according to political and military analysts, it is very difficult to blame Pakistani government or its agencies in this case as our northern areas are absolutely distant and cut off from any Pakistani border. In the same way, there is not present any excuse on the presence of large number of Jihadi militants who have crossed border from a number of Central Asian countries to come and fight their damn holy war on our land.

The silence of American forces and their government is also strange in this case. No doubt, they have ceased military operations in the country by handing over the responsibility and authority to Afghan forces but how can they sit on a side and watch Taliban, controlling the areas one after the other.

There are so many other suspicious things happening in our politics but it is meaningless to mention all of them here. They do know that their furtive and secrets acts are no more secret and they cannot befool everyone inside and outside the country.

But unfortunately, these events are inflicting irreversible and incurable harms on our forces. At many occasions, the local police was left on the mercy of militants and after a number of hours as well, they were not helped by our security forces. Now, they believe that they are being terminated with a proper planning and strategy and in this game, both Taliban and top brass military have joined hands together. Similarly, our security forces and especially National Army have been made a scapegoat. At a number of occasions, the army was let down not by militants but by the suspicious orders of their commanders. Such widespread perception can be harmful for the overall loyalty of our forces in the long run. In the same way, these dubious events have brought sharp decline in the morale of our police and army who are not afraid of militants but of the government and their commanders who are playing their strange roles. First Vice-President, General Dostum also raised similar doubts about the role of government and top military brass and thus declaring not to be a part of this secret game, he decided to stay there and make sure that the region is cleaned of Taliban. Being part of the government, the role and conduct of Mr. Dostum is strange but at the same time, it shows his sincerity with the country and the forces.

Military operations are underway and today or tomorrow, Taliban may be removed and the areas brought under the control of government but this secret game is going to leave its permanent traces that will keep tormenting the local people. People lost their loved ones, the roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and all other civic facilities are being targeted and destroyed by Taliban, which will make their lives difficult in future. People of Afghanistan have only request to international powers and that is to stop using Afghan soil for playing their dirty game of power and intimidation.

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