

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



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How to Resolve Conflicts?

There are different types of human beings on our planet earth. It is really strange and interesting that no two human beings can be found here who are completely similar. There are differences among all the human beings. Then there are differences in interests and objectives as well. All these differences though have the tendency to embellish our planet with variety, also have the capacity to generate conflicts among human beings.

Conflict mostly generates a sort of disturbance in human society and at the same time disturbs the prevailing harmony. However, conflicts can also initiate certain developments and evolution, which is their positive outcome.

The basic question is why a conflict is generated and is there any way to avoid it or to solve it? Conflict is generated because there are different human beings living on earth - as far as distinctions and differences are there, there are possibilities of conflicts but their chances are enhanced by certain practices that are carried out by human beings themselves intentionally or unintentionally. One of the basic reasons of conflict is misunderstanding. Misunderstanding has the tendency to generate and enlarge a conflict to a great extent. One of the basic reasons of misunderstanding is the communication gap or communication errors.

Every human being has his unique perception and frame of reference through which he understands the world or the different phenomena, processes and happenings in the world. So, the objective reality is not necessarily what a person perceives; what a person perceives is basically the subjective interpretation of the objective reality.

The differences in interests are another main reason of conflict. There are different sorts of interests that a person strives to pursue in his or her life. These interests range from a very minor personal benefit to the large economic and political benefits. However, most of the interests are measured in economic terms in today's capitalist society where almost every person is running after money. There is a tough competition among the people to achieve different resources so as to make their lives comfortable; unfortunately, these resources are limited and everybody cannot have what he wants. This gives rise to a competition and on most of the occasions this competition ends in clashes and conflicts. Therefore, the differences in interests have a potential to generate different types of clashes.

The differences in interests turning into conflicts can be best understood in the context of collective life. Take the example of different countries. All the countries in the world have certain interests, which are pursued and defined by the countries' political systems and governments. All the countries want to pursue their national interests through diplomatic means; however, the diplomatic trickery cannot always earn the countries their interests as others also have certain interests which clash with them. This situation generates conflicts among nations, which, if not resolved through diplomatic prudence may turn into wars.

The conflicts have the capacity to bring wars, disorders and destructions; therefore, efforts should be made to resolve the conflicts in a proper manner. It basically starts with the personal endeavors. In personal life, conflict can be resolved in so many ways. The most important point is to understand that the conflicts are unavoidable and they are bound to occur; therefore, the imperative thing is how to respond to the conflicts. There are three main categories of an individual's response to the conflict.

First, he may remain very much pessimistic to the conflict and try to avoid it even though it is affecting him.

The second response is that of very aggressive people. They are the ones who overdo most of the things on most of the occasions. Then there is the moderate response and that is considered as the most appropriate one. That is response of a real peace-maker.

With a moderate response it is possible to thwart certain conflicts. For a moderate response it is important to have certain personal qualities as well. The personality traits like tolerance and prudence can be very much helpful in resolving conflicts.

If taken on collective level, there are conflicts among groups, institutions, states and even groups of states. In order to resolve the conflicts among the groups and institutions it is necessary to adopt democratic culture and tradition. The democratic principles allow the groups, institutions and states to form an administration or government through the consent of all the people involved. These principles make sure that everybody should have a say not only in the formation of the administration or the government but also in the undertakings of the government. Another important key to resolving conflict within the groups and among the groups is the rule of law. It is necessary to prioritize justice and consider it above the social, economic and political status. Both the weak and the strong should be treated alike and they should be considered equal while justice is being implemented.

Afghanistan is also one of the nations that have been suffering from conflicts as well. There are different reasons of the conflicts in Afghanistan. There have been religious intolerance, tribal bounds and ethnic controversies. All these conflicts have basically been utilized politically and have been intentionally turned into troublesome issues; therefore, they have influenced Afghan nation to a large extent. There is no doubt in the fact that Afghan society is a heterogeneous society; but this heterogeneity could best be used in order to embellish the social structure with variety and different colors.



Escalated Militancy Poses Stronger Threat

By Hujjatullah Zia

The Taliban insurgents pose serious threat to national security via making heavy inroads into Afghanistan. In the last six months, more than 4,921 Afghan civilians fell victim to terrorism in some ways - which is a one percent increase against the same period last year. Militancy continues unabated and targets more police and civilians with each passing day. Life is highly cheap.

Civilian casualty is hackneyed of making headlines in national and international newspapers. The amputated limbs and dead bodies of men, women and children lying in a pool of blood in suicide bombings hardly arouse the public sentiments. The tragic memories of bloody incidents, trigger by acts of terror, erase from the mind of people and only the bereaved families - mainly those who lose their bread-winners - suffer for the whole life. Each explosion, suicide attack or improvised explosive device adds to the number of orphans and widows in the society.

A sense of fear and disappointment is in the air. A large number of Afghan youths - who wrestled with instability and unemployment - have sought refuge to foreign countries and many more are flocking for their survival. People believed that their ballots would gain victory over bullet but this proved to be an unfulfilled hope. The nascent democracy was deteriorated by the increase of the militants' offensive. After all, the emergence of the self-styled Islamic State (IS) group in our soil multiplied the threat and made our political structure more fragile. In short, our nation's expectation for a society void of violence and bloodshed gave a counterproductive outcome.

It is believed that Afghanistan will remain barren for democracy unless the world joins forces to root out terrorism. Since the US-led NATO's counter-terrorism strategy i.e. "war on terror" did not come to fruition in the country, it is hard for Afghan government to battle the militants successfully on its own. Currently, it is not only the Taliban elements embroiled in insurgency in the country but also the IS militant groups. Hence, a strong military strategy is needed to combat the warring parties.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani also said on Sunday that regional countries needed to join hands against terrorism because the menace could not be eliminated unilaterally. It appears that the terrorism poses a global threat and eastern countries are more susceptible to this menace. Therefore, an international campaign is needed to be waged against IS, al-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

The recent spate of suicide attacks in Afghanistan, especially the deadly bomb blast in Shah Shahid in the first week of August, rendered tension between Kabul and Islamabad. On Saturday when a car bomb killed 12 people in Kabul, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani reiterated

his call on Pakistan to adopt the "same definition" for terrorism for attacks in Afghanistan as it does for attacks across the Durand Line.

"Pakistan should have an understanding of the situation in Afghanistan as it does domestically," Ghani said in a meeting with outgoing Swedish Ambassador to Afghanistan Peter Semneby.

Similarly, a senior member of the government's talk delegation said that negotiations were at a profound impasse after the new Taliban leadership promised to continue the armed struggle against the government and foreign coalition forces. The official said that at the moment there is no indication of talks resuming and said that the Pakistani side has failed to abide by its commitments and act upon what they had promised regarding a comprehensive deal with the Taliban to end the violence.

I believe that the frustration and conflict between Kabul and Islamabad will compound the challenges. The Taliban militants and IS group will pursue their political interests in this conflict and will be fishing in the troubled water. Likewise, the morale of cooperation will fade away with the blaming game. The Afghan-Pak officials will have to bridge the gap and take joint steps against the militants. It must be noted that Pakistan will not reap the benefit if her neighbor suffers from instability and vice versa. In another term, the neighboring countries share common advantages and disadvantages. So, it is time for both the countries to bury the hatchet and enjoy peaceful environment via mutual cooperation. Only a military deal will not suffice to end terrorism; however the root causes of radicalization must be sought. "Radicalisation is a by-product of historical events, ideological conflicts and socio-economic and economic deprivation. The prevailing impression that terrorism and other forms of violent extremism can only be tackled by law-enforcement and security agencies is flawed. De-radicalisation requires equally the involvement of academics, researchers, sociologists, anthropologists, the media and clergy" - writes a Pakistani Police Officer Mohammad Ali Babakhel. Indeed, a fundamental change should be brought in seminaries, which poison the minds of the youths and spew forth radicalization. A large number of the Taliban militants are trained in madrasahs across the border and sent to wage insurgency in the country. If this trend continues as ever, the counter-terrorism strategy will never come to fruition.

A society void of violence and bloodshed is possible only under a global battle against terrorism. Prayerfully, the war-weary Afghan nation will also taste the sweet fruit of democracy and their rights to life, liberty and estate be upheld on the basis of law. To put it succinctly, the seed of democracy sowed in our country will change into strong tree in near future and our next generation may not heir violence and destruction.

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Security Strategy Shift Serves Bigger to Finger Pointing

By Asmatyari

The degree of loss of value of human life can simply be judged from its worthlessness. A person set out to earn a decent livelihood meets his fate without being accomplice in any misdeed. Either the bomb blast blows him into pieces or terrorist attacks leave him dead, or IED snatches his worthless life. Third world societies characterized by mob rule, lives simply worth nothing more than a bullet. It seems as if a movement is set into action to abolish human beings via mass killing - the whole state of affairs depicts. The society that is intended to eliminate men's very existence - the concept of human rights seems absurd and irrelevant subject.

Security condition in Afghanistan is continuously on decline. Superficially, a strong nexus is found between security institutions that are ready to thwart plot anywhere around the clock - the security forces are capable to respond with full might any possible attack by insurgents. Nonetheless the former continuous wave of violence highlighted serious drawbacks in security network and retarded capacity of Afghan security officials to restrain militants at bay.

A couple of days hardly past the bloody week of continuous bloodshed, another blast jolted the ill-fated federal capital, Kabul. It was the rush hour of afternoon, the previous day when explosive laden car detonated its explosives. The explosion went off in Kabul city caused extensive damage to nearby buildings and cars and particularly resulted in losses of human lives. Official's calmed, most of the victims are civilians. According to reliable sources of public health ministry spokesman, the blast claimed lives of at least six people injuring thirty six others including five women. The venue of attack is residential consequently the casualties to include women and children can not be ruled out. The ongoing fight between Taliban and government that mostly hurts the unarmed civilians categorically reflects every boundary of decency and humanity will be crossed to rise to power. This is not the first tragedy of this sort we should be regretful of and resort to condemnation only - the whole state of affairs depicts the government warring militants counteract as if all the militants have surrendered to them and vowed to disband armed militancy.

The uninterrupted attack and counter attack marks the tit-for-tat, however the consecutive desecration of dead bodies of security official at the hand of militants depicts a twist and turn in war against militants and terrorists. The former attack on the ANP checks post in Nawzad district killed four officers wounding two others is not a big deal at all. Notwithstanding, Taliban fighters defiling the dead bodies of those Afghan National Police (ANP) officers is alarming for the government, if deemed so. Reportedly, Taliban subsequent to killing the police personnel mutilated their faces and other parts of their bodies with a knife to the point that it was difficult for them to be identified. This is an extreme move initiated by the terrorists smearing fear all around, coercing the security officials to dissociate

the ongoing war against them.

It is agreeable finding, Afghanistan's Minister of Interior Noorulhaq Olomi accusing Pakistan's military operation ousted insurgents from Waziristan - are playing a detrimental effect on the country's security as these insurgents were simply being driven across the border.

Large number of security posts falling to insurgents due to none provision of reinforcements reflects the lack of coordination between security institutions and unwillingness to curb the militants. Despite, owning 350,000 strong army that outnumber militants multiply the bases of security forces falling to insurgents - is nerve-racking. It's repeatedly heard the security personnel warring militants were not aptly supported with needed backup that resulted in their setback - consequently a base had to be fallen to militants. This certainly marks security loophole and lack of coordination between corresponding departments. If the government runs short of 24/7 a standby force stationed a little distance apart from posts, endangering the lives of others security officials seem too awful for words motive.

It has turned into political norm subsequent to tragic incident taking place the head of the state come forth denouncing the incident and orders a high-level team to investigate the attack and present the report as soon as possible. Following the course of the day, the Interior Minister and the Army Chief visited Jalrez promising the locals to avenge the brutal Jalrez killings - it's no use crying over spilled milk. If the concerned officials exercise their resolve only after an incident take place and keep on waiting for another to occur, is a deliberate display of negligence.

What would we earn of mere resorting to condemnation only without relying on pragmatic approaches to solve our problems? The incident worth profound condemnation there a minority in Afghanistan took to demonstrate against inhuman tragic incident. The senators too decided to close the doors of the Upper House until symbolically in protest of what they called the national unity government's negligence and carelessness in handling the clash between Afghan troops and Taliban militants in Jalrez district. There is multiple such hearts wrenching tales where widows and orphans left waiting financial assistance - the bread earner having departed left whole family suffers haplessness. Better late than never - the ministry of interior reaching to families of deceased souls worth applause.

With exception to fallacy of government displaying ineligibility reversing the attack, Taliban are equally responsible for civilian casualties. Taliban seeking refuge in nearest village endangers the lives of unarmed civilians did not restricting them doing this, is unjustifiable disposition worthy of loud condemnation with inclusion to Afghan forces led air raid. Significantly, the pursuit of tit-for-tat that made Taliban launch attacks on innocent local or foreign nationals is equally condemnable act. Despite governments largest spending on security and loophole as long as curtailed the human precious lives will go on wasting.

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