

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



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Refugee Crisis Continues

As disorder and wars are ravaging the lives of the people in different parts of the world, the number of refugees, fleeing their countries and trying to find some place safer, is also increasing. The European countries are mostly the destinations of these migrants. Particularly, this year the number of refugees moving towards Europe is increasing alarmingly and every now and then there are tragedies that are really unfortunate and inhumane. On Thursday, the dead bodies of around 71 migrants (sixty men, eight women and three children, ages 2, 3 and 8), most of whom most probably belonged to Syria, were found inside a truck, which was abandoned on an Austrian highway. These people were thought to have suffocated in the truck that did not have any sort of ventilation and the bodies had decomposed in the heat. The truck was believed to have come from Bulgaria.

The number of migrants trying to reach Europe from Middle East and Africa this year has reached to its record high. According to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, around 300,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean Sea into Greece and Italy this year alone. Only in the month of July, more refugees and migrants have reached Greece than did in all of 2014.

So far this year, 2,373 people have died trying to reach Europe by sea, according to the International Organization for Migration. In all of 2014, 3,281 people died. In just one incident last week, 54 people died trying to cross the Mediterranean. Currently, the world is facing a refugee crisis that is really tragic and requires sincere efforts.

The refugees who leave their homelands in search of better life, most of the times suffer different sorts of hardships before they reach somewhere safe. Most of them even do not reach to the destination they set for as happened in the incident mentioned above. On most of the occasions they fall prey to the ill intentions of human-smugglers, who discriminate them as much as they can. Furthermore, they have to go through severe kind of psychological depression and strain as they go through the worst sort of experiences.

The crisis in Middle East and North African countries compelled so many refugees to leave their countries and find refuge in European countries. Apart from that there are many refugees who have travelled from Asian countries that suffer from conflicts, clashes and discriminations. Afghanistan is one of the most dominant countries in this regard. Decades of wars and terrorism along with droughts and shortages of basic requirements have compelled million of people to leave the country. Though there has been remarkable decrease in this regard, millions of Afghan refugees are still living their lives in neighboring countries (like Pakistan and Iran), European countries, Australia and America; while, there are thousand others who are still in different sorts of camps and detention centers around the world waiting for some sort of sympathy and attention. The circumstances faced by these refugees are not always welcoming and they have to bear the brunt of different sorts of reactions. Though in some countries they are welcomed warmly, in others they are treated in a very cruel manner.

The poor Afghan refugees who have left their homeland and are compelled to live in other countries have very uncertain and on some occasions even pathetic lives. The foreign lands have not always treated them with warm hugs; every now and then they have been the victims of discrimination and ill-treatment. Most of the Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries, especially in Iran and Pakistan have suffered the consequences of fluctuations in the way they are treated. Definitely, it has been generous of both the countries to compensate the Afghan refugees, who because of wars and instability left their dear homeland, but on certain occasions they have also displayed the attitude that have violated the rights of the refugees to a great extent.

As the movement of the refugees is a great problem for the refugees and the countries from where they move, in the same way it is problem for the countries to which they move. It is not always an easy task to control the flow of refugees by any government. It has to keep in deliberation its own people and policies and at the same time has to respect the international policies and regulations regarding the rights of the refugees. Besides, it has to adjust for the compensation of the refugees who move in, and have to deal with the issues like multiculturalism, terrorism and racism, suitably.

Though, the problems are great in this regard, the developed nations of the world do have the potential to absorb the shocks of refugee influx. Most of the European countries, America, Canada and Australia in this connection have been playing dominant role in compensating for the refugees and asylum seekers from different countries of the world. On the other hand United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has been making sure that the rights of the refugees are secured appropriately. Definitely there are political and diplomatic concerns for all the governments of the world to consider, but the issue of migrants is more important than such concerns, as it involves the precious human lives and the lives of human beings stand more sacred than any other concern, belief or ideology.



Diplomatic Equations on Syria Changing

By Manish Rai

The recent diplomatic activity on Syria is intriguing. Russia, Mr. Assad's most powerful supporter, has forged new ties with Saudi Arabia, his bitter foe and a major funder of Syrian rebel groups, and brokered a meeting between Syrian and Saudi intelligence officials. Even amid high tensions over Ukraine, there was a recent diplomatic engagement between the U.S. and Moscow on the vexing question of how to end Syria's brutal civil war, which has left more than 250,000 dead, fuelled the rise of the Islamic State, and helped to radicalize would be terrorists around the world. Now Russia is at the centre of a new flurry of Syria focused diplomacy which has followed the Iran nuclear deal, and which might even involve a new round of direct talks between Washington and Tehran, Syria's staunchest ally. But these diplomatic engagements are also followed by the increased fighting on the ground by all the parties. The fighting has gathered pace recently, intensifying on major frontlines including near Damascus, where a government air strike on a market place killed 100 people, and in the southern city of Deraa, where the government is battling a new rebel attempt to seize the entire city. All are areas of vital importance to President Assad, who with the help of his regional allies Iran and the Lebanese group Hezbollah is seeking to shore up control over western areas of the country after losing much of the rest to groups including Islamic State.

A marked escalation in Syria's conflict could be a sign the warring sides are trying to strengthen their bargaining positions in case a flurry of diplomacy leads to negotiations. Despite fighting hard on the ground every party in Syrian conflict knows that there is no military solution. They just want to negotiate from position of strength in talks. There have been a number of diplomatic initiatives, some of them secret involving Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Russia who together can end this war aimed at trying to find a political solution to the crisis in Syria. In Qatar, talks were held on Syria between the US Secretary of State, the Russian Foreign Minister and the Saudi Foreign Minister in Oman, one of the few countries in the region with strong ties to both Iran and the Gulf States, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem held talks after meeting with Iranian and Russian officials in Tehran. The visit has created talk of a possible meeting of

Saudi, Syrian and Iranian officials in Muscat. In Riyadh, furthermore, reports have emerged of a landmark meeting of senior Syrian and Saudi intelligence officials; in Moscow there have been a number of high-profile visitors, including the Saudi Foreign Minister and a number of Syrian Opposition leaders; and the Iranian Foreign Minister visited a number of Middle Eastern and South Asian countries to promote a new peace plan.

But what has led to this sudden flurry of diplomatic activity? First of all that it is the realisation that the situation in Syria is simply unsustainable and that there can never be a military solution. However, the recent Iranian nuclear deal has meant that Teheran is now able to play more of a constructive international role and it can certainly contribute to a political settlement in Syria, which it seems it wants to do. Hard fact is that the US, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Syria all have a common enemy: Islamic State, which is a direct threat to them all and which threatens the entire region. The fact that Islamic State controls half of Syria is extremely worrying and without a political settlement in the country the jihadists will never be defeated. Another key factor is the weakening position of Syrian ruler Bashar ul Assad, who is losing territory and military strength to a variety of opposition groups. Western and even Gulf States fear that groups like Nusra Front and the Islamic State will fill the void if the regime of President Assad falls and that will be the worst case scenario. So the high time for starting a new peace talk's initiative in Syria is high on agenda of everyone.

Syria clearly represents a failure of the international community, in particular the UN Security Council. The situation is indeed bleak: four-and-a-half years after the civil war more than 250,000 people have died, including at least 11,493 children, and more than 1.5 million are believed to have been wounded. Over 12 million Syrians have fled their homes: 7.6 million are internally displaced, while the rest have escaped to neighboring countries. Syria represents the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Considering all these sufferings of Syrian people now at least peace should be given another chance and all the parties in the conflict and their allies should put a sincere efforts for promoting talks and negotiations as this is the only way to end this conflict which is taking every high toll on humanity.

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History must be Remembered to Cherish Peace

By Deng Xijun

2015 is a year of special significance which marks a number of important anniversaries: the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression, the 70th anniversary of the World Anti-Fascist War, and also the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Countries around the world have held various forms of commemorations. China will also join the people of the world to remember that part of the history and hold a series of solemn commemorations, including a military parade in Beijing on 3rd September, to honor the dead, to cherish peace and to build a better future.

The Chinese People's Resistance against Japanese Aggression was an important part of the World Anti-Fascist War. This reflects how China was the key Far-Eastern theatre during World War II. On 18th September 1931, the Japanese aggressors invaded Northeast China on a pretext of their invention. The Chinese people rose up in resistance, which was the prologue to the World Anti-Fascist War. On 7th July 1937, the Japanese army deliberately ignited the Lugouqiao Incident, signaling the start of its comprehensive invasion of China. In the extremely bitter and protracted war, Chinese People's Resistance pin down and fight against the main force of the Japanese militarists, which resulted in weakening Japan's war capacity by over one and half million troops. There is no doubt China played a decisive role in the final defeat of the Japanese militarist forces.

To achieve that, the Chinese people made enormous sacrifice. According to incomplete statistics, China suffered over 35 million casualties, both military and civilian; China's direct economic losses exceeded US\$100 billion and its indirect economic losses totaled more than US\$500 billion, calculated at the price in 1937. Strategically, the war in China was a support to allied operations in Europe and strategic moves in the Pacific theatre. It also prevented and upset the strategic coordination between the Japanese Fascists and the Fascists in Germany and Italy. China's contribution to the victory over the Fascists forces has indelible historic significance.

The victory of the War in China and the World Anti-Fascist War as a whole is a major turning point in human history. The victory has had a profound impact on the post-war international landscape and world order as well as the development of international relations.

In the 70 years following that great victory, the international landscape underwent profound transformation: The United Nations was founded, the UN Charter was established, a new mechanism for safeguarding world peace and security was formed, and the world bid farewell to the frequent wars between major powers or power groups and embraced an era of relative stability, peace and development. Today, in the age of globalization and information technology, the world we live in is becoming a community of common destiny, which embraces every country and everyone in it. Therefore, everyone owns it and is responsible for it and for each other. In the 70 years following that great victory, China went through changes unprecedented in human history: the victory marked a historical turning point. China has since embarked on a road to national renewal. The Chinese Communist Party led the

Chinese people in founding the People's Republic of China and realizing the greatest and most profound social evolution. China has emerged from poverty and weakness as the second biggest economy in the world. Today, the people of China are striving to realize the "Chinese Dream of great national renewal".



The 70 years has also witnessed China playing a major role in safeguarding world peace and development: China was the first to sign the United Nations Charter. China is a co-initiator of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence that embody the spirit of the UN Charter. China is instrumental in making these principles a widely recognized norm governing international relations. In international relations, China always advocates peace, development and win-win cooperation. What China calls for is a state-to-state relationship centered round win-win cooperation. In multilateral cooperation, China is always an active participant in the settlement of hot-spot issues and in global assistance efforts in developing countries. With regard to UN peacekeeping, China has so far participated in 29 operations, contributing more troops than any other permanent members of the Security Council. Currently, there are 3,000 Chinese military personnel in UN peacekeeping missions all over the world.

An old Chinese saying goes, "the past, if not forgotten, serves as a guide for the future". As we commemorate the 70th anniversaries, we must never forget the calamity suffered by human society and civilization at the hands of the Fascist invaders. Yet, we remember history not to prolong hatred, but to take its guidance as we embrace the future, and to avoid a repetition of the tragedy of war, so that the world will enjoy lasting peace.

China and Afghanistan are close and friendly neighbors. Both countries are not only linked by the same mountains and deep connections, but also bonded by common history and destiny. China and Afghanistan were both invaded by imperialist countries. The peoples of two countries won national independence after a long time of arduous struggle. China and Afghanistan share the same interest with regard to safeguarding regional peace and upholding historical justice and order. The two countries are still making unremitting efforts for realizing this aim. The Chinese people stand ready to make joint efforts with the Afghan people to promote an early realization of regional peace, stability and development, so as to make contribution to the peace of the world.

Since the late of 1970s, Afghanistan has been plagued by war, turmoil and poverty, and now it is time to put an end to such situation. The Chinese side has always stood for the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" reconciliation process, believing that the peace talk is the realistic way out to solve the Afghanistan issue. China encourages and supports the peace talk between the Afghan government and the Taliban. The Chinese side is ready to cooperate with all parties and play a constructive role in the extensive and inclusive peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan as always.

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