

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



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Democracy Requires Persistence

As a member of a state that claims to have a democratic system, every individual must strive to be as much active and vigilant as possible. It is the demand of democracy that everyone must participate in the affairs of the state and must ensure that he has a part in it. It is not only the duty of the political institutions to work for the development and success of democracy, all the other institutions within the society, along with the individuals from all walks of life must feel their responsibility towards a democratic development.

The nourishment of democracy would require us to be really careful. Along with the political efforts, we would require amending our conscience and our inner selves, as well. The departure or distance from democracy would only spoil us to a further extend. Now that we have decided to welcome it with open arms we require changing ourselves. It is basically the only way towards peace and tranquility.

As an individual, first of all, we need to change our behavior. A democratic behavior is largely based on the art of proper speaking and the patience to listen carefully. Democracy supports the freedom of expression and allows everyone to say what he wants to say. In democracy we basically accept the sort of environment wherein we can be opposed openly. Those people who support democracy fundamentally want that the issues should be solved through dialogue and reasoning not through violence. They want that the opposite reasons should be listened to sufficiently and the claims should always be reconsidered.

Within democracy, as an essential element, we need to develop the preparedness to accept that the truth may not be with us and it may be with others. Democracy is never suitable for those who believe that their views are absolute and final and they do not have the patience to listen others. That is the basic reason that Taliban do not favor democracy. They believe that only their ideas and thoughts are correct, while all others have 'false' and 'non-Islamic' ideas and thoughts.

It is really vital to understand this basic truth that the absolute truth has never been known by the people. Yes, certain aspects of a complete truth have been known and people have to compromise with the same. These aspects are present within different circles. Within the circle of politics the aspect of truth lies within a system which considers the welfare of the people as its basic pillar. And, democracy strives to establish the sort of circumstances that are suitable to guarantee welfare of the people.

Though we have had considerable strides towards democracy, yet there are many behavioral issues that we need to deal with. We have dishonesty in our intentions and extremism in our actions. The difference in opinion and thoughts are dealt through intolerance and even violence. Mahatma Gandhi had said that intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit. Our statements have taken the shape of threats. Some people have even started the attitude of calling others with different opinions as non-Muslims and infidels. The true spirit of democracy can only be found in the theories and promises; therefore, the people do not see the true practice of it and are ambiguous about it. This is really unfortunate that at this instance of hope and great expectations we are suffering from these problems; yet, we do not have to be disheartened. Acquiring a true and stable democracy is a difficult task and it requires a lengthy process of evolution. The great democracies in the world have been able to achieve their distinct positions only after many decades of political evolution. We, therefore, require giving it time and never give up struggling for it. If we really like democracy and democratic values, we would require making its prerequisites possible. We would need to feel our responsibility in order to lead our country towards true democracy; otherwise, the dream of democracy may shatter and we will not be able to recreate it. Though the roles of government and the people play a very important role in it, most of the responsibilities go to those leaders and religious scholars who have great influence in forming the opinion and the attitude of the people. They need to understand that instead of sowing the seeds of hatred and intolerance in the minds and hearts of the people, they can spread love and tolerance and they can really participate in forming an environment that is suitable for democracy. As Barack Obama had said in one of his press conferences, "The strongest democracies flourish from frequent and lively debate, but they endure when people of every background and belief find a way to set aside smaller differences in service of a greater purpose."



Prudent Strategies Helps Installing Peace

By Asmatyari

Subsequent to tragic and memorable incident of 9/11 and Paris attack, an extra bit of caution is exercised by most of the countries of the world – in the quest to wipe out or restrain the menace of terrorism. Most of countries unilaterally finds militarily fighting the terrorists might help them get rid of it – others threatened of possible backlash falter to take the risk. Afghanistan for long has been struck by danger of terrorism – the land renders inexpressible witnessing great number of terrorist practices – beginning from Al-Qaida and most probably ending with IS. The mushrooming terrorists of any brand, eventually gaining strategic might, helping them further their evil desires – is indeed threatening for the world already going with soaring impatience. Back in the year a group of terrorist coerced the government to submit to their demands – having their fighters freed in a swap with abducted passengers earlier. It unwaveringly reflects the true might of terrorists and haplessness of government.

The world unanimously got to come forth to fight militarily, tactically, strategically and financially the expanding might of terrorists – is the true discourse towards this riddance. It is encouraging NATO Secretary-General lays great deal of importance to Afghanistan, amidst their declarative desire not to let the country turn a safe haven for terrorists. Earlier, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announced the alliance will fund the Afghan National Security Forces 4\$ billion USD annually until 2020 while renewing its commitment to stay in Afghanistan. The Secretary-General disclosed the mission to focus only on training and mentoring the armed forces of Afghanistan restricted to selective provinces. The Stoltenberg has extended their support to peace talks provided urging neighboring countries to help with the process. When it comes to facilitation of Afghan forces, enhancing their capacity to fight terrorism, with counter terrorism tactics, NATO may turn beneficial. On account to execution of peace talks it may not exercise wider impacts with exception to mediating talks. The US playing central role, is potent enough to get the derailed talks back to the discourse.

In the previous talks between Obama and President Ghani – security concerns retained the highly discussed issue which was likely pushing on the US to slow down its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Entertaining the request the US President Obama came up announcing to keep its current 9,800-strong force there until the end of the year, without a change in end mission as planned in 2016. President Obama's decision to maintain troop levels in Afghanistan through 2015 is partly designed to bolster American counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan, including the Central Intelligence Agency's ability to conduct secret drone strikes and other paramilitary operations from United States military bases. With delayed stationing of the troops, the US simply go on countering the bits and pieces of Al-Qaida. The rulers in Afghanistan has got to get him do away the harms, destabilizing the country with inclusion in pursuit of their set targets. The U.S. government is partly exercising its influence in its greater interest or amidst

trying to install peace in Afghanistan by bringing all the warring factions on the table of negotiations. Afghanistan has to make it certain, all aid military civilian aids received will descend to reorganization of democratic institutions and development of every part of far stretched land. The urban and rural centers equally given priority will turn Afghanistan into a dignified and indomitable country – the world aspire to see in rhetoric.

Putting a glance at the political outlook of Afghanistan, chaotic state of delusion is reflected. The incumbent government tries to push for peace talks whilst insurgents resorted to parallel bloodletting must be kept in consideration. It is believed that lasting peace can only be installed given all factions of the decade long conflict is brought to common terms. The most significant are the demonstration of shift instilled in Taliban's resolve to disband militancy, dissociate with Al-Qaida and holistically surrender to constitution of the country. This move practically is achievable indefinitely however Taliban deems to having upper hand in the fight, never surrender to government's demands instead dreams of government surrendering to their demand.

Taliban and Afghan government have been in state of war for over decade that have earned devastative causalities and irreparable harms to war torn country – the central upshot. In order to draw in the stalled peace process, a practical, agreeable and feasible approach is required – kick-starter. It is contemplated to work out a peaceful solution to ongoing conflict to put an end the bloodshed, provided a credible mediator exercise unconditional mediation. Afghan government has always expected US or Pakistan to help them mediate peace talks with Taliban who responded to serve the call. More or less, the peaceful resolution is the sole solution decade long conflict.

It should be learnt that peace is not the absence of conflict, but the way conflict is to a conciliating ending. The years long war earned us not only life losses but also infrastructure losses. The harms inflicted to poverty stricken Afghanistan can not be reciprocated with endless butchery of the misled and betrayed militants and terrorists. Certainly, the segregation of militants into terrorist and insurgents might yield congenial solution – the terrorists are serving vested interest whilst insurgents for political say; the former should be dealt with iron fist while later through dialogue.

Seeing the terrorist putting down arms the government got to go with negotiation otherwise should be repudiated with war. The dual approach; negotiation and operation exercised by incumbent government to seek an end to decade long bloody conflict, is justifiably agreeable. The government proposing peace talks to the conciliating splinter group amidst executing military operation in the bid to crush those challenging the writ of government, tends tolerable. Unluckily, the far stretched areas rendering beyond the approach of government are duly filled by emerging terrorist groups of international fames, IS. This group is turning another challenge for the incumbent government should simply be wiped out thought multifaceted tactics.

Asmatyari is the permanent writer of daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at asmatyari@gmail.com.

ISIL – Human Rights Violator

By Hujjatullah Zia

Crime against humanity is not only a legal obscenity in a certain territory but also prohibited by International Criminal Court (ICC). The individuals involved in anti-human crimes have to be brought to justice. However, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) commit the ugliest acts of cruelty, comparing to other militant groups, without feeling a sense of guilt or liable to prosecution. Yazidis' men and women suffer the brunt of sectarian violence on the grounds of their religion and beliefs. Their rights are violated and their freedom is curtailed under the nose of international community.

According to reports, authorities in northern Iraq have discovered a mass grave near the town of Sinjar in recent days containing the remains of more than 120 Yazidis.

This is the sixth time that a burial site containing victims of the ISIL has been discovered near the town this month. The official in charge of the area, where the bodies were found, said fighters had rigged the graves with a collection of explosives in the event of Kurdish forces liberating the area.

Those buried at the site are believed to have been killed by the group during its control over the area, which began in the summer of 2014.

The grave, located about 10km west of Sinjar, has not yet been excavated, but the victims were not buried deeply, and some of their remains have been exposed by rainwater, according to a report.

Another mass grave found in the area was believed to hold the bodies of about 80 women, aged from 40 to around 80. An official said that the women may have been executed because they were deemed too old to enslave or rape.

Kurdish Peshmerga fighters backed by US air strikes expelled ISIL fighters from Sinjar town earlier this month, allowing details of atrocities committed by the group to emerge.

"Grave, horrific human rights violations are being committed daily by ISIL and associated armed groups. They are systematically targeting men, women and children based on their ethnic, religious or sectarian affiliation and are ruthlessly carrying out widespread ethnic and religious cleansing in the areas under their control. Such persecution would amount to crimes against humanity."

Yazidis, who belong to a religion deemed heretical by ISIL, were subject to a campaign of murder, rape and enslavement by the group. ISIL is believed to have massacred thousands of Yazidi men and abducted women for use as sex slaves by its fighters. ISIL's atrocities are no more secret for the world. Their acts of genocide in Syria and Iraq, sectarian violence in Afghanistan and murdering civilians in France have outraged humans' con-

science around the globe. The ISIL militant group tramples upon the rights and dignity of innocent civilians, including women and children, without considering legal or moral standards other than their harsh and stereotypical ideology. The militant ideologues and mercenaries seek to impose their beliefs with the barrel of gun and one who resists will be dishonored and shot dead – such practices are rife among the ISIL outfits.

Not surprisingly, the ISIL leader Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi, like Mullah Muhammad Omar and Osama bin Laden, will continue his life without being impeached or prosecuted by International Criminal Court, in spite of perpetrating crimes against humanity. Considering the current violence and mass murders being committed under the caliphate of Baghdadi, the ICC should prescribe him guilty and render a verdict for his detention. In other words, the ICC must take serious action against the international criminals and fulfill its responsibilities properly.

It is rightly asserted in the preamble of Universal Declaration of Human Rights as, "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people..."

However, since the Universal Declaration is not considered binding, it failed to prevent from violence and bloodshed or alleviate the anguish of ethnic groups. To the world's unmitigated chagrin, the outrageous crimes and "barbarous acts" continue unabated. There is no doubt that if the Universal Declaration plays the role of ethical code, without a legal force behind, it will never bear the desired fruit. So, to allay the global sufferings and violation of rights and dignity, the international community must react more seriously.

Referring to national and international law, life and liberty are born natural and inalienable rights and "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" irrespective of their race, sex, color or beliefs. In another item, infringing upon one's rights and dignity has no legal or moral bases and therefore militancy is denounced strongly. The dogmatic militants, who massacre men, women and children under their ideological justifications, must be combated internationally.

I emphasize that writing a list of rights or approving an ethical code will not be a panacea for the bleeding wounds of the terrorist victims but the international community is supposed to take practical steps to tackle the crises. Moreover, the world should join forces to root out the ISIL militant groups and put an end to the spread of extremism and civilians' mass murder.

Hujjatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at zia_hujjat@yahoo.com



Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa

Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



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