

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



February 08, 2015

### Afghanistan and Iran to Fight ISIS in the Region!

Afghanistan and Iran have reiterated their vow to join hands in fighting the menace of ISIS in the region. The Head Consul of Iran in Herat said that the heads of border security forces of both the countries held a number of meetings in last 20 days to improve the vigilance on both sides of border to detect the activities of ISIS in the area. Mr. Afkhami, the Head Consul, said that both the countries will keep in close contact to tackle the emergence of ISIS in the area. He further stated that ISIS has emerged as the joint enemy of both the countries and they will do their best to tackle this joint enemy. This joint meetings and the statement came after it was reported that some militants were seen in the Farah province carrying the flags of ISIS. This Afghan province shares its border with Iran. The news also came in media that ISIS also appointed Abdur-Raheem Muslim Dost as the chief of ISIS for the region of Khurasan (as was Afghanistan and Iran jointly called in history). Afghan media is also giving the news of increasing influence and activities of ISIS in a number of regions of Afghanistan. There are reports that ISIS has started large number of hiring in some provinces of Afghanistan like Kunar and Paktika. In the same way, the social networking sites are also full of pictures and news showing the members of ISIS in a number of the cities of Afghanistan. Whatever may be the truths about the presence of ISIS in any part of our country, the name of ISIS has started circulating much briskly in our media and the coming time will decide if this strategy was going to be in favor or against the overall security and solidarity of the country. However, Afghan security forces have till now denied the presence of ISIS in any part of the country. They remark that some factors in our country are using the name of ISIS for their own benefits and mostly to spread panic among the general public. Our forces have repeatedly said that they will strictly deal in case ISIS tried to emerge in any part of the country. Our political and geopolitical experts also agree that emergence of ISIS in Afghanistan is next to impossible and the present wave of rumors is just to create panic and terror in public.

The above claims also seem reasonable as it would be almost impossible for ISIS to extend their activities in a country that is thousands of miles away from the places of their influence and on the way, there is present the hardcore Iran that would try its best to stop the expansion of ISIS in any part of the country. In the same way, majority of people in Afghanistan are against ISIS and in general, it is considered an organization that has no objective except to bring destruction on general public. In this regard, it is also different from Taliban that enjoys some support in the rural areas of the country and it is not considered as cruel as ISIS. The increasing news of the cruelties of ISIS in Syria and Iraq has resulted in a general perception that no country is safe from this evil organization and it becomes the responsibility of all to stop their expansion.

Unfortunately, there are also present some elements in the country that seem to be much influenced from the approach and brutality of ISIS. There are present some illiterate in our society who are dreaming of the return of Caliphate and when ISIS announced that Caliphate system has been resumed in Iraq and Syria, large number of people rejoiced in almost all the Muslim countries. Almost the same were feelings of a number of people in Afghanistan. They were not happy of the slow activeness of Taliban and according to them, Taliban were never going to be successful with their half-hearted strategy. When ISIS rapidly started conquering large number of cities in Iraq and Syria with their brutal killing and invasion, they became a role-model for some people not only in Afghanistan but also in a number of other Muslim countries. Without considering the realities behind the emergence of ISIS in Afghanistan, it is a fact that there are always present dangers of the emergence of ISIS in any country that is war-torn and where people are vulnerable to such threats due to joblessness, religious extremism and others. In the same way, this large and strong evil force will be very difficult to be dealt exclusively or separately by Afghanistan in a condition that it is already facing large numbers of threats from inside and outside the country. The recent talks between the security forces of both the countries is really hopeful and it is needed that these relations should be further enhanced and not kept limited for formal talks only. Both the countries need to make even a joint task force exclusively aimed for tackling ISIS in Afghanistan and Iran. At the same time, both the countries should also be more careful and any small danger regarding ISIS should be dealt with severely and this evil should be nipped on its bud.

#### Huge Market of Fake medicines



## Way out to Countless Challenges!

By Asmatyari

Looking back at earlier periods through myopic lens of past is a hard learned persona Muslims bear – contradicting the rational dictum, “learn from yesterday, live for today and plan for tomorrow”. Conversely, they deem present and future have happened to coexist in delusory past – entailing the tale of their lost glory. We lived a glorious past; we ruled over the world and dominated for centuries; an illusory idea subjugated our living. We get impatient, given a deliberate disclosure tarnishes our glorious past. This attribute has left us suffer endlessly; hence rendered prone to exploitation.

With the advent of Islam, Muslims showed a marked progress in every field of human endeavor, particularly scientific studies. Muslim scientists succeeded inventing scores of inventions in different fields ranging from medical, engineering, chemistry, mathematics etc. They evolved and succeeded by keeping pace with time. Nonetheless, the day Muslim empire turned into center of power play in the bid to conquer throne marked the beginning of endless turmoil we witness. It is since then that the down fall began – provided many scientists were forced to flee or bear the brunt of brutality having been accused of sacrilegious deeds; which were the rational interpretation of natural phenomena. Even till date, majority if not all Muslim scholars deem modernism in discord with Islam while reaping the fruit of modern inventions themselves. Every invention did face countless restraints before befitting in Muslim dominated societies. The inventions like radio, telephone and television etc, hardly earned acceptance only when the illusion of being anti-Islamic sank. At present DNA samples from crime scene gives confidential clue to most wanted criminals and can likely be used to discover the blood relation.

The objective view of the issues has unnecessarily left our sentiments supra-vulnerable to humiliations and disgraces. Any plot set to soar our emotions letting us exercise evil deeds, without the cognition of its far reaching ill-consequences – succeeds, leaving us disadvantaged. It should be learned that two wrongs never make a right. An evil motive supplied with recklessness might plot to make a vocal or otherwise attack on a well held religious value or figure will never earn a disgrace to either of the value or the figure. It is a deliberate excuse to harm the feelings by sowing the seed of religious or ideological discord. Retaliating identically by torching the sacred places and disregarding others’ religious values and figures will not earn virtues and dearness – it certainly is an unpardonable and condemnable deed. Violence, bloodshed and barbarism, in any form, can’t find justification in any religion at any corner of the world. The renowned terror group ISIS ruthlessly massacres innocents devoid of distinction of religion, cast, creed or sect, in the bid to reestablish Caliphate system, is its blatant disregard. The Muslims across the globe must come forth to condemn such inhuman acts. The world expects the Muslim world will likely retaliate to the recent burning to death of a Jordanian pilot and the beheading of two Japanese hostages by ISIS militants. The dreadful death inflicted on Jordan’s Moaz al-Kasasbeh and the butchery of the Japanese hostages are only two examples of IS brutality in a long list of crimes against humanity since the

group began its murderous but unstoppable military advance from western Iraq to sweep into Syria and reach the Turkish border. This barbaric act did receive partial condemnation from a minor section of Muslim world.

Following tragic murder at the hands of ISIS terrorists the Japanese premier owed to avenge the killing of hostages while Jordan responded by hanging two jihadists. Identically, the US vowed to dismantle the terrorists. It is hardly believable that the whole world rendered unsuccessful to inflict a tough blow to aforesaid terror group.

How can a joint venture against a minor terror group could lengthen indefinitely is the query awaiting its fate? It distinctly uncovers the wide disparity of interests of various factions in the fight against terror. The growing military might of the groups underlines a loophole whether in the plan or its execution or executioner. How could the terrorists maintain that high level of military organization and that sophisticated weapons, warheads and anti-aircrafts launchers? It is surprising that, despite massive military presence in the region, the US is unable to reverse the IS tide. The underlying truth is that not all parties in the US-led coalition have their heart in the fighting, and the Islamic State’s militants enjoy many parties’ implicit sympathy in some of Muslim states.

On the other hand IS militants are accused of grave human rights and child right violation. Formerly, a United Nations watchdog said Islamic State militants are selling abducted Iraqi children at markets as sex slaves, and killing other youth, including by crucifixion or burying them alive. In addition it disclosed that Iraqi boys aged fewer than 18 are increasingly being used by the militant group as suicide bombers, bomb makers, informants or human shields to protect facilities against US-led air strikes.

The UN body, which reviewed Iraq’s record for the first time since 1998, denounced “the systematic killing of children belonging to religious and ethnic minorities by the so-called ISIL, including several cases of mass executions of boys, as well as reports of beheadings, crucifixions of children and burying children alive”.

It said that ISIL has committed “systematic sexual violence”, including “the abduction and sexual enslavement of children”. It reflects that the terror groups be Al-Qaida, Taliban or ISIS carrying out countless tales of atrocities are either playing at the hands of some evil conspirators or themselves are behind the plot, which serves no one’s interests. Seeing and witnessing all contradictory deeds undertaken by apparently Muslim fellows are never condemned and retaliated and depict our cowardice or erroneous diplomacy. Isn’t our silence the confession of clandestine support to those estranged militants?

To give a rational ending, man must go for modern thoughts comprising realism, naturalism, rationalism and liberalism being equated with human being stands supreme; supplied with the aptitude to bring about desired and required changes in the world we dwell and capable of building worldly heaven by countless effort; surpassing one’s potentials and talents vanishing blind practices and leading towards intellectual illumination.

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## The Flagrant Violation of Women Rights

By Hujjatullah Zia

Women have been the vulnerable part of our society within different regimes, yet they suffer painfully in one way or another. Afghan women and girls sustain singular acts of domestic and social violence. For instance, their husbands hurl vile epithet at them for being served cold tea, especially in remote areas, their opponent neighbors blacken their reputation and their fathers treat them with a deep feeling of hatred and animosity. As a result, a father raping his daughter over almost ten years without the family daring to intervene; a woman burnt after a family fight; another woman mutilated because her husband enjoyed doing so – these are just some of the cases of violence against women and girls that have been reported in Afghan media over the past months.

The fatherly asperity and social violence against Afghan girls and women reflect a flagrant violation of their rights. They are yet deemed inferior creature in our traditional and patriarchal society. The honor-killing acts are committed against them just for being female. In other words, men hurl insults at them, subjugate them in domestic life, curtail their freedom and abuse them in the worst possible way for the hack of it.

Furthermore, women are treated as a tool for satiating men’s carnal desires. The lurid reports regarding the girls raped by their neighbors or their close family members demonstrate this fact clearly. Perhaps, the perpetrators believe that women’s integral role is played in amorous films and advertisement gimmicks. Hence, such wrong attitudes towards women precipitate the sexual abuse against them. On 9 September 2014, it came to light that a young woman from Kabul, Khatera, 22, had for years been raped by her father. It is not yet publicly known when the abuse started, but Khatera became pregnant from her father for the first time when she was 14 years old. Since, she had five more pregnancies – one every year. Her first four children were aborted in hospitals with the collusion of her family, but the fifth was born three years ago. Khatera is now pregnant with her sixth child. In an interview with a local TV on 9 September, she said that she did not know what she should do with the sixth child – and if she should call it sister or daughter. She said she was ashamed of her father. Her mother admitted in the video interview with local TV that she and Khatera’s two brothers knew that the father raped the girl, but kept silent because they were afraid for their lives. The two brothers at some point left because they found it “impossible to tolerate this big, shameful disgrace.” Based on a second report, the victim in another case of incestuous rape is Sahiba, 17, one of nine children in her fam-

ily, who has repeatedly been sexually assaulted by her father for almost one year. The case came to light when one night Sahiba decided to go to the police. The mother of the victim told a local TV that the father had started abusing Sahiba when they were still living in Laghman, before the family moved with their nomad tent to the Qarabagh district of Kabul five months ago. The atmosphere between the spouses seemed to have been tense, with the father and mother continuously arguing. The perpetrator was arrested and jailed; his wife and sons are demanding the death penalty. One son, 19, has announced that he would kill his father. Moreover, in the Shahrestan district of Daikundi, the husband of Chaman Gul, 20, cut the young women’s nose off with a scythe. According to Jawad Dadgar from the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) in Daikundi, which had been following the case closely, Chaman Gul had also been beaten severely several times, “usually for household problems.” When the man wanted to take Chaman Gul to her father’s house to kill her, neighbors saved her, she later told Dadgar. Before the husband could be arrested, he escaped, allegedly joining a group of Taleban in Gizab district.

On 12 August 2014, an appeal court sentenced a man to death for having burned alive his brother’s pregnant wife, basing the sentence on article 20 of the EVAW law and article 402 of the penal code of Afghanistan. Article 20 of EVAW says that “If a person burns a woman or spray [sic] chemical or other poisonous substances on her body causing injury, or makes her eat a poisonous substance or injects it into her body, the offender in view of circumstances shall be sentenced to long term imprisonment not exceeding ten years.” (1) It adds that “If the commission of acts included in paragraph 1 of this Article is for the purpose of establishing fear in society in order to prohibit women from exercising their civil rights or results in the death of victim, considering the circumstances the offender shall be sentenced to long term imprisonment or to death penalty”. Article 402 of the Afghan penal code says, “A person who intentionally causes the abortion of a human fetus by beating or any other harmful means shall be sentenced to long imprisonment not exceeding seven years.” Violence against women, which make the headlines on newspapers, is a matter of great concern. Hope the honor-killing and life-taking acts of violence to come end in near future. In short, people are supposed to consider the religious law and moral values which preclude men from harsh approaches against women.

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