

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



January 14, 2018

The Evil of Terrorism

Do we have eyes to see? Do we have ears to listen? Do we have guts to witness that our roads are filled with the blood, many of our children are orphans, our sisters are widowed and our youth are restricted from the potential opportunities; the tears of the mothers and the sigh of the fathers, the dark rooms of the once-delightful homes and the silence in the streets, the horror filled in the eyes, the fire in the hearts of the effected and the laughter of the oppressors, and above all the negligence of the responsible departments of the state, are all the darkness of the terrorism that has prevailed and is increasing its intensity in our country.

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon today; few generations have been fed up with the concept and they have been through its severe consequences. Religion has been a very sacred code of life and it has the message of brotherhood, peace and virtue but, unfortunately, it has been used as profitable a business to be invested in and indulged within the current system of capital hungry vultures. Somalia, Central African Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, Burma, Syria, Lebanon, Pakistan, Afghanistan and many more to be counted are the industry output of the same war-based on imperial business.

Afghanistan faces huge and massive social issues, primarily due to terrorism as we have openly let the political players to carry out their business in accordance to their will. So militancy and anarchy flourish and grow as powerful as a second state or system within the state.

In fact, the different players with the help of the extremists in the country have sponsored a mindset that flourished the militancy as strategic assets. The seeds that were sown were bound to turn into trees and bear fruits, which currently we are reaping - there are many factions in our country who promote extremism and militancy as the rudimentary and essential ideology.

The so-called clerics condemn the state for the control measures and salute the extremists despite their relationships with the greedy powers sponsoring financially and morally the extremist ideologies of the terrorist groups. They have been very lenient to them and have no other option but to be apologetic. Nation is put to the dilemma and paradoxes, only to give time to the so-called reconciliation and peace process, which is nowhere to be seen. What has, in fact, been achieved is growing terrorism, militancy and victimization of the innocent people.

While cruelty is being silent, giving the misinformation is the worse case. Where the worst crime is having the responsibility and power to control and still doing nothing, closing our eyes is the blunder, which we all are doing at the moment. Despite the knowledge of the truth and false, manipulation of the events as a second theorem is only an eye wash to keep the nation in worse form to promote the agenda of the enemies of the nation.

The authoritative leaders in our country need to understand that with great power comes great responsibility. They have to use their authorities not to dodge the common people but to guarantee for them a better life as they have promised to do so while acquiring their positions. Some, but not all, the center of traditional education, called Madrassas, are responsible for feeding the young and empty minds with the garbage of the terrorism, which leads to the militancy in return. These centers were once supported and sponsored by the internal extremists and external players.

Taliban at the time of their rule supported and promulgated such centers and used them as their cadre generating institutes. The history is not very kind and it has proved that the lethal weapon of terrorism that was made in our country is now targeting our new generation. The fact is we cannot slay the giant we have fed! But now, the time has reached - the gift of the terrorism that is being exchanged from hand to hand, from the generation to the next, has to be stopped.

This cancer of the nation will destroy the nation, if we do not take proper measures to promote the unity, faith, discipline and education. If we promote harmony and equality to achieve social equity then surely we will get rid of the menace of terrorism. We require strengthening the economy of each individual among the 90% of the nation, rather than strengthening the pockets of the 10% elite, else this cancer will not leave them alive.

And, then we have to be hopeful that one day, the tears and the blood, the sigh and the hopelessness will bring the change, which will be proved by punishment to the cruel and their supporters; this nation will decide who lives and who dies, who is socially evil and who is good, who is responsible and who is culprit. And the day is soon to come when justice and freedom is restored and the country moves towards the economic success and social prosperity.



Moral Vacuum in Social Life

By Hujjatullah Zia

Moral values have been eroded in collective life due to the changing of consuming patterns in the society. People are deeply involved in their self-interests at the stake of moral standards. And as a result, people hardly trust each other. All individuals treat with each other with a strong sense of mistrust. It indicates a vacuum of ethical codes in our social life. That's why one either encounters or hears many immoral practices in everyday social life.

The immoral or anti-moral practices make our daily news. For example, one's dignity is trampled upon, a girl fell the victim of sexual harassment, a woman is raped by a street passerby, a man is discriminated on the basis of his skin color, a Muslim is stereotyped, a Christian is killed, a Jew is humiliated, etc. Our world is void of morality. We curtail one's freedom to practice our own freedom without a limitation. We violate one's rights without a tinge of guilt. We never tend to alleviate the sufferings of our fellows or next-door neighbors. Generally speaking, when a girl is raped in our society, her character will be defamed and even she will be called brazen or prostitute. Rather than voicing their concerns over the anti-moral issues, people will simply denounce the girl for falling the victim of rape. On the other hand, the victim's family will seek revenge through doing the same act to the criminal's family. In such a case, another innocent girl will be victimized. In short, tribal structures still prevails our culture. Similarly, when one's child is abducted, people will simply denounce their parents for not taking care of their children - the criminal acts of abductors are mostly ignored. Women are no more treated with respect in our society.

They are viewed as advertising gimmicks or lusted after by men. Their physical appearance carries much weight for scores of men than their dignity. Worst of all, the religious extremists, who claim to practice upon a certain ideology, also exploit women sexually under sacred terms.

For instance, the self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) urged women under the term of Jihad-e-Nikah to satisfy their carnal desires in the battlefields. They also raped a large number of women and girls on the grounds of their faith and beliefs; Such anti-moral practices are highly spine-chilling. To view films and serials, they are replete with gory pictures and immoral practices that will spoil children and disintegrate families. In other words, the cruel

practices of mankind are simply reflected in films and serials. Movies are replete with nakedness and porn. Women and children are sold as sex slaves. To satiate their hunger, a number of women need to satiate the carnal desire of men, which is a strong blow to morality and humanity.

It is really shocking to see that countless of poor women have to appease one's lust with empty stomach so as to get paid. Selfishness is widespread. People have turned extremely selfish and put one's honor, reputation, wealth, etc. at stake for their own self-interests. Individuals even shed one's blood out of selfishness.

Moreover, racial superiority is one of the global issues of our age that plays a destructive role in human societies. It goes without saying that claiming superiority will leave no room for peace or brotherhood. People seek to satisfy themselves physically but not spiritually. Lack of spirituality left a vacuum in our social life. Human societies are void of virtue. Therefore, violence and bloodshed continue around the world and the masses are killed in cold blood. Cruelty and injustice never come to an end. The masses are alienated from moral world.

Martin Luther King has aptly said, "In spite of these spectacular strides in science and technology, and still unlimited ones to come, something basic is missing. There is a sort of poverty of the spirit which stands in glaring contrast to our scientific and technological abundance. The richer we have become materially, the poorer we have become morally and spiritually. We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers." Furthermore, moral corruption is also prevalent in the society. Moral corruption, on the one hand, violates the inherent dignity of mankind and on the other hand drives the society to a quagmire of lust and whim. Moral corruption will desensitize the public feeling towards crime and devalue social norms. It will breed much misfortune posing threat to social health and will nurture different social deviances. To live an honorable life and respect the rights and dignity of mankind, human societies need to exercise and adhere to humanity and moral standards. Last but not least, all individuals need to cherish ethical codes and practice upon the "golden rule" which says that do to others what you want to be done unto you. If we value humanity and ethical codes, we will live a peaceful and prosperous life.

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

Unsustainable Coalitions Results Waste of Opportunities

By Sakhi Rezaie

A political coalition is a kind of collective action of citizens in response to the ongoing political situation ruling the society. Political activity in a broader level, without an extensive and comprehensive organization, is not very effective. In many cases, political cooperation and affinity at the national level in the structure of the political coalition leads to overcoming and survival from a potential threat. Even in the most controversial debates and sensitive tensions such as election and division of political power, timely and well thought political coalition have led to collective emancipation and have been redemptive. In post-Taliban era political unity was first illustrated as coalition government in Afghanistan. However, the coalition of politicians never crossed the shallow political layer to penetrate to the depth of social structures. That's why the presence of elites never represented the extensive presence of common people to the administrative structure of the government.

This has caused great gaps and disruptions in the structure of Afghan society. Unfortunately, the past governments have never been effective in restoring this situation and in unifying Afghan society. This situation gradually increased the gaps between political power and the citizens of Afghanistan and changed the public image of government to a private and monopolistic one. The opposition political leaders also benefited politically from these social gaps in order to gain political power. The problem was intensified by accentuating and highlighting the ethnic and regional side of the marginalization from the public services and existing discrimination. The promotion and multiplication of issues with ethnical dimensions has its own unique utilization in Afghanistan. That is why in many cases some of the political leaders intentionally or unknowingly have spread ethnic and class tensions. Unfortunately, taking advantage from ethnicity as a tool for promoting political ends is widespread in Afghanistan. Political coalitions in Afghanistan are based and sustained on this element. That is the reason that the political alliances in this country are full of public excitements and routine melees. This implies that no political coalition is based on the principles of political wisdom and a precise plan.

So far, no political opposition neither has published nor has distributed a scholarly article elaborating the challenges of the country in a comprehensive manner and providing practical solutions to them. While every political coalition has carried out and used the significant rallies and promotions during its political maneuvering. It seems that fueling public excitement and accumulation of sentimental feelings of people are the ultimate goal of political coalition leaders. At a time when the educated generation and contemporary world are following and monitoring closely the situation with their curious and scrutinizing mindset, is it possible to overcome the complex political problems only by fomenting communal sentimental feelings?

The political alliances that have appeared in today's world without political knowledge and wisdom may not have the viability against political incidence, and are deemed to leave the scene soon. In political rules and games, the ground realities shall always be considered, if not so, the political coalitions will easily collapse with all its merits. Political alliances before anything else must be based on the national interest and have a practically feasible plan. Otherwise, how can they convince and attract the rest of the community outside of their own circle?

The healthy political struggle and rivalry with ruling powers, beside Afghanistan public opinion, must take in to account the existing political situation as well as international community's perspective about the region. Therefore, sacrificing the current opportunities for ethnic or group interests alone, may once again put Afghanistan on another terrible downturn, in which case the oppressed people of the country will fall victim to another historical mistake.

The national unity government and Afghan political leaders must be well aware that the people of Afghanistan, with many sacrifices and devotions, have gone through the devastating crisis who are currently seek to make a subsistence living. Therefore if political rivalries will provoke public rebukes and waste the public opportunities and assets it will finally lead people to a public rage.

Currently with the present situation Afghan citizens consider the maintenance of national unity as a public merit in Afghanistan. The public merit stems from public unity. While the prosperity and welfare of citizenship is objectively illustrated with plurality and embracing ethnic diversity. Embracing multi-ethnicity in a diverse society is considered as an unavoidable fact for having a peaceful life. Citizens love each other and look for their livelihoods free of tension. They are only the society's politicians who do not have much in common with each other in political power sharing. In reality post-conflict countries need to enhance the national trust foundation even before establishing any political institution. National trust only in broader structure of political power can sustain and play meaningful role. National representation and inclusion in the larger level of government, will bring together the different social class with each other and can underpin the government-public relationships. Afghanistan has learned lesson from its harsh political history and experience of multi-ethnicity nations, that without an inclusive national government there is no other ways to provide broader welfare to the citizens.

The policy of the elimination and totalitarianization of political power has struck Afghanistan in a crisis of internal tensions over the past thirty years. The thirty years of ongoing political events have thought clear lessons, however, if history is not well understood history will inevitably be repeated. Repeating history with its past events will put us in the verge of a historical collapse. Afghans living a lifetime under the ruins of life-threatening events perceive, more than anybody else, the danger of a horrible shock collapsing in a downturn crisis.

The national unity government, instead of fighting and wasting time with political coalitions and political games, must seek the participation and inclusion of society's elites and social experts in the government structure in a comprehensive and just manner. Citizens expect that the national unity government should seek to diminish the elimination policy.

The policy of elimination at various layers of previous governments has been obvious. The people of Afghanistan hoped that with the institutionalization of the national unity government, the participation of all the ethnic groups in the structure of government would ensure the consistency and sustainability of unity and interdependency at the various levels of the Afghan society, because as the main foundation of the national unity government in the Third Republic, inclusiveness of all ethnicities in the structure of coming government was broadly expected.

Sayed Asif Hussaini is the permanent writer of the Daily Afghanistan. He can be reached at thedailyafghanistan@yahoo.com.

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



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