

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

# Daily Outlook

## AFGHANISTAN

The Leading Independent Newspaper

January 15, 2015

### The Plight of Afghan Women

Regarding the violence against women in Afghanistan, there is a bizarre situation that requires the genius of Einstein to be understood. Every passing day increases the number of reports in which a person tortures, mutilates, burns, chains or sometimes kills a woman. Then a traditional cycle begins in which this news is highlighted in a way that its resonance crosses the borders and echoes in the parliaments of developed countries of the world and becomes the topic of the discussion for a number of NGO's working for the welfare of women in the world. With this, the image of Afghanistan further worsens as a country where women become the victim of violence now and again and where they are not given any rights. Then, a debate starts in the programs of television channels where the same old ideas are repeated. In the same way, parliamentarians also feel the need to discuss the issue and keep it in their agendas and sometimes, when their patience slips out, they call the concerned minister and ask about the situation and the minister satisfies them by the fresh vows to eradicate such incidents in future. Similar kind of drama is staged by the women who are there to protect the rights of women and run a number of NGOs and organizations for the purpose where huge sums of funds are engulfed without any tangible result. This drama is so often repeated that any common person would understand what would happen after an Afghan woman becomes a victim of the cruelty of her male relative. Everyone understands that all these would fail to affect the present scenario.

No one is interested to discover and address the true reasons responsible for these tragic events. In this chain of interests, everyone is making money and they are not ready to disturb the setup which is in benefit of all. If this scenario changes and there was no violence against women, what would be the use all these organizations that are receiving handsome donations from the countries that are much concerned about the welfare and protection of Afghan women and they appear to be the only party in this regard, working with sheer sincerity. It would be unfair if we did not mention some of the organizations which are working to address the true reasons of the problem. They arrange trainings to the women so that they should be able to earn their livelihood and don't suffer in their practical lives.

But there is a strange paradox in bringing awareness among the women regarding their rights. Most of the organizations arrange seminar and educational workshops to educate the women about their rights granted to them by the international laws, the constitution of the country and also our religion, Islam. When women don't know about their rights, they try to compromise with their situation, either good or bad but when they perceive their rights and see that they are being deprived of these rights, they show resistance which results in the conflict and this conflict usually ends up in the torture of the woman because this is a male-dominated society and when the reason ends, a male tries to restore his dominance by resorting on the use of physical power in which he is always a winner.

The violence against women was either less before this democratic government or was less known due to the limited coverage of media but these days bring increased number of reports of such violence and cruelty. Whatever may be the reasons, it is a reality that such incidents of violence have increased which is a question mark on the performance of NGOs and the concerned government authorities.

Everyone knows that the prime reason behind any such incident is a man who is too rash, less tolerant and believes in and follows strictly the norms and traditions that he inherited from the society and that has not changed for the centuries. These traditional beliefs are not only extreme about a number of things like treating children, treating the guests and others but also regarding women. It says that a woman needs to be kept under strict control and she is good only if she is kept in good cover. If she tries to come out of the strict control of the man or does anything to come out of this cover, the man is greatly annoyed because his traditional beliefs are greatly hurt and he fears that this small change would turn into a violent storm and would blow away everything that comes in its way. It's the reason why his reaction usually comes in its violent form. It thus comes out that the main reason responsible for this is the strict mindset that has gained more rigidity in all these years and is not going to easily show any kind of flexibility.

The only thing that has brought some flexibility in this mindset is the education and we see that those who are educated or live in educated surroundings show more flexibility and their traditional mindset is slowly and gradually replaced with a set of more acceptable ideas and beliefs. Till now, a lot of efforts have been done in educating the woman, the victim, but there has hardly been done to educate and change the mindset of the person who is the creator of this problem; the man. It is not going to be an easy task but I dream of a day in which people working on women's issues are arranging programs for the men.



## ISIS Betrayed Serving Islamic Cause

By: Asmatyari

A man uniformed in black from top to toe was crying, 'Allah O Akbar' God is superior, 'Allah O Akbar' God is superior. Hapless but fearless men whose background unrevealed in the video, kneeled down on toes, surrounded by throng of armed men uniformed in black. Another person with a small sized firearm shoots him on the neck. The sinless blood sprinkles far and wide; the hostage fall down and never stands back." The gesture demonstrated, the merciless death of an individual, overjoyed the insane killers. This marks the beginning of strong foundation of Islamic Emirate built on towered head of innocents. This is one of the sorry tales of atrocity executed by ISIS's militants. There are numerous identical tales of ferociousness raveled in videos publicized by the militants. The tale of ruthless atrocities earned them distinction and prominence alike. Consequently, Taliban and Al-Qaida members find it a privilege to work for ISIS.

Formerly, it was reported the renowned Afghan and Pakistani Taliban leaders have affirmed their allegiance to ISIS and owed to fight their cause in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Henceforth, they have started recruiting illiterate people in their ranks. Earlier, a senior Afghan National Army (ANA) commander Gen. Mahmood Khan, the deputy commander of Afghan National Army (ANA) 215 Corps, in southern Afghanistan has confirmed that a former Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Rauf are fanning out to recruit people for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the said province.

This tale is confirmed by as local residents of Sangin district in Helmand province too, saying group of insurgents in black uniforms have started movements in the district carrying black flags and vehicles. In the meantime, a video was released by ISIS on Saturday purports to show militant leaders who identify themselves as from Afghanistan and Pakistan Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP's) former spokesman Shahidullah Shahid pledging their support to the Islamic State group.

This undoubtedly is an alarming sign for the state of Afghanistan, already sickened by recurrent attacks launched by local insurgents and militants. Moreover, Afghanistan undeniably serve as a fertile land providing with large number of individuals whose trust can easily be earned, subsequent of assurance of virtues, noble deed and dearness in the sight of Creator. Consequently, it is pretty trouble-free for ISIS, to establish a sound operational ground in this piece of land, hence adding government miseries. The government can't get away with simple renunciation of presence of footprints of ISIS, instead a tangible measure should be put into practice, to get out of this menace; else's large number religiously betrayed individuals will respond at the call of Amirul Momineen, by joining the ranks of such militants.

Previously, the Ameerul Momineen Abubakar Al-Baghdadi, a self proclaimed caliph publicly pronounced the establishment of independent Islamic State (caliphate) in the land it controls, in an audiotape message, urging all Muslims to migrate to the aforementioned state and pledged allegiance to him. He made a special appeal to those with practical skills, scholars, judges, doctors, engineers and people with military and administrative

expertise, to come to the ascribed land. The self claimed caliph was also shown asking the jihadist to escalate fighting in the holy month of Ramadan, which happened to be the noblest deed. Doing so, help them earn the favor of the merciful Allah, is a betrayal. This of course is, a forged interpretation of Jihad sought to further their malicious designs. It is a deliberate "Fassad". Al-Qaida and ISIS fallaciously deem to be the guardian of Islamic jurisdiction and sanctity are misled.

It should be learned that there are already fifty seven functional Islamic states that claims to be safeguarding the Islamic values, dogmas and rituals, enshrined in the Holy Scriptures; are in the pursuit of their own interests. The credible reports reaffirms some of them backs certain militant groups, to further their own deep rooted interests, in the middle east and elsewhere. However, the ISIS pursuing the footsteps of the Taliban that had set Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan pivoted on mass human rights violation, will no better work for the well being of greater majority. The world observed ISIS demolishes the sacred and historic places such as shrines, mosques, and churches, exercises a narrow version of Islam rendering unacceptable for both Muslims and non-Muslims world, alike. If someone claims to strive for the wellbeing of a cognizable group, it should do away with raison-d'être widening the minute disparity existing between sub factions.

Muslims, divided into over seventy two sects, with every sect not only claims to be superior to others but also spare not a minute issuing the jurisprudence of infidelity of other. If the European Union can be established, why the union of Islamic countries couldn't be? Why can't ISIS, Taliban and Al-Qaida deeming Islam and Muslim are in line of fire, work out narrowing down the gap of disparity between Muslims and bind them with the bond of unity?

Factually speaking the Muslims world suffers the height of intolerance and extremism. Apart from bad governance, there are multiple factors behind the escalating extremism yet it is malicious for being solely responsible for the widened unrest, plaguing the world over. It should be learned that states can be built by a disgruntled group, relying on granted warheads and weapons, but can't be run without clearly laid principles, universally accepted system of governance a profound self-reliance and harmonious coexistence. Those who seek not to understand the harsh lines of history, turns a perishable falsehood, is the uttered fact of global phenomena. It is an undoubted fact, neither falsehood can be justified by thousands of supporting testimonials, nor can truth be beleaguered by hundreds of lies. Each of the two phenomenon, tend exists with distinct disparity. The establishment of the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) renders one of such deception, anchored on the blood of innocents and unarmed citizens. It is said that the throng of terrorists that stationed in Iraq and Sham from across the world, have surpassed the brutality of Al-Qaida; thus sent a shock impulse over the spine of many states, including the US. It is to be drawn that we should demonstrate zero tolerance against the extremists and insurgents who are doing away piece of mind.

Asmatyari is permanent writer of Daily outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at [asmatyari@gmail.com](mailto:asmatyari@gmail.com)

### Loneliness - A Spiritual Vacuum

By: Hujjatullah Zia

...Continued from yesterday

Through loneliness I have learned the beauty and necessity of solitude, and I have learned to be able to do many things on my own that many people would love to be able to do. I am not bothered at all by sitting alone at a table in a crowded restaurant, and I am not afraid to leave a negative situation just because I might be alone. I never allowed myself to be dragged into a negative relationship just because I was afraid of being alone. I never dread being alone, and I often look forward to it, for I know just how healing it can be.

"At the root of our fellowship issue is not merely the absence of people in your life, or the absence of God in your life, it is the presence of sin in your hearts that separates you from God and other people. You have a heart problem, and that problem is painful... Because Adam chose the pleasures of sin, humanity has inherited the pain of loneliness and the pain of separation from God and others. At its root, loneliness began in the Garden of Eden, and we are all children of Eden."

If you observe, you will see that people are becoming more and more distracted, increasingly sophisticated and worldly. The multiplication of pleasures, the innumerable books that are being published and the newspaper pages filled with sporting events, surely, all these indicate that we always want to be amused. Because we are inwardly empty and dull, we use our relationships and our social reforms as a means of escaping from ourselves. I wonder if you have noticed how lonely most people are. And to escape from loneliness, we run to temples, churches, or mosques; we dress up and attend social functions. We watch television; listen to the radio, read, and so on.

If you inquire a little into boredom, you will find that the cause of it is loneliness. It is in order to escape from loneliness that we want to be together, we want to be entertained, to have distractions of every kind such as gurus, religious ceremonies, prayers, or the latest novel. Being inwardly lonely we become mere spectators in life; and we can be the players only when we understand loneliness and go beyond it.

"It is not physical solitude that actually separates one from other people, not physical isolation, but spiritual isolation. It is not the desert island or the stony wilderness that cuts you from the people you love. It is the wilderness in the mind, the desert wastes in the heart through which one wanders lost and a stranger. When one is a stranger to oneself then one is estranged from others, too. If one is out of touch with oneself, then one cannot touch others."

If you are depressed and you take medication, and you real-

ize that you have a chemical imbalance, and it's biological, and it causes you loneliness. I'm not saying that, by mere repentance, that fixes the issue, but I am saying we can't divorce our physical needs from spiritual realities. Every time we realize we have a fallen body, we must also acknowledge that the reason why we have a fallen body with a chemical imbalance is because we inherited the pain of the fall. I believe that loneliness, at its root, is a spiritual issue. We don't need to merely hang out with more friends. We don't need to merely learn how to speak love languages. We need help. We need a savior. We need an advocate. And our heart cry should not merely be, 'I do bad things because I'm lonely, so someone come keep me company, make me feel better.' Our deep heart cry should be, 'I'm lonely because I'm a sinner in a dark and fallen world. God help me.'

Anne Wilson Schaefer asserts, "Loneliness is one of the most feared states in modern life. Perhaps this fear has come about because so many of us have a vague awareness of a surging river of loneliness deep inside. Much of our activity and busyness is designed to keep that river within its banks. Maybe loneliness has received a bad rap in today's world. Maybe loneliness is one of the ways our inner being communicates with us, letting us know that we need to take the time to get back in touch with ourselves. Could it be that the emptiness we feel in our solar plexus is a friendly reminder that something has gone missing - we ourselves! When we are lonely, it's usually a signal that we need to spend some time with ourselves. The next time you get this signal, try taking some time alone." "If you're lonely, have you ever thought about coming to God and offering it to him as a gift in worship? In saying, 'I've tried everything to fix it, and I can't. I've tried filling it with the world. I've tried filling it with people. I've tried seeking you. I don't know what to do with it. So I'm just going to offer it up to you. Can you take this ugly thing and make it something beautiful?'"

The secret to overcoming a feeling of loneliness is not going outside to meet people. That will only keep you from being alone. The secret is going inside yourself, to realize your true kinship with God and with all the human beings that he created. Alvin Toffler says, "Any decent society must generate a feeling of community. Community offsets loneliness. It gives people a vitally necessary sense of belonging. Yet today the institutions on which community depends are crumbling in all the techno-societies. The result is a spreading plague of loneliness."

Hujjatullah Zia is the newly emerging writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at [outlookafghanistan@gmail.com](mailto:outlookafghanistan@gmail.com)

Chairman / Editor in Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa  
Vice Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Phone: +93 799 005 019/799 408 271/777 005 019

E-mail: [mail@outlookafghanistan.com](mailto:mail@outlookafghanistan.com), [outlookafghanistan@gmail.com](mailto:outlookafghanistan@gmail.com)

Address: V-137, Street 6, Phase 4, Shahrak Omeed Sabz, Kabul, Afghanistan

Daily Outlook  
AFGHANISTAN  
The Leading Independent Newspaper