

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

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Public Support for Security Forces!

The task of our security forces can easily be termed as the most difficult in the world. There is not present any force that should be constantly in war for more than a decade. There is also not present a force, members of which should be in the constant threat for their lives. In the same way, there is not present any force that should have sacrificed so many lives and yet not ready to give up and every drop of blood adds more life to their commitment and enthusiasm.

There is a long list of the sacrifices of our forces. If we are safe at our homes today, it is because of the incessant vigilance of our security forces who keep a close check at all the enemies, both from inside and outside the country. Our security forces have also shown their best performance even in the circumstances that were disappointing. Now that our forces have taken the complete control of the security of the country, it is the time to realize their importance and salute them for their sacrifices.

In this regard, last week was quite pleasing as a number of gatherings were arranged in order to admire the sacrifices of our security forces. A number of civil society groups had arranged demonstrations in support of our security forces by arranging a parade in the uniform of security forces. The demonstrations were arranged in Kabul and a number of other cities of the country in which a number of our parliamentarians also took part.

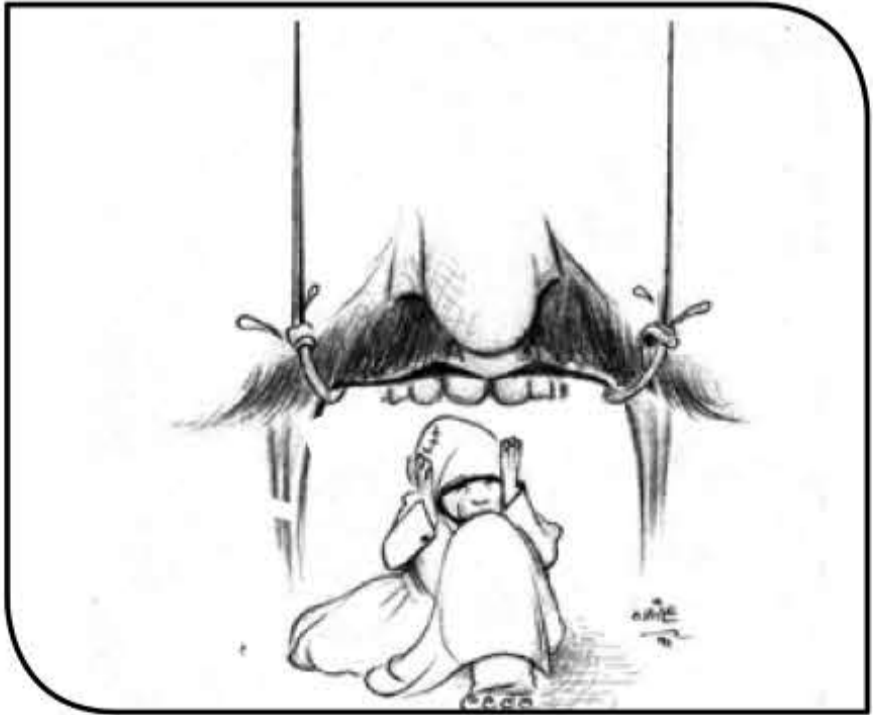
Though the security condition in the country is still not satisfactory and we are still living in the condition of uncertainty but having a look at all the different factors responsible for these conditions, we still feel proud on our security forces. When the democratic government was formed after the ouster of Taliban, the country had nothing in the name of forces or military and everything had to be started from the scratch. In the limited time of 12 years, our security forces not only emerged as a strong and capable force but their number has improved so much that now they are able to control the security of the country. The threats faced by our forces cannot be compared to any other country's security threats. Our forces not only face large number of external enemies but they are also facing a number of enemies from inside the country. Externally, our security forces are facing the conspiracies of a large number of international spying agencies. It is now clear that Afghanistan has been chosen as a battle field by the major powers of the world and their battle is being fought by their spying agencies. Billions of dollars are spent by these agencies and every day, hundreds of plots are being put into practice. It is the dedication and vigilance of our security forces that majority of these plans are unveiled and their perpetrators are caught.

In the same way, there are large numbers of politicians and groups in the country who are directly or indirectly supporting Taliban and other militant groups for their own benefits. There were many occasions when our security forces caught important political figures of the country helping the suicide bomber reach to a certain place but due to political influences, no action was taken against them. In the same way, the role of international security forces was also dubious in this regard and according to our security forces, international forces released dozens of important criminals and terrorists who were caught by Afghan security forces.

Some of the policies of ex-president Hamid Karzai were also disappointing to our security forces. This included the release of large number of Taliban from prisons in Afghanistan and Pakistan on the name of trust-building measures but later on, these terrorists returned to their groups and once again took part in fresh terror activities against the citizens and the security forces of the country. In the same way, President Karzai had banned the use of heavy arms and artillery against the militants. The reason was given that such heavy firing might cause civil casualties. Although this phenomenon was never supported by ground realities but it only paralyzed the abilities of our forces to fight terrorism and both the conditions were much disappointing for them.

It should also not be forgotten that our security forces are also not receiving the privileges that are normally given to them in the advanced or democratic countries of the world. Majority of them are working on meager salaries and the facilities provided to them can also not be termed as perfect. In the same way, they are not given with all the needed equipment and arms due to which they feel themselves helpless on a number of occasions.

However, the biggest factor that can keep the spirits of our forces is the support by public. Last week, public expressed its support by a number of demonstrations and it is for sure that it might have added to the confidence of our forces. Similarly, it is also a fact that general public has great love and admiration for our forces. It is needed that we need to arrange such activities from time to time so that the spirit of our forces should be kept high who always remain awake to ensure our peaceful nights and days.

**Unresolved Women's Miseries Awaiting Unity Government**

By Asmatyari

The birth of a female child marks the beginning of endless awaiting miseries, in this piece of land. Every day, we learn a heart wrecking story where a woman is found the object of rampant harassment, physical abuses, mental torture and societal discrimination. We turn deaf ears to the hapless cries, blind eyes negligent to see the magnitude of mental sufferings she endures while getting out to earn a livelihood, numb to realize the numerous pain of gender based victimization she bears frequently, because of fallacious socio-religious structure based on irrational biases. It reflects women are coerced to repression after being found ill fated and voiceless.

In Afghanistan violence against women is much widespread and deeply rooted in different parts of the country. Violence against women is a dramatic problem in Afghanistan that has caused lots of damages to the life of women itself as well as to the society. Women in Afghanistan have no or little voice to be heard and they have always been victims of violence either from their own family or from the society. They have never given equal rights specially the right to freedom and never been treated equally like men because the traditions, customs and practices have always kept men to be superior.

Violence against women in Afghanistan have kept women very far away from education which is one of the reasons that usually subjected them to extensive discriminations because they are kept ignorant of their fundamental rights. The choices of Afghan women are extraordinarily restricted; the family decides the fate of their lives. There is little chance for education, little choice about which she marries no choice at all about her role in her own house.

Violence against women in Afghanistan such as domestic violence, honor killing, and sexual violence against women and young girls are some examples of violence that has caused lots of destructions to Afghan women in particular and to the society in general.

Undoubtedly, a marriage at an early age is considered women's gravest issue that mercilessly subjects an innocent being into eternal physical abuse and mental torture. Particularly, when this marriage is forced, then it will be an irreparable harm. Child marriages violate many human rights; including to education, freedom from violence, reproductive rights, access to reproductive and sexual health care, employment, freedom of movement, and the right to consensual marriage. A child put up for sale at the cost of all these rights is a matchless example of vibrant violation of children rights and women rights.

The unchecked and socially accepted heavy dose of baseless biases and discrimination socially transmitted to the upcoming generation aggravating the state of affairs of our beloved country widening the rifts. The exploitation and suppression of inferior section of the society is deemed once innate right rendering beyond jurisdiction of the state to question the violators. The excruciated echoing miseries of hapless people intimates the dictum, might is rights, perfectly matches the state of ill-governance and indifference of ruling elites, in this piece of land reversing the state of affairs. Women devalued, socially ill-treated on flawed findings of deep rooted cultural and gender biases, knocked them out of socio-political endeavors. Thus they are highly restricted to effectively contribute in the joint uplift of the country. Even laws providing them minimal socio-econom-

ic safeguards are revised in the bid to leave them to endless sufferings, reflects the entrenched degree prejudices. Earlier, Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a strongly-worded letter to former president, called for immediate action to be taken against child marriage practices and domestic violence in Afghanistan. The international humanitarian group argued the persistence of the issues marked negligence in Afghan development that led to a number of other problematic public health and social trends.

Afghan authorities are continuously called to take, much greater steps to both facilitate reporting of incidents of violence against women and launch immediate investigatory cells in districts and division level facilitating the prosecution. As long as women and girls in Afghanistan are subject to violence with impunity, little meaningful and sustainable progress for women's rights can be achieved in the country. Ensuring rights for Afghan women - such as their participation in public life, including in the peace and reconciliation process and equal opportunities in education and employment - requires not only legal safeguards on paper, but critically, speedy and full enforcement of the EAW law. As long as women and girls in Afghanistan are subject to violence with impunity, little meaningful and sustainable progress for women's rights can be achieved in the country. Ensuring rights for Afghan women, such as their participation in public life, including in the peace and reconciliation process and equal opportunities in education and employment, requires not only legal safeguards on paper, but critically, speedy and full enforcement of the EAW law.

Formerly the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General, highlighted the importance of continued meaningful engagement and inclusion of women in Afghanistan's political processes. "Through such action women's voices and concerns can help improve the country's political life," said the special representative. "Women's participation in national decision-making not only strengthens the representative nature of government institutions but is central to improved development and economic indicators." Unanimously pragmatic steps must be taken by incoming premier to avert the fate of women in the country.

The role of women in peace, reconciliation, rehabilitation and nation building must not be repudiated. They must be heard by granting maximum if not equal opportunities in societal making. The upcoming government keeping his promise should take bold and immediate measures undoing all such developments eroding and restraining the capabilities of women to work for the good of society provided empowered women can effectively contribute in the development of the country. Women not only constitute half of afghan population but also can play foundational role in formation and development of the society and upcoming generation. They owe equivalent vigor to outstand and undertake the societal undertakings appropriately. Regrettably, they are deemed and treated second class citizen; meant to plague their innate capabilities rendering them dysfunctional. If properly educated and socialized they can be turned into valuable human resource earning enormous riches for poverty stricken country. If shun in constant denial they will degenerate without productive contribution.

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Justice - The Backbone of a Society

By Hujjatullah Zia

Life of just man is better and happier. There is always some specific virtue in everything, which enables it to work well. If it is deprived of that virtue, it works badly. The soul has specific functions to perform. When it performs its specific functions, it has specific excellence or virtue. If, it is deprived of its peculiar virtue, it cannot possibly do its work well. It is agreed that the virtue of the soul is justice. The soul which is more virtuous or in other words just is also the happier soul. Therefore, a just man lives happy. A just soul, in other words a just man, lives well; an unjust cannot."

There is not a single and absolute definition for justice. As a result, Plato in his philosophy gives very important place to the idea of justice. He used the Greek word "Dikaisyne" for justice which comes very near to the work "morality" or "righteousness", it properly includes within it the whole duty of man. It also covers the whole field of the individual's conduct in so far as it affects others. Plato contended that justice is the quality of soul, in virtue of which men set aside the irrational desire to taste every pleasure and to get a selfish satisfaction out of every object and accommodated themselves to the discharge of a single function for the general benefit.

Cephalus who was a representative of traditional morality of the ancient trading class established the traditional theory of justice. According to him "justice consists in speaking the truth and paying one's debt". Thus Cephalus identifies justice with right conduct. Polemarchus also holds the same view of justice but with a little alteration. According to him "justice seems to consist in giving what is proper to him". The simple implication of this conception of justice may be that "justice is doing good to friends and harm to enemies." This is also a traditional maxim of Greek morality.

There is an Arabic maxim saying that the government which cherishes justice, will last forever. Justice seems to be the soul of a society's law. In another item, if a society lacks justice, the citizens will resort to protest and force so as to get rid of unjust law. Therefore, to set up social discipline and security, a government is supposed to establish law on the basis of justice.

It should be noted that justice is a relative concept, a law which is considered just in a particular time and place, may be deemed unjust in another time or place. Since justice is defined with various political and social tastes, its concept will alter from time to time and condition to condition. That is why people sometimes use the term moral or religious justice or "social justice".

Naturally, man shows great tendency for justice. For instance, one

likes to see that everyone is equal in the eye of law. Moreover, conflicts break out and blood is shed to seek justice and just law. The human history is formed with men struggling for just practices. In other words, mostly lives are sacrificed in conflicts with dictatorial regimes and cruel rulers. Whenever a ruler resorted to violence and cruelty, the public feelings and conscience got hurt and they protested strongly at the cost of their lives.

The Arab spring is the best example for gaining justice. Cruelty, discrimination and injustice went beyond the public tolerance and they finally chose to protest which made the unjust regimes crumble. This contagious flame of revolution against injustice spread to neighboring countries and yet burning strongly. It is believed that protest against cruelty and injustice will never end - due to the relative concept of justice. Justice is a moral concept and morality - which differs from one place to another - also plays a key role in establishing law in a society. Willy-nilly, the law-makers are affected with their societal morality and have to consider the public moral rules for protecting law and order. They must command the facts which are in accordance with the moral norms of the public and prevent what the citizens assume inappropriate. In current law, many rules such as the necessity of fulfilling promise, avoiding harming others and honoring contracts root in public morality which are observed by law-makers. Sometimes, honoring morality is considered obligatory by law-makers and a contract signed at the cost of its violation will not be validated. For instance, a contract signed between two companies, in our country, to trade wine will be invalidated in the eye of law. Cicero says that if statute allows theft and fornication, it will be no more than the law of thieves and villains. He further believes that the people have the rights to protest against the law which are not in accordance with natural rights. So, it is construed that people can protest against the law which is in disagreement with a society's moral values and justice.

However, Socrates, who accepted the law despite being unjust and drank the cup of hemlock, says that citizens have to comply with the law at any cost yet he allows the citizens to make the government reform the unjust law. Hence, according to him, one has not to disobey the law for being unjust but to make the government to reform it. So, justice is the backbone of a society and governments have to establish the law based on justice and fairness.

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