

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



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Crimes Must be Controlled

In almost every society in the world there are crimes and disorders. Though there are certain societies that have done well in controlling most of their crimes, no perfection has been achieved in this regard and there is no society with zero crime. Crimes have detrimental influences over a society and its people; it welcomes chaos and disturbances and create the challenges of law and order. Crimes like, murder, robbery, embezzlement, rape and others are different forms of crimes and they basically influence individuals and groups and changes social order. Crimes are detestable and though human beings have tried to control them as much as possible they have not been able to avoid them completely.

Crimes may have different reasons. One of the basic reason is the controlling mechanism in the society itself. When such a mechanism tends to neglect justice and fair-play, there are great chances of increase in crimes. Finding loopholes in the system, the criminals commit crimes for getting gains which they can never achieve through lawful means. Moreover, finding the justice favoring only a certain class or group of people, the people belonging to other classes or groups do not show respect for the justice and order and therefore, commit crimes.

There are other social evils as well that give rise to crimes. The evils like, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and drug addiction have a large contribution in promoting crimes. The people who suffer from poverty and cannot afford for even their basic requirements are forced towards crimes. Instead of falling prey to starvation and death, they prefer to commit crimes so that they are able to fulfill the overgrowing necessities of life. In similar fashion the youngsters who are unemployed also opt to become criminals as that is the way they earn their livelihood.

Therefore, it can be observed that the society that are poor and suffering from other social problems have high rate of crimes. They face so many social problems and do not have strong law-enforcement mechanism; therefore, they cannot control the crimes easily. Afghanistan is one of the same types of countries that suffer from poverty and weak law-enforcement system. Though there has been development in this regard, serious concerns still prevail and raise questions about the system. The police force in Afghanistan is still in the preliminary stages and it really requires years of attention and support to reach to a truly professional stage. There are many areas in the country where the police do have enough penetration and where they cannot reach to crimes and criminals. Then there are many areas wherein the people still go to traditional courts, which are dominated by religious and tribal leaders instead of going to the courts that are established by the government. This implies that they do not have confidence in the formal system of law and order that prevails in the country and that has not been able to control the crimes.

Even major cities of the country, that are comparatively equipped with better opportunities, experience a large number of incidents of crimes. Recently, a report by security chief of Balkh police headquarters has revealed that as many as 1,300 criminal incidents were recorded in northern Balkh province over the past year, which included, murder, robbery, theft, kidnapping, rape and some other crimes. It is important to note that the given numbers depict that crimes that have been reported.

There may be many others that have never been reported. Moreover, these are the numbers that are given by the police itself. And independent research may come up with other numbers that may show the situation to be worse than it really is. This is the situation in a province, which is comparatively considered as a peaceful province; what is the condition in other provinces that suffer from insecurity is not difficult to speculate.

The government, therefore, requires looking at the situation seriously. It needs to strengthen the law-enforcement agencies and the pillars of justice and rule of law. There should be arrangements which should strive to control the crimes as they happen. And, even after the crimes, if the culprits are brought to justice and they are punished for their crimes in accordance to the law by law enforcement system, the crimes will be discouraged to a large extent.

Nonetheless, it is really imperative to keep in consideration that the law-enforcement system can provide short-term solution to the crimes.

If a society is really interested in controlling them there should be a long-term strategy that must deal with the basic reasons of the crime and try to nip the evil in the bud. There should be efforts to work on efficient administration, better economic condition, political stability, good governance, providence of basic human rights and control of corruption. Justice should reach to all the people of the society alike and the citizens must not feel alienated from the society. Moreover, there should not be discrimination as far as practical implementation of the criminal law is considered. Law should not serve the rich alone; rather all should be treated equally in this regard.



Social Segregation

By Dilawar Sharzai

Man is a social animal. He lives in a society because he would not be able to live otherwise. The social interactions play a very important role in the lives of human beings and assist them not only in fulfillment of their requirements but also of their personalities. From the very beginning of their lives human beings have been living in the form of groups. It is very difficult to find traces of such an era where every individual lived separately. And this is not just the case with human beings; all the living organisms have the tendency to live in the form of groups. It is really interesting to note the examples of social interactions among the animals. The most important example of such phenomena can be found in ants and bees. They live in the form of organized groups and perform their duties in a much-disciplined way (though they do not have their rules and regulations in the form the human beings have - mostly codified). They are thought to have even division of labor in a very primary form, wherein each ant or bee has to perform a particular task. They even have 'heads' of their communities. There are many other animals as well that show such or similar social interactions, thus proving that the tendency to live in society has been very instinctive among the organisms.

Furthermore, the requirements of organisms in general and human beings in particular have also pushed them towards formation of groups and societies. The groups and societies have always served human beings for their good. It has distributed the tasks that they have to perform in their daily lives and have given them the opportunity to benefit from the creations, creativity, struggle and assistance of others. Moreover, the social life has helped human beings in maintaining good psychological and physiological health, not only because of the different hospitals and health facilities existing in the society but also because of the healthy character of social life itself. It is observed both by sociologists, psychologists and psychiatrists that social life helps greatly in maintaining a healthy life.

Today, human beings live in most of the advanced societies of the world, where they have reached after thousand years of evolution in their social life. They are facilitated with the myriads of facilities, inventions and opportunities that might not have existed naturally. They are no more in the natural form of societies rather they have changed their societies both in its material and non-material cultures.

They have become more civilized as they have formed organized patterns and systems in their social life. They have legal systems, well studied and codified rules and regulations, various institutions, parties and syndicates and above all numerous recreational activities. Yet, there are people in such modern and well-developed societies, who suffer from isolation. Yes, there are many people in the world who suffer from social isolation. They abhor human interaction and tend to avoid groups and societies and opt to live lonely lives away from their fellow beings.

Social isolation is a tendency to remain aloof of social inter-

actions and groups, mostly marked with lack of contact with members of society and unusual behavior, which seems much deviant from the perceived form of normal life. It is indicated not only through the behavior but also opinion. Social isolation is considered an abnormality and is considered to be the reason of different psychological and physical disorders including anxiety, panic attacks, additions, eating disorders, substance abuse, violence and overall disease. All these disorders can prove fatal to human life and if cogitated properly these disorders can prove disadvantageous for the society as a whole as well.

There are different reasons for social isolation. Both the developed and underdeveloped societies of the world suffer from numerous cases of social isolation. This implies that it is not just about deprivation, rather there can be many other reasons as well that contribute to generate it and even strengthen it. One of the basic reasons for social isolation in developed societies of the world is the social patterns that demand a very hectic and busy life and intense competition for individual achievements. Therefore, human beings remain limited to individual life and fail to perform on social fronts. While, in underdeveloped countries of the world the social problems mostly contribute in generating the cases of social isolation. Deprivation, poverty, unemployment, failures, family responsibilities and other social evils tend to disappoint people from social life and they prefer to stay away from hustle and bustle of life in a solitary confinement, mostly with certain addiction as the only company.

The impacts of social isolation are worth serious consideration. It has been a dominant reason of drug addiction and suicidal tendency.

Drug addiction in these cases may include severe kind of smoking and alcoholism. Suicidal tendency may not only include willing to take one's own life but also convincing others to have a pessimistic view of life. Moreover, social isolation can also give birth to criminal attitude. In most of the cases the crimes resulting from social isolation have been revenge against perceived injustices that are thought to have been committed by social systems and institutions. In addition, there have been cases when murders have been committed by the various psychological problems stemming from social isolation.

The cases of social isolation have had a rising trend in our country Afghanistan, as well and have been marked with the extensive use of drugs and turning towards criminal tendencies. The basic reasons include series of wars, calamities, socio-political and socio-economic crisis and the lethal insecurity complex. It is required, as is suggested in most of the cases of social isolation, that the society should be developed in such a way so as to keep in consideration all the necessities of human life, right from the physiological needs to the social needs. The systems, institutions and groups, inventions and technology and other opportunities must be used in such a way so as not to alienate the members of the society from the social interactions and social life, which stand imperative for the growth of humanity.

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Seeking Amiable Negotiation

By Hujjatullah Zia

Resuming reconciliation process makes the headlines on national newspapers in recent days. The Taliban's protracted offensive and militancy, which spilled the blood of thousands of Afghan men, women and children, is beyond the public tolerance. Despite the fact that Afghan officials have been seeking to hold a heart-to-heart talk with the Taliban elements, violence and bloodshed continue unabated. On late July 2015, Pakistan hosted a talk between the Afghan government and Taliban representatives at the popular tourist resort of Murree as part of its efforts to put an end to over a decade-old conflict in the war-torn country. Senior officials from Pakistan, China and the United States also attended closed-door talks suggesting that the Murree process had the backing of all major international players. But Mullah Omar's death, which was revealed just a day before a second meeting was supposed to take place, stalled the negotiation.

On January 18, 2016, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States held second round of talks on the Afghan peace process in Kabul. The four nations issued a joint statement following the meeting calling on the Taliban to join the peace process. The four parties also made some progress on the roadmap of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, according to the joint statement. "China supports all initiatives and measures that are conducive for the reconciliation and resumption of peace talks. This also accords with China's security interests," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Wang is quoted as saying. He also said that China backs an "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" reconciliation process and spoke highly of the resumption of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Addressing a press conference, the Afghan Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah said that Afghans had a strong desire for peace and stability and militants should welcome the chance since they are unable to bring down the government via terror and insurgency. "The unity government and the Afghan people have the determination to bring peace and stability and to defend the country. We are honestly and strictly in favor of sustainable peace," he is cited as saying.

On the other hand, a source has said that Afghan Taliban want to be removed from a UN blacklist before considering rejoining peace talks aimed at ending a 15-year civil war. "We conveyed them to first remove us from the blacklist of the United Nations and allow us to freely travel around the world and then we can think about holding peace talks," Reuters quotes a Taliban member. The Taliban also pointed out that its "political office" in Qatar has the authority to represent their will. Members of the Taliban's unofficial Qatar

office are believed to be affiliated to Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, who was appointed as the Taliban leader last year with the revelation of Mullah Omar's death.

In addition to officials' efforts, Afghan former Jihadi figures have also decided to broker peace talk between the government and Taliban elements - local news reports. The head of "Grand Council of Afghanistan Mujahedeen" - which was newly established to facilitate reconciliation process - said, "The Afghan government should hand over the peace campaign to former mujahedeen and religious scholars because only they can understand the words of each other." He further said that the main goal behind the creation of the council was to bring peace and stability to the country and provide an environment for Taliban to join the Afghan government.

It is believed that the religious scholars will play an instrumental role in this regard since they are held in greater respect by the Taliban. Moreover, if this initiative had been taken earlier, it would give a fruitful result - perhaps more effective than the achievements of High Peace Council (HPC). The clergy and Ulema Council did not take a direct part in brokering peace talk within the past 14 years. This initiative must be welcomed and supported by the government. In other words, although the Taliban will continue their aggressive ideology and justify spilling the blood of those who speak against them, be it religious scholars or any other groups, the engagement of the clergy will desensitize the peace talk.

Pakistani officials have pushed for resuming peace talk. Now, they will have to nudge the Taliban to come to the negotiating table without irrational precondition, which was mentioned above. Afghan government has showed great tolerance towards the Taliban insurgents. As a result, a number of the Taliban prisoners were released during the administration of Hamid Karzai, and they were called "discontented brothers". Hence, if the precondition - set by the Taliban - be met, there is no assurance if they practice upon their words and cease their acts of terror. Secondly, the Taliban claims that they fight on the basis of their ideology; therefore, the life of their fighters must be of no significance.

There are two choices left before warring parties: either sit around the negotiating table or will be dealt militarily. The first one will save their life and the second one threatens it. Now, it is the Taliban to choose death or life. Therefore, Dr. Abdullah says that as the door to peace is open for the Taliban, they will have to welcome this opportunity and give up violence and bloodshed since they cannot bring down the government. Let us hope that US, China and Pakistan will get the Taliban elements to resume peace talk.

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