

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



July 07, 2015

## Educational Fund Finances Insurgency

We admit the role of quality education central to development of every country we aspire to associate with, anyway. It is believed education is one of the elements; entailing dynamic programs of socio-political and economic riches –it can only transform us from underdeveloped state into fully developed state. We have been narrating tales of technological progress, economic gains and educational developments the rest of the world has achieved, bidding to create an inspiration to our fate makers' so that they could steer the country on the agreeable course of sustainable success.

It is anticipated the government and concerned departments launches the state of emergency meant not only to increase the students' enrollment but also assures the provision of competing education. The allocation of most of resources into this sector is the cognition of aforementioned reality –pleading a parallel flow of resources into the said sector. Being driven by motives of change, the government diverts every saved penny for educational excellence is fantasy. The level consideration levied to educational uplift depicts the stance of government which is characterized by negation, underestimation, exclusion and refutation.

Earlier the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) reported the alleged involvement of the officials from the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) in providing fraudulent data to donors in order to personally profit off of donations for schools. The elevated concerns of corresponding donor agencies are equitable stance and must be tried for reversal. Reportedly, SIGAR, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had spent \$769 million to support education in Afghanistan since March 31, 2015.

It is heart wrenching to find education sector meagerly administered and poorly governed –the cry for lack of resources is high, however when substantiated is defrauded. Afghan education sector already suffering of poor management, is struck by sever stroke of fund misappropriation. Education sector is worst hit by meager performance –the allegation of fund embezzlement adds to its complication.

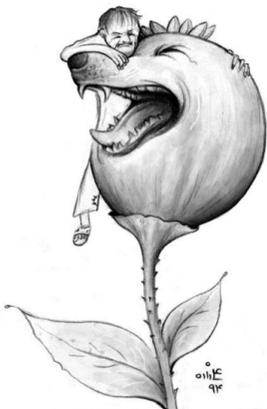
Following the SIGAR report the Officials from Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission's (AIHRC) office in Ghor province have reported findings that fraudulent school statistics have allowed commanders of illegal armed groups operating in the area to embezzle millions of Afghans intended for teachers' salaries. Former MoE officials were accused in the report of embezzling millions of dollars by providing fake school statistics to the donors. The investigation of AIHRC officials has revealed numerous "ghost schools" in Ghor province, meaning, schools that exist on paper and receive funding, but in reality do not exist or are not operating. The funding intended for these schools is said to line the pockets of local powerbrokers and militant leaders. According to the AIHRC office in Ghor, nearly 70 percent of the province's schools are closed, and tens of local lawbreakers and illegal armed group commanders receive salaries designated for the schools' teachers.

Earlier an official claimed the school teachers were being recruited and appointed by the Taliban in the Shah Joy district. This worrying stance is affirmed by the serving head of the province confirming salaries of teachers were being pocketed by the Taliban as a number of insurgents have been appointed as instructors in the schools. It's outrageous to recognize the funds reserved for educational betterment in a province are flowing into the accounts of militants and local commanders who are consecutively unleashing terror plots against the innocent civilians. It is unbelievably frightening the monetary allocation for education is funding heinous crimes –education is shunned in ignorance and militancy is supported instead. Regrettably, incriminating education which undoes the fear out of the mind and heart of people is camouflaged in the constant cloud of terror and endless fear –unluckily parasitizes on its very existence.

The government whether ignorant or restrained to avert the whole state of affairs marks an in-depth negligence or criminal complicity. What about the credibility of whole statistics of ministry of education after the emergence of this report. Doesn't it reflect the statistics provided about the rest of province are also merely paper work? Will the government ensue the case of such grave fraudulence and punish the culprits devoid of their socio-political standings? There are several questions emerging in the minds of every loyal Afghan waiting to be responded –one being is how long will the masses be put to mercy of power players.

This act of betrayal is shocking to learn when public officials side the wrongs means of exploiting the public resources –it ultimately earn us disgrace and indignity. The reprehensible act is analogous to self-immolation –education fundamental to collective uplift is eroded by cutting instead of adding the resources going to this department. The minimally performing education sector is deliberately pushed to abysmal of negation. The concerned public officials instead of choosing to resign after the news got public, shamelessly sticks to defend their ill deeds. Sticking to state of constant denial, owing the responsibility of mishaps undertaken in one's realm marks an in-depth degree of incompetence whilst negating any expectancy of betterment.

At these very dismal circumstances the government has to turn education sector into one of the well-funded sector, aiming to rid the country out of calamity of illiteracy. It is right time the government gets this sector streamlined well nurtured capable to compete with developing counties of the world. A nation reaches to prominence, turn unbeatable and matchless, only when greater intrepid steps are taken to eliminate illiteracy by declaring the state of educational emergency.



## Jalrez Incident Discloses Uttered Negligence

By Asmatyari

Security condition in Afghanistan is continuously on decline. Superficially, a strong nexus is found between security institutions that are ready to thwart plot anywhere round the clock –the security forces are capable to respond with full might any possible attack by insurgents. Nonetheless the former continuous wave of violence highlighted serious drawbacks in security network and retarded capacity of Afghan security officials to restrain militants at bay.

How strange to learn the cleanup operation ongoing in tribal region of Afghanistan has served the present shock wave of violence. It is agreeable to find, Minister of Interior Noorulhaq Ulomi accusing Pakistan's military operation ousted insurgents from Waziristan –are playing a detrimental effect on the country's security as these insurgents were simply being driven across the border. Then the question arises who would guard the border areas of Afghanistan and emplace a check over the movements of insurgents? Undoubtedly, it is the security forces that have to avert any such plot prior to its execution. It is disputed –militants easily cross tens if not hundreds of security checks carrying tones of explosives and manage to reach the high valued targets unnoticed. If the said proposition is true then credibility of interior security diminishes otherwise the weakness must be accepted and should be transformed into strength.

Responding the query raised by MPs relative to the issue of ongoing battles in the north of the country between insurgents and security forces the security officials' affirmed the killed militants are replaced by extra militants, hardening the state of affairs. Despite, owning 350,000 strong army that outnumber militants multiply the bases of security forces falling to insurgents –is worrying. It's repeatedly heard the security personnel warring militants were not aptly supported with needed backup that resulted in their setback –consequently a base had to be fallen to militants. This certainly marks security loophole and lack of coordination between corresponding departments.

The same tale is affirmed from a biannual report compiled on the basis of government-issued figures and statements published by TOLONews. The report records a visible change in war tactics by armed insurgents subsequent to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) assumed the responsibility. The report read about 5,363 tragic incidents with the insurgent found focused more on group attacks that resulted in the fall of several districts to insurgent. Helmand with 448 insecurity incidents during the period topped the list of most unsafe provinces, followed by Kandahar, Nangarhar, Herat, Kunduz, Uruzgan, Faryab, Ghazni, Sar-e-Pul and Kabul. Bamyan with seven and Panjshir with only two incidents were among the safe provinces, the report stated. About 1,485 ANSF members, 917 civilians and four foreign soldiers were also killed in these attacks. On all the security officials carrying out clean operation never resort to desecration of dead bodies.

It was July 2011 –the US marine forces undertook an indescribable but shameful event came into light via YouTube video surfacing. The incident received wide renunciation from across the world that earned

US's marine humiliation and indignity in Afghanistan and elsewhere. The aforesaid video contains showed Marines joking and laughing as they urinated on three dead Taliban fighters in the southern province of Helmand. Primarily, marine is a US's navy force, nonetheless the advances have let it evolve and adjust with air and land forces earning the distinction of "third air force" and "second land army" respectively. A more heinous incident took place in Jalrez where Taliban exercised the height of insanity vandalizes the ALP officials.

It is the worst –the storming and seizure of nine police post in central Maidan Wardak province by large number of Taliban. Reportedly, Afghan local police fell prey to Taliban after a tough battle while running short of bullets and delayed or denied backup support. After, shooting the 30 Afghan local police dead their bodies were chopped and dishonored. The words of denunciation fall short to such an evil execution that left everyone unnerved. It was the continuation of insane activities insurgents undertake –nothing less of defilement of their entitlement of being supreme creature.

This is not the first tragedy of this sort we should be regretful of and resort to condemnation only –the whole state of affairs depicts the government warring militants counteract as if all the militants have surrendered to them and vowed to disband armed militancy. If the government runs short of 24/7 a standby force stationed a little distance apart from posts, endangering the lives of others security officials seem too awful for words motive. It has turned into political norm subsequent to tragic incident taking place the head of the state come forth denouncing the incident and orders a high-level team to investigate the attack and present the report as soon as possible. Following the course of the day, the Interior Minister and the Army Chief visited Jalrez promising the locals to avenge the brutal Jalrez killings –it's no use crying over spilled milk. If the concerned officials exercise their resolve only after an incident take place and keep on waiting for another to occur, is a deliberate display of negligence.

What would we earn of mere resorting to condemnation only without relying on pragmatic approaches to solve our problems? The incident worth profound condemnation there a minority in Afghanistan took to demonstrate against inhuman tragic incident. The senators too decided to close the doors of the Upper House until Wednesday in protest of what they called the national unity government's negligence and carelessness in handling the clash between Afghan troops and Taliban militants in Jalrez district.

Being known to the fact that the employees of ALP following recruitment are subjected to preliminary trainings that consists military skills such as marksmanship and IED detection; how would the government trust on ALP officials for security maintenance given threat of insurgents is evident? The formation of this force despite presence of ANP was meant to free Afghan National Security Forces from the defensive role and allow them to focus on offensive operations ahead of the withdrawal of foreign military units from Afghanistan. The government's sole reliance on this disorganized and poorly equipped unit in the provinces fighting insurgency on the frontline manifests incompetence and uttered slackness.

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

## Afghan Women – The Vulnerable Part of Society

By Hujjatullah Zia

The international community said the fall of the Taliban in 2001 would bring in a new era of rights. Afghanistan's women and girls would be returned to schools and workplaces and freed from the infamously fierce restrictions on their lives. It was a key political justification used by the British and Americans for their continued presence. That year US secretary of state Colin Powell declared that restoring women's human rights would "not be negotiable". Tony Blair promised: "The conflict will not be the end. We will not walk away, as the outside world has done so many times before." Now, with the withdrawal of international forces and their caravan of international agencies, there is evidence that Afghan women have seen very few of the promised changes and are terrified of the future.

Millions of dollars were invested by foreign countries for empowering women in social, political, educational and cultural arenas. In the wake of the Taliban's downfall, thousands of girls flocked to schools and social barriers were lifted. Women were entitled to be presidential candidates and a considerable number of women were elected as members of parliament. Despite all these rapid and tangible changes, Afghan women continue to suffer in some ways.

A report by Global Rights estimates that almost 90 percent of women experience physical, sexual or psychological abuse or forced marriage. Overwhelmingly, it is their families who are committing these crimes. In the majority of cases the abuse is committed by the people they love and trust the most – their families.

While shelters are trying to provide protection and legal help to some, many women return to abusive homes because there is no alternative. Unable to escape their circumstances, some are turning to drastic measures like self-immolation to end their suffering.

Mariam was seven months pregnant the last time her husband almost killed her. She does not remember what triggered the attack. What she remembers is being slammed to the floor, and her husband's foot crushing her neck. Mariam, which is not her real name, has been hiding in a secret women's shelter in Kabul for the past two months. She lives with around 20 women who have travelled here from across Afghanistan, each with their own horrific story of abuse.

Some have left violent husbands. Others have been raped or are fleeing forced marriages arranged by their parents. All of them are terrified that they will be killed by their families.

The current solar year of Afghanistan began with the horrific death of Farkhunda – a 27-year-old woman who was lynched by frenzied mob near a shrine in Kabul for the false claim of burning holy Koran. Her death led to massive protests across the country, 26 arrests and renewed

calls for authorities to ensure that women are protected from violence in Afghanistan. Four of the perpetrators have been sentenced to death in primary court, but 18 were exonerated for having no documents available against them.

But recently, an Afghan appeal court has quashed death sentences imposed on four men for their part in the mob killing of Farkhunda. The court also acquitted the keeper of the shrine. Family members and rights activists have expressed outrage at the decision, which was taken in secret. Judge Ali Masir Murid has said that three of the condemned men had been sentenced to 20 years in jail; a fourth received 10 years because he is a minor.

The way the appeal was heard, in a closed court, with no journalists or other observers present, is only one of the troubling aspects of this decision. Exact details of the ruling have not yet been formally announced, but this does appear to be the final appeal hearing.

Prominent women's rights activist Wazhma Frogh said that if the keeper of the shrine does now walk free, then she is "completely outraged". "Farkhunda was killed because she was a woman," she said. And the judges have treated her case lightly. In Afghanistan, "not only the Taliban, but the whole system is oppressing women", she added.

Since the death of Farkhunda Malikzada, life has come to a standstill for those she left behind, said her father, 72-year-old Mohammad Nader Malikzada. "We cannot live a normal life, our children cannot go to school or college, we can't even go shopping. Most of us are mentally ill; we are under such psychological pressure. It is hell in this house," he said.

Fearing violence, kidnapping, or retribution from police or members of the mob who have been released, they rarely leave the house.

"What will happen if the children cannot go to school? Will they be illiterate?" Najibullah, Farkhunda's 37-year-old brother, is cited to say.

In the days after Farkhunda's murder, family members met with First Lady Rula Ghani, who said the "horrible, barbaric tragedy" had highlighted how violent Afghan society has become after more than 30 years of war.

War-torn Afghanistan is ranked as one of the most dangerous places in the world to be born a woman, according to a survey by the Thompson Reuters Foundation.

Under the Taliban women were banned from going to school and working. They were not allowed to leave their homes without a male relative or be seen in public without a burqa.

For defying the regime's repressive laws, women were openly flogged and executed. But 13 years after the fall of the Taliban, and despite the influx of billions of dollars in development aid, many Afghan women are still living in terror.

Hujjatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at [zia\\_hujjat@yahoo.com](mailto:zia_hujjat@yahoo.com)



Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa

Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Email: [outlookafghanistan@gmail.com](mailto:outlookafghanistan@gmail.com)

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.