

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



July 14, 2016

Smuggling of the Human

As there have been poverty and discriminations in different parts of world, there have been different types of social problems as well. Among them one of the most dominating one erupting from the countries with disorder and poverty is Human smuggling. Human smuggling is defined as 'the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation or illegal entry of a person or persons across an international border, in violation of one or more countries laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents'. The term is understood as and often used interchangeably with migrant smuggling, which is defined by the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime as "...the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a state party of which the person is not a national"

Human smuggling takes place when the person being smuggled gets into any sort of agreement with the smuggler and gives his consent to be smuggled to the desired country. The agreement is basically decided on a particular amount of money that has to be paid by the customer to the smuggler after reaching to the destination. Human smuggling is not the same as the human trafficking as both the concepts differ from each other in certain ways. In human trafficking the consent of the customer is not involved and they are trafficked from one place to another for certain purposes; throughout the process they serve as a commodity that can be bought and sold whether they agree upon it or not. In most of the cases they do not even realize that they are being bought and sold.

Human smuggling is a complex phenomenon and it involves different individuals and some times groups. The whole process actually includes these individuals and groups as various players at different locations that take the customers to their desired place. The techniques used by different individuals and groups differ from one another and they include both legal and illegal ways of crossing the borders. One of the most disturbing facts about human smuggling is that it includes the risk of life. The illegal ways that are adopted through the process include very risky attempts within which the people can easily lose their lives. However, the facts show that people consider this choice much better than the lives they are having in their own countries and happily agree to opt it. Another fact is that the people being smuggled do not always involve young men. They also include children, women and even old people and this makes the process even more pathetic.

Human smuggling is mostly a trend in the countries where the standard of life is not satisfactory and people suffer because of lack of economic facilities or they are threatened by instability that has even jeopardized their lives. Feeling dissatisfied for life or threatened by danger, they agree to give the rights of their lives to someone whom they may not even know and for that they even pay money. What they only have in their minds is the dreams of better lives, which may not be fulfilled at all but may easily fill the pocket of the ones who are involved in this dirty game.

Human smuggling has been happening in different part of the world. Over the years, smuggling has evolved into a sophisticated service industry, with certain routes and enclaves used by smugglers becoming practically institutionalized; for example: from Mexico and Central America to the United States, from West Asia through Greece and Turkey to Western Europe, and within East and Southeast Asia. Responsible for the flourishing business of people smuggling are a combination of interacting factors, from weak legislation and lax border controls to corrupt officials and the power of organized crime.

Afghanistan is a country that has been the victim of this evil. The dissatisfied, insecure and poverty stricken life has compelled the people to leave their motherland and run towards any country where they can find comfort. The series of civil wars and religious fanaticism have made the life miserable for most of the people and many have migrated out of the country, among them there are many who have opted for being smuggled. Since the downfall of Taliban the circumstances have seemed to improve but there are serious concerns about the withdrawal of international forces and return of instability. People are thinking of securing their lives by leaving the country and the human smugglers have come to the scene to rescue them. The number of human smugglers has risen in Kabul where they are making good money by promising the people 'bright future'. They charge people about thousands of dollars to take them on the risky way to Europe, Canada or Australia.

Human smuggling is really a serious crime and all the ways that strengthen the process must be checked properly through strong legal measures. At the same time Afghan government must make sure that ordinary people are provided the rudimentary requirements of life and stable political and social circumstances so that they should not go for this option.



The Outcome of Warsaw Summit!

By Hujjatullah Zia

With the escalating militancy and terrorist attacks, Afghan civilian and soldiers have sustained large casualties within the last two years despite having the upper hand in battlefields. Afghanistan is in the throes of insurgency as the Taliban declared "Omari Operation" and the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) gained foothold in the country. A spate of suicide bombings and targeted killings, mainly after the death of Mullah Akhtar Mansour which hurt the Taliban factions emotionally, spill the blood of our nation indiscriminately. More than 5,000 forces in Afghanistan were killed in action and over 14,000 were wounded in 2015, when the Taliban staged a series of attacks that upended US assumptions about the ability of Afghan forces to secure the country after more than fourteen years of war.

US Army General John Nicholson has said that Afghan forces are suffering rising levels of battlefield casualties this year after unprecedented numbers of police and soldiers were killed and wounded in 2015. "This year, we're seeing more tactical success (by the Afghans) on the battlefield but more casualties as well," Nicholson is cited as saying. He praised Afghan forces for being able to recruit new fighters and carry on, despite the casualty rates.

On July 6, US President Barack Obama discarded plans to reduce the number of US forces to 5,500 troops from 9,800 before he leaves office, citing precarious security in Afghanistan. Obama now plans to leave around 8,400 US troops.

The Taliban fighters violate humanitarian law frequently. Therefore, women and children are too the victims of terrorism. Scores of civilians lost their lives within the two past years. The systematic killings of religious minority group, the travelers' abductions, which followed by death, and the civilians' impromptu deaths in suicide bombings on streets made the national and international news. Simultaneously, the Taliban kill the Wounded In Action (WIA) and detainees in the worst possible way without considering the humanitarian law - this is not a matter of surprise, though, about the ideologues whose dogma is based on war and violence. Since Afghanistan is embroiled in the war imposed on it by warring factions, the issue of combating terrorism has been debated widely in many international summits and conferences, including the Saturday's NATO summit in Poland. Afghanistan is not able to tackle the issue on its own and needs the support of international community. On the surface - as the US waged "war on terror" against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan following the 9/11 terrorist attack - it seemed that terrorism was rooted out from Afghanistan with the downfall of the Taliban's regime. However, the temporary pause in terrorist activities was the calm before the storm and they were reorganized to carry out attacks against Afghan and the

US forces. Therefore, Afghan President Muhammad Ashraf Ghani said at NATO summit in Warsaw that peace was their highest national priority, but reaching peace required understanding the nature of the war imposed upon the Afghan nation. He believed that with NATO's resolute support would redouble efforts to create a democratic constitutional order and an accountable and effective state that could bring peace in Afghanistan and secure its future from the menace of terrorism and thanked the NATO countries for "fighting shoulder to shoulder" with Afghan forces.

NATO will sustain its Resolute Support (RS) Mission beyond 2016 in Afghanistan and pledged to continue funding Afghan National Security forces through 2020. In a joint declaration at the two-day Warsaw summit, the alliance members said Afghanistan still faced serious challenges and further efforts were needed to fully safeguard and consolidate joint achievements.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg confirmed that Afghanistan still encountered serious instability and violence. "So our continued political, military and financial engagement is of great importance," he said. He also praised Germany, Italy and Turkey and all other allies and partners that contributed to the mission.

Needless to say, terrorism has changed into a global issue and blackmails the entire world, including Afghanistan. It should be noted that insecurity in a country will imperil the regional peace and prosperity. Take the example of Iraq as the emergence of the ISIL group put the security of its neighbors, mainly Syria and Turkey, under threat. So, terrorists will cross the borders to pursue their sinister targets. It is worth saying that a country which is fallen in this quagmire cannot tackle the issue alone, especially when super power countries face deadlock.

All debates should not be centralized over terrorism alone but there are also numerous factors which contribute to this issue. One of the largely known factors and mainstay of the Taliban fighters in Afghanistan is narcotic drug. According to the United Nations World Drug Report of 2016, Afghanistan is by a long way still the world's largest opium producer, accounting for some 70 percent (3,300 tons) of global opium production. Reportedly, the total value of the illicit opiate economy in Afghanistan was \$2.8 billion USD in 2014 - equivalent to 13 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). It is believed that the Taliban and Mafia groups get the lion's share. So, they never plan to abandon war in the country. Afghanistan and the world will have to launch a parallel operation against terrorism and narcotic drug. In a nutshell, combating terrorism without considering the contributing factors will not bear the desired fruit.

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Global Cooperation as a Life-and-Death Issue

By Jim O'Neill

The uncertainty generated by the United Kingdom's recent vote to leave the European Union - which has sent shockwaves through global markets - has been dominating headlines. But, as we prepare to face new political trials, we must not lose sight of the challenges we already face, especially global health challenges like the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which has no regard for economic performance or political stability.

As it stands, an estimated 700,000 people are losing their lives to drug-resistant infections each year. By 2050, this figure could skyrocket to ten million per year, at a cumulative cost to world GDP of \$100 trillion.

To avoid that outcome, in May the Review on AMR that I lead published its strategy for tackling such infections, laying out proposals to ensure the development of the necessary new antibiotics, and to use existing antibiotics more efficiently in humans and agriculture. Of the ten major interventions we proposed, four are particularly important:

- Launch a global campaign, tailored for different regions, to improve public awareness of AMR.
- Address the market failure in the development of new antibiotics by introducing lump-sum market-entry rewards to developers of successful new drugs, while ensuring global access.
- Advance innovation and improve use of diagnostic technology to support more efficient use of antibiotics.
- Implement country-level targets focused on reducing unnecessary use of antibiotics in agriculture and humans.

With our final report complete, the Review will now continue to make the international case for action directly to political leaders. For example, in my capacity as the Review's Chairman, I recently discussed our recommendations at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, and with United Nations and United States policymakers in New York and Washington, DC.

In these discussions, policymakers' growing awareness of the danger posed by AMR stood out. Just two years ago, the topic of drug-resistant infections would usually be met with questions like "What is AMR?" or "Why would a finance minister take charge of a health crisis?" Few understood the scale and multifaceted nature of the challenge, and thus the need for a comprehensive approach. I asked myself similar questions when British Prime Minister David Cameron first asked me to lead the Review on AMR.

The situation has changed considerably since then. Policymakers from countries with a wide variety of economic and political systems are engaging on the AMR problem, with some countries already taking steps to tackle it. All of this provides grounds for hope that 2016 may be the year when real change gets underway. But hope is one thing; action is another. While high-level meetings

and speeches about AMR send the right message, they will mean nothing if we do not manage to translate the current momentum into concrete action, beginning at the G20 and UN meetings this September. And while my most recent discussions suggest that agreements are likely to be reached at both of these meetings, it is far from certain that they will match the scale of the problem.

At the G20, the needed agreement should focus on developing a global mechanism to re-invigorate the market for new antibiotics that are globally affordable, accessible, and used as efficiently as possible. At the UN, the goal should be to turn the mantra of "access, not excess" into a reality, with an agreement to reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics in agriculture, and to spearhead a global awareness campaign. Increased funding for research and development of new antibiotics and diagnostics to fight AMR is also vital.

Crucially, the agreements must have teeth. Countries should set their own objectives to fit their particular circumstances and needs, but there must be some provisions to ensure that all are pulling their weight. For starters, efforts to fight AMR should be incorporated into broader economic-development strategies, including the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, progress should be measured, not only so that policymakers, companies, and health systems can be held accountable, but also so that others can emulate their successes. To this end, we may need new metrics for calculating the impact of AMR. While this sounds technical (and it is), the reality is that top AMR scientists think that agreeing on common measurements could change the way individual countries set their own targets and improve our capacity to measure progress in the coming years.

Finally, to account for changing political priorities and personalities, we need a constant champion in the fight against AMR. For example, a UN envoy on AMR could be appointed, to continue making the international case for addressing the issue and to challenge countries to meet their targets. Without such a consistent reminder of the need to tackle AMR, not to mention transparency about progress, the world could become sidetracked and miss the rapidly closing window of opportunity to deliver the changes needed to stop the rise of drug-resistant infections.

Over the last couple of years, governments, industry, and international organizations have made important strides in meeting the AMR threat. But the really hard decisions must be taken now. If we are to prevent the slow-motion car crash of rising AMR, our leaders must take evasive action now. We know what we have to do; now we must get on with doing it. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

Jim O'Neill, a former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, is Commercial Secretary to the UK Treasury, Honorary Professor of Economics at Manchester University, a visiting research fellow at the economic think tank Bruegel, and Chairman of the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance.



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