

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

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Unemployment Must be Reduced

The menace of unemployment is influencing almost every province of Afghanistan. Though Afghanistan has a very young population, which means that it has great potentials that can support the country in development and economic growth, the country has not been able to provide job opportunities to its youngsters and thus it is not able to take advantage of this distinction.

As the country has been largely dominated by different era of disorder and instability, the socio-economic infrastructure has not been developed much and as a result the job opportunities have always been limited. Though Afghan society is an agricultural society, the sector has not been able to absorb a large number of unemployed people. Mostly the people have been engaged in agricultural activities on personal basis and the sector has not been developed into an industry on modern grounds; therefore, the ones who own lands can benefit from them while the ones who do not own such lands are bound to remain out of work.

Undoubtedly, unemployment has done great damage to Afghan society. The people who have not been employed have mostly become the part of terrorist networks or the filthy business of narcotics, or even they have become addicted to drugs. As they do not have any other work to do or any way of making both ends meet they do not have much option but to join insurgency. There are many educated youth in the country, who have no other choice but to join the ranks of insurgents as there are no job opportunities for them. It is really vital that the government must understand the link between the growing unemployment and increasing insecurity and instability. More than any other thing, government must concentrate on providing job opportunities to the educated youngsters and thus pave the way for prosperity and development. It is really unfortunate to note that the youth who should be having a constructive role in the country are now supporting the ranks of the terrorists.

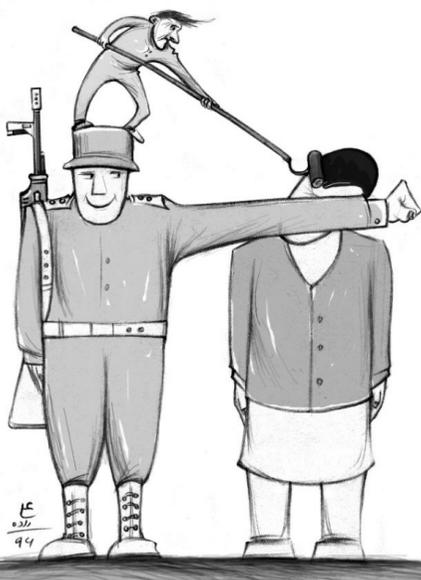
It is essential for Afghanistan to create job opportunities for its population. Job opportunities would definitely enable the residents of the country to make positive use of their capabilities for betterment and development of a society. It is important to understand that a state and its population are highly dependent on each other. It is difficult to imagine any of them living separately. As the state guarantees better life opportunities for its population, the population in return must, through thinking and action, strive to make the state stronger.

However, if the job opportunities remain limited and the unemployment remains rampant, the consequences will be really severe. Though unemployment in itself is a severe problem, it is also the root of many other problems. Unemployment is basically an injustice done to a population. It is basically the unavailability of jobs when there are people who have the required qualifications to be employed for different positions. Thus it is injustice, as the qualified people do not get what they deserve – a respectable profession to join so as to use their education and knowledge.

The people who spend a lengthy process of completing their education or acquiring particular skills should be absorbed by the job industry as soon as they are ready to work. Failure to provide such an opportunity may influence those people to a great extent. They, in order to live alive, need to earn a livelihood, which is threatened by unemployment; therefore, they seek to find out other ways of earning a livelihood. In the process they either join a profession that may not be of their choice or they may join illegal ways of earning, which would damage the society to a large extent.

It is also feared that in the post withdrawal era, the country would face major economic challenges. The financial support has already started decreasing for Afghanistan. In near future one of the biggest challenges would be to create job opportunities for Afghan people. In absence of sufficient job opportunities, it would be really very difficult to maintain peace, tranquility and order. The international community and the Afghan authorities must make sure that they create enough jobs so as to save the country from falling into instability and economic crisis.

The role of economy is very much vital for a country. It, for a country, is as important as circulatory system within a human body. As without circulatory system blood cannot be pumped through different parts of the body, in the similar fashion without economy, money and other basic requirements of life cannot reach to different parts of a country. And the economic system can only be strengthened when the capable and skilled individuals participate in strengthening the economic system. Especially the youngsters who get qualified from universities must be given opportunities to present and use their skills in the profession of their choice and interest. Young blood equipped with determination and patriotism can definitely play a significant role; all they need is equitable treatment from the prevailing system. Moreover, equal job opportunities must be created for girls and women as well as they form an integral part of Afghan populace and can play a tremendous role in improving Afghan economic system.



The First Anniversary of the Great Victory of our Democracy

By Binali Yıldırım

It has been a year since we thwarted the bloodiest terrorist attack in the history of the Republic of Turkey. Turkey has proven its resilience, ability to recover and strength in the course of last year. It is essential to make an evaluation of the past year and look forward.

First of all, we should remember what we have been through. What happened that night was an attack on the Turkish state by traitors, who infiltrated the Turkish military, who are loyal to a deranged man who sees himself as the "imam of the universe." We were confronted with murderers, who bombed their own national Parliament, destroyed the headquarters of police special forces that fight at the forefront against terrorist organizations, driven tanks over unarmed civilians, fired from fighter jets and attack helicopters. We have never before been through such brutality in our history. This terrorist network killed 250 of our citizens and left more than 2,000 injured.

Going back, two sources of pride emerged from this bitter experience. The first one is the courage and determination of the Turkish people. Our citizens from all backgrounds and political views took to the streets against the putschists. Our television channels continued broadcasting despite the threats and raids by coup plotters. The Turkish nation became one.

Second, the Turkish nation showed the entire world that it defended democracy and will continue to do so. My people demonstrated that only the governments taking office through democratic processes and the will of the people would rule Turkey, not the armed groups. The strongest legitimacy is the democratic one. We passed this tough democracy test as a country.

But the question that my grandchild asked me with all her naivety that night will never fade away from my mind or anyone else's: "Grandpa, aren't these our soldiers?" Indeed, what kind of mindset would drive a person to attack his own people, institutions, symbols and leaders in such a brutal manner? The answer underlies the nature of the treachery network we are facing. That night, we were confronted with a crime network, blindly following the orders of ringleader Fetullah Gülen via a professor of theology. We are talking about a treacherous gang that failed to grasp the notion of the glorious millennial history of Turkish soldiers, saluting the manager of a company owned by the Gülenist Terror Organization (FETÖ) and the ostensible owner of a school operated by the same organization, at the military base they used as their headquarters.

As a matter of fact, my government had actually unmasked Fetullah Gülen and taken action accordingly. We had already been exerting efforts to unveil the existence of this structure inside the state and had made significant progress to this end. However, the July 15 coup attempt bitterly revealed that the threat we are facing is beyond our estimation, that it is

much deeper and more vital. The magnitude of the plot masterminded by Fetullah Gülen for the past 40 years to seize control of the Turkish state was exposed. FETÖ members, following the orders of Fetullah Gülen, had acted unnoticed inside the capillaries of the system and reached almost all power centers like an infection caused by a virus that gradually takes over the vital organs of a body. Comprehensive administrative, criminal and legal investigations have been conducted throughout the year since July 15, 2016. Extensive evidence has been reached on this structure that masterminded and implemented the coup attempt.

The evidence has demonstrated that we are facing a heretical, esoteric belief system built by Fetullah Gülen. The schools and dorms of the organization operated as brainwashing and recruitment centers. Members of the organization indoctrinated in these intuitions and loyal to their mastermind, whom they believe to be "the Messiah," were enabled to infiltrate the state apparatus. This way, the followers, ready to resort to all sorts of illegal and immoral acts without any questioning, were promoted to key positions. These people hatched plots such as cheating in public service entrance tests, illegal wiretappings, blackmailing and sham trials. The organization had been financed through so-called charities and foundations. Billion dollars worth of money transactions have been laundered via large companies and banks. The organization's media branch functioned as a propaganda tool. Is it conceivable for an "education movement" to operate in cell structures, recognize members with code names, develop encrypted applications to communicate among themselves, teach its members techniques of counter-intelligence and tactics to mask their affiliation? This new generation of terrorist organization has resorted to every possible method to eliminate those who are not with them and tried to control not only the political power but also the state of the Republic of Turkey in line with their own heretical ambitions. It is this heretical and dangerous ambition the Turkish nation thwarted on July 15. I can say that we have destroyed the backbone of the organization in Turkey with the measures we have taken. However, the threat is not limited to Turkey. The organization has similar structures in many countries. Currently, they continue to plant treacherous seeds in other states. This time, they are more actively seeking global economic and political influence for their survival. I hereby would like to alert our friends once again.

The Turkish nation proved to the world that democracy is not a cheap victory but is precious enough to die for its sake. Our primary duty is to take necessary measures to prevent it from happening again. We are making efforts to manage this challenging process within the constitutional order. Eventually, Turkish democracy was targeted and our democracy won. So our aim and endeavors will be to take the necessary steps in time to crown our democracy.

Binali Yıldırım is the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Hate Crime – A Great Cause for Concern

By Hujjatullah Zia

When women clad in Islamic veil boarded the passenger train in the Mainpuri district of India on Wednesday, they were chased and robbed. The male offenders jumped inside the train and attacked a Muslim family and the passengers who sought to rescue them. "We were attacked with rods. They robbed us and molested the women.

They did not spare even my 17-year-old mentally challenged son," says one of the victims. On the same day, a 36-year-old Muslim man Ismail Shah was injured severely after being assaulted by Hindu cow vigilantes who accused him of carrying beef in India's Maharashtra state.

On June 23, about 20 men attacked four Muslims on a train in the outskirts of New Delhi, fatally stabbing a teenager and injuring two others. In the last three months, five killings of the same nature took place in broad daylight and in busy public areas in India.

Rights groups say Indian officials have been slow to strongly condemn the attacks and that police action against perpetrators has been inadequate.

Following a suicide bombing at a concert in Manchester and an attack in London by three terrorists, a tall man wearing a black hooded top pushed a Muslim woman – as she was getting out of her car and crossing the road with her 3-year-old daughter – to the ground, pulled off her veil and threw towards her without exchanging a word. The attack shocked her tremendously. The UK police confirmed they were treating it as a racially or religiously aggravated hate crime. After the spate of terrorist attacks in many parts of the world, Muslim men and women suffer from hate crime. Women have turned highly vulnerable to the persistent hate crime in countries claiming democracy and human rights. Despite paying heavy sacrifices in combating terrorism, Muslims are pigeonholed as radicals and treated violently in public places in foreign countries.

It is an unmistakable fact that stoking hate crime and discriminating one on the basis of their accidental backgrounds will lead to horrible consequence in a society. No wonder, assaulting and humiliating Muslims will outrage the public conscience around Islamic countries, if not the world, and will fill religious extremists with stronger sense of revenge. Therefore, the extremist groups will seek to expand their reach and intensify their attacks more than ever before. It should be noted that Muslims and Islamic countries bear the brunt of terrorism and extremism. For

instance, thousands of Afghan people were killed and wounded in terrorist attacks and still suffer painfully as a result of terrorism. Simultaneously, Muslims in Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, etc. sustain heavy casualties in the wake of deadly terrorist attacks.

In his famous speech "New Beginning" in Cairo on June 4, 2009, the US former President Barack Obama pointed out the very fact as he said, "None of us should tolerate these extremists. They have killed in many countries. They have killed people of different faiths – more than any other, they have killed Muslims. Their actions are irreconcilable with the rights of human beings, the progress of nations, and with Islam. The Holy Koran teaches that whoever kills an innocent, it is as if he has killed all mankind; and whoever saves a person, it is as if he has saved all mankind.... Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism – it is an important part of promoting peace."

It is believed that radicalism does not necessarily belong to Muslims but to the followers of many religions. For example, the cow vigilantes in India attack individuals violently disregarding their religious principles, which is also called a radical act.

Indeed, human societies suffered severely in light of religious intolerance, racial superiority and ethnocentric acts throughout the history. Disregarding human rights and dignity led to injustice and cruelty around the globe. One should realize the fact that terrorist networks blackmail the entire world and spill the blood of individuals indiscriminately. Their acts simply reflect their radical ideology but will not represent a nation or a religion.

Therefore, they kill people of different faiths and target churches, temples, mosques, etc.

With the emergence of a strong common enemy, the world needs to strengthen the spirit of brotherhood and religious tolerance. The bloody wars which led to human catastrophes and inflicted indescribable casualties upon nations within the history, must be an eye-opener for the human societies. Discriminating one on the basis of their caste, color and creed will generate violence. We are all members of human family and violation of one's rights and dignity – in any parts of the world – regardless of their racial and religious backgrounds will be a stain on collective conscience. We have to raise our voice about any acts of violence being committed against religious groups, ethnic minorities or simple people.

Hujjatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at zia_hujjat@yahoo.com

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net

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