

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



July 20, 2016

The Uncontrolled Crimes

With the insecurity on the rise in Afghanistan, the crime rate also seems to be troubling people; particularly in the capital Kabul. According to the figures by the Kabul police, from May 20 to June 20, 333 serious criminal incidents occurred in Kabul. And, since June 20 to date, 283 crimes cases have been documented by Kabul police. It should be noted here that these are the figures that show the cases which were serious and were reported to police. It is quite possible that there were cases that were not reported to police; therefore, the actual figure may be quite high.

It is necessary to understand the link between the rising insecurity and rising rate of crimes. As, more energy and concentration is dedicated to counter-insurgency activities, there is lesser concentration on controlling the crimes. Moreover, it has to be understood as well that in certain cases the criminal activities, in fact, fund the insurgency. For example, kidnapping for ransom is one of the ways through which insurgents manage to generate income for their terrorist activities.

There is another important link between the deteriorating standards of living and rising rates of crimes. As the relevant authorities have not been able to provide opportunities to the people for earning their livelihood and improving their standards of living, the people are compelled to opt for other illegal means. In many criminal activities, there are people involved who otherwise could prove to be positive for the society had they been provided with better life opportunities. Thus, the rising rate of unemployment, shrinking opportunities for business and rising poverty all contribute to the rising rate of crime in the country.

Another reason behind the rise in crimes is the prevailing lawlessness. As there is no rule of law and the criminals can easily take advantage of the situation and carry on their activities. The police are not able to control the crimes while the courts are not able to handle the increasing number of cases. On most of the occasions, the criminals are never taken to the courts; the police decide about their fate and in most of the cases set them free by charging them some amount of fine. Moreover, the limited rule of law is only for the poor and powerless, while the powerful criminals are above the law and they can never be touched or brought to law by the law-enforcement agencies. It is imperative to note that in most of the cases the large criminal gangs are supervised by the individuals who are politically and economically influential within our society.

The increase of crime in a society enhances the economic, social and psychological sufferings of the masses. For instance, the murder of the head of the family brings myriads of problems and difficulties for the wife, children and other dependents. The increasing rate of crime in the country disorganizes and disintegrates the whole society and affects all social institutions adversely.

Keeping in view the negative and devastating impacts of crimes in our society, it is really vital to follow a comprehensive strategy to control the situation. The education of masses would decrease the nature and rate of crime in the country. Education inculcates respect for law among the people and promotes among them a sense of understanding of the environment in a better way. An educated person proves to be a better citizen in comparison to an illiterate and an ignorant person. Adult education centers should also be encouraged side by side with the educational program for the coming generations on a country level. Normally, an educated person thinks about the after effects before he intend to commit a crime.

Moreover, every efforts should be made to improve the living standard of the masses, as improvement in the living standard would bring about better housing and sanitation facilities for the masses. Good and enough food and clothing with better environment of the family are correlated with a higher living standard which will lead to a better and healthy socialization of an individual. Frustration due to poverty and economic insecurity would be no more a dominating factor among the masses, which may help in decreasing the rate of crime in the country. The number of cottage industries should also be increased to keep the villagers busy in slack seasons and also to enable them to raise their living standards.

Though the total prevention of the crimes is something impossible, there should be efforts to adopt preventive measures on the one hand, strive to amend the criminals on the other by providing them better chances for their readjustment in society as normal and useful member. It is not a matter of more police, more courts and jails which can decrease the rate of crime, but the creation of healthy brotherhood, better social environment and healthy society, culture and personality that can be remedy in the long run.



More Europe, Less Brussels

By Carl Bildt

The failed coup in Turkey has reminded us – as though a reminder was needed – of the once-inconceivable stability that the European Union has brought to Europe. But if the post-Brexit EU is to survive, it will need to change the way it thinks about itself.

So far, sad to say, this isn't happening. Immediately after the Brexit vote, for example, the six founding countries of what used to be the European Economic Community (EEC) – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands – gathered to discuss what to do. To no one's surprise, the other 21 EU member states felt offended at being left out.

This incident points to the larger challenge that the EU must overcome if it is to secure its post-Brexit future. Simply put, the idea of the Union must resonate with all Europeans, not just those who get invited to exclusive meetings.

The EEC was established in 1957, and the official aspiration then, as it is now for the EU, was to recreate the Europe of Charlemagne that existed more than a thousand years ago.

Since then, European leaders have gathered time and again by Charlemagne's ancient throne in Aachen, in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, to deliver visionary speeches announcing that the time has finally come to build a truly integrated Europe. Aachen has turned into the Mecca for true believers in the EU's founding myth.

While I agree that Charlemagne is an intriguing historical personality, I do not find him particularly inspiring. He was an impressive warrior, but probably an illiterate one, and the empire he created fell apart soon after his death. The rise of Europe and the West certainly did not start with Charlemagne.

The Europe that inspires me is not the Europe of old warriors; it is the Europe of the thinkers and the traders. It is their contributions that, over the centuries, transformed Europe from the global backwater it had become after the fall of Rome into a hub of intellectual progress and innovation that created the West and changed the course of humanity.

This is the Europe of Copernicus and Erasmus, Henry the Navigator and Isaac Newton, and all the other pioneers who unshackled the human mind from the superstition and prejudice of the immediate past. Their Europe was wide and borderless, far larger than the Europe of Charlemagne. Immanuel Kant's treatises on how republics could achieve "perpetual peace" were written in Königsberg, in what today is a part of Russia. And the great trading cities of Gdansk, Seville, and Venice maintained

links far beyond the borders of today's EU.

The European project can be renewed only if those who support it move away from the limited Charlemagne-inspired vision, stop talking about "old" and "new" members, and demonstrate in words as well as deeds that they are open to ideas from every part of Europe. The EU will not work unless all member states are regarded as equals in determining a common future.

In 2004, when the EU added ten new members (including eight ex-communist countries), I half-jokingly suggested that the Union move its headquarters from "old-EU" Brussels to a more geographically central, "new-EU" location, such as Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. The idea behind this fanciful thought was to symbolize the abandonment of a conceptual model that I saw hindering a more open, diverse, and inclusive Union.

The move from Brussels obviously did not happen, but neither did the mental transformation from that old Aachen paradigm. Unfortunately, there can be little doubt that the conclaves held by the Aachen brotherhood within the Brussels bubble provided much fodder for the ruthless, and ruthlessly dishonest, pro-Brexit campaigners. Unless it is overcome, the Aachen mindset will continue to serve a similar purpose for nationalist campaigners in other member states.

It is, of course, a dangerous myth that Brussels has been grabbing power from EU member states. In reality, the gradual erosion of national powers in an increasingly interdependent world has made it necessary for member states to forge, by agreement, common solutions to common challenges.

Common solutions require inclusion and a spirit of cooperation. When the leaders of all 27 remaining EU member states gather in Bratislava in September, they should begin to return Europe to its members – and that means to all of them. The post-Brexit EU must be a Union that is much more closely linked to the political realities of its member states.

Although a new building for such gatherings is rising in Brussels, perhaps we should go back to having at least some EU summits in different parts of Europe. The Bratislava summit could be the start of a new effort to connect the European endeavor with all of Europe.

The era of Aachen is over; the age of Bratislava has arrived. We need more Europe – and less Brussels. If we embrace this new model – and stick to it – the EU will not only survive; it will thrive. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

Carl Bildt is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden

No Man is an Island

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Every human being needs other human being to contribute with in order to survive, get through difficulties and challenges. People could hardly live as happy as they are if they have no other people to support them in their lives. Everyone needs family, friends, fellowman, teachers or mentors to guide, love and cheer him/her up during the ups and downs in life. No one could live all by himself or herself as life is not a bed of roses. In another words, no one could live as lonely as an island. Each one is depended to the other one in myriad ways, as Maimonides, writes that a person should be concerned about other people's spiritual, emotional and material needs, just as one is concerned about his own needs. This collaboration starts from Family members because they play the most important and significant rule in each other's life. That is because family members are always there for one another from the moment they born into this world and the day they pass away. Parents are the ones who love their children the most and stay closest to them. They sacrifice almost everything to bring their children up in the best way possible. For example, they give their children sufficient foods, clothes, educations, undivided loves and so on. They support their children financially, physically and mentally without asking their children to pay in return. At the meantime, they sacrifice their precious times and energy on raising children to become a useful person for their lives, parents and the society they live in. Furthermore, parents are the first who inculcated the moral values and religion beliefs that make everyone a fully human being. When someone has done something that is sinful or incorrect, parents would guide and rectify his/her mistakes by setting the positive examples as action speaks louder than words. Moreover, siblings influence each other's lives as well. Siblings are the ones who are at the similar or slightly elder or younger than one another. At homes, everyone spent most of their times talking, playing and even arguing with their siblings since they are young. When parents get older and ill one day, then it is the responsibility of their sons/daughters to look after them well, besides that, they have to provide them a good living atmosphere so that the children could return all the good and outstanding deeds that they did for them. And everybody should live harmonically with their siblings. If such things do not take place there will not be a good results and no one would be able to run all the things independently even if they could, it would take a lifetime to get the important things done. But with the help of each other people can get almost anything that they wish to have or change. It proves that no one could live without the presence of family as they are always willing to support their members unconditionally forever. In addition, friends are also one of the most essential elements in each other's lives. They are the one who can make a huge difference in lives of their fellas. Sincere or genuine friends would provide the emotional support and companionship which family could not give to their members. During the teenage stage of life, one would feel

that family especially parents could not understand his/her opinions or thoughts. In that case, he/she needs friends who they could talk to without any intervals so that they would not feel lonely or abandoned. Everyone would share their feelings, sadness, happiness, loneliness, successes, experiences and problems with their peers. In the process of exchanging ideas and thoughts, one could gain more knowledge and experiences from them which helps him/her to broaden his/her mind and horizons.

Likewise, teachers are one of the most important and influential persons who show the significant impacts in students' lives. Teachers are as if the soul of the civilized world and the ones who impart education to make a society a better place to live. Students not only need teachers' guidance on their studies but also the emotional support of them. Most of the teachers are quite friendly, wise, kind, smiling, warm, optimistic and well-informed. When students face difficult times, teachers are the best persons to be consulted. They are more thoughtful and experienced in solving problems than students' peers or themselves. Therefore, teachers could give students many precious advises and comments which enable them to deal with the problems effectively. For instance, teachers give students the encouragement to cope up with their studies and score well in the examinations. Besides, they are also helpful in giving motherly or fatherly advices and motivations to students when they are facing hardships like relationship, financial, academic problems and many more. They are the one who play a significant rule in students personality, lifestyle and most importantly their future. Teachers are the individuals who are worthy of student respects and they are influential in shaping good personalities in students' lives.

The same case is true in building a society as well. A society improves the time when all members of it take part in its civilization, development and betterment. Moreover, a society should be developed by its people. People should work hard to strengthen it. It is not the work of one person or a group of people. It the kind of work that needs the contribution of all people from different walks of life because each one has his/her own skill and when these skills are combined together and used for the improvement and welfare of a society there will be an extraordinary result afterwards.

All in all, it is extremely important to be there for one another and do what is the right thing to do for the sake of the common interest that all of the members of a society share together regardless of nation, tribe, race, religion and so on. And it is crucial to see others like family members who try to provide the best standard of living for each other. Everyone needs to rely on everyone else in order to make happen anything they aim for in their lives. After all, it is in heling each other that two hands get strength.

Mohammad Zahir Akbari is the newly emerging writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at mohammad-zahirakbari@gmail.com



Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa
Vice-Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari
Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com
Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019
www.outlookafghanistan.net



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