

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



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Refugees' Displacement; One of the Most Dominating Problems

In many countries of the world because of different sorts of social and political problems, people are forced to leave their countries and move to other parts of the world in search of better lives and opportunities. Such people can be termed as refugees. According to the Geneva Refugee Convention, a refugee is defined as, "A person with a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion". In the contemporary world the number of refugees has increased to a large extent as the discontent and social injustices and political clashes have been able to multiply in different parts of the world.

The third world countries are in the forefront in this regard. The economic instability has given birth to myriads of problems, people instead of dying of hunger and starvation prefer to leave their countries and move towards the developed countries of the world. They are also threatened by civil wars and communal riots, which are also the result of economic instability and dearth of rudimentary requirements of life. Apart from that famines and draughts can also be the reasons of people leaving their countries.

The countries that have the most number of refugees moving to the other parts of the world include the ones that are badly hit by the same factors. They include the unfortunate countries in Africa, some countries in Asia and some others in Middle East. For example, from Libya; the growing clashes in the country have compelled about 1 million people to leave their country because of the fear of losing their lives. More statistics in this regard can further help to understand the intensity of the matter.

Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti are hosting about 450,000 Somali refugees, who have been displaced from their country as a result of the worst drought. Apart from that Liberia has more than 150,000 Ivorians stationed as refugees on its land. Moreover, there are already million of people in European countries and America who have moved there as refugees. Our own country Afghanistan has been one of the countries that have produced a lot of refugees who have left the country and are now living their lives in Europe or America. Most of these refugees were forced to leave the country because of the series of civil wars, ethnic conflicts and intense poverty. But situation has been better after the fall of Taliban.

The refugees of the world, according to Geneva Refugee Convention have certain rights that have to be cared for and respected by the international community. This Convention was adopted in July 28th, 1951, as a surety to safeguard the rights of the hopeless refugees. It has been 60 years now since its formal adoption and still survives as the corner stone of the refugee rights. The refugees after leaving their countries have to go through many difficulties before they reach to some where safe and sound.

Because of not having money or other facilities, many of them have to travel through risky routes. There have been occasions when refugees have had to go through mountains on foot or through the seas on boats; most of the times becoming the victims of merciless death or unimaginable cruelty. There have been concerns in this regard in many countries of the world to which and through which the refugees move. Many of these concerns are still not dealt with appropriately though UNHCR has been trying to direct the attentions of the international community towards them. Further, because of the differences in the national laws of the different countries towards refugees the situation has become more complicated. There have been many reports of inhumane behavior towards refugees in many countries of the world, wherein they are harshly beaten; they are not kept in camps rather they are thrown in detention centers. Most of them are even deported to their countries to face further miseries. Human rights organizations really have to take serious notice of human rights violations in such incidents.

Another issue related to the displacement of refugees is the growing concerns of the host nations. The host nations claim that they do have their own problems to handle, and the indefinite flow of refugees on their lands can multiply their troubles. Further, the concerns related to the clash among people of different cultures have recently been refreshed as well. Apart from that the European countries and America have been very cautious about the issue of terrorism as well.

Therefore, they try to limit the number of refugees they receive in order to avoid such troubles. Recently, Australia has been going through a decision making process regarding the refugees who have reached to their land and many others who are on their way. They are yet to reach a decisive position wherein they can satiate the growing concerns of the anti-refugee sentiments in the country and the pathetic plight of the refugees, who have left everything just to find some opportunities of a safer and better life. The issue of the refugees is an international issue and the entire international community has to bear the burden of teeming millions. They can make it happen through an international organization like United Nations Organization by providing more authority to it. International law in this regard has to be modified as per the prevailing concerns and the Refugee Convention must be adhered by all countries of the world, especially the ones that have to bear the burden of the refugees. Definitely, every country has the right to have its own laws and regulations in the country and also possesses the rights to give more attention to its own people, but at the same time every country has to play its part as far as international problems are concerned and refugees' displacement is one the most dominating of the same problems.

The Shadow of Taliban Leader on Peace Process

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

The role of the Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar in Taliban leadership and the ongoing peace process has always been ambiguous. The Taliban leader, whose leadership was surrounded with lots of secrecy when ruling Afghanistan, has become even more mysterious in leading the insurgency after the Taliban was overthrown from power in 2001. With the start of formal peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban and with the leaked information on rifts in Taliban senior ranks, there are increasing doubts whether Mullah Omar really controls the Taliban?

Recently, a number of local media outlets in Afghanistan quoted spokesman of a Taliban splinter group that Taliban supreme leader Mullah Muhammad Omar was killed two years ago by two senior members of the group. According to Qari Hamza, a spokesman of Fidayi Mahaz Movement, Mullah Omar was killed by Taliban senior members Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Mansoor and Gull Agha. However, the reports are yet to be independently verified. Corroborating the report on Omar's death, Pakistani media reported on Monday that there are potential power struggle going on among the Taliban ranks centered on Mullah Omar's eldest son Mullah Mohammad Yaqub.

It is not the first time that divisions among the Taliban are made public. Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the NDS, had said last year that the Taliban leader may not be alive and that there may be major divisions among the Taliban leadership. At a crucial time for both the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan, a possible death of the Taliban leader would mean much more than a simple passing away of an insurgent leader. At a time when the Taliban are entering peace talks with the government of Afghanistan while facing an emerging threat from the Islamic State group, Omar's death could turn both the Taliban leadership and the Afghan government's peace efforts upside down. If confirmed, Omar's death could have severe repercussions for the Taliban leadership. The impact of Omar's death is clearly foreseeable on the Taliban leadership and cohesion of the powerful insurgent group in Afghanistan while it is more difficult to predict its effects on the Afghan government's war and peace efforts. If Mullah Omar's death becomes public knowledge for the Taliban leadership and ground fighters and commanders, it could potentially trigger a fierce power struggle which would define the future of the insurgent group. There are reports that a number of Taliban senior figures are pushing for Omar's son Mullah Yaqub's replacement to Mullah Omar to lead the Taliban. According to the claims, Taliban senior members around Mullah Yaqub are opposed to the de facto leader of the Taliban, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor, who is officially deputy leader of the Taliban. The claims corroborate earlier reports about the death of Mullah Omar by two senior members of the Taliban leadership. It is believed that Mullah Omar's life and death is also mysterious to most of the Taliban senior leaders and the group's ground commanders. According to Taliban senior members, in recent years senior

members and commanders of the Taliban have been increasingly frustrated over the secrecy surrounded the leadership of the Taliban as they have been unable to meet Mullah Omar. Many believe that Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor has been the one preventing Taliban commanders and leaders to meet Mullah Mohammad Omar. A recent letter from Taliban to the Islamic State leadership in Syria/Iraq was signed by Akhtar Muhammad Mansoor which also suggests possible absence of Mullah Omar in the Taliban leadership. Though the Eid message ended the speculations whether the Muree talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban has been endorsed by Mullah Omar or not, however new speculations are rising whether the message was released by Mullah Omar or his deputy Mullah Mansoor. In the recent reports by Pakistani media it is alleged that the recent Eid message endorsing peace talks with the government of Afghanistan has also been released by Mullah Mansoor.

According to analysts and intelligence that exist, there are bitter rivalry among key Taliban leaders including Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor on one side, and Mullah Yaqub and Taliban senior commander Abdul Qayum Zakir on the other side. Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor is leading pro-talks camp of the Taliban who are willing to enter peace talks with the government of Afghanistan while the other camp of the Taliban leaders are opposing arbitrary decision-making of Mansoor and his growing influence in the Taliban leadership. Despite that alleged decision-making of Mansoor regarding peace talks with the Afghan government, the other camp's opposition to Mansoor is not yet meant opposing peace talks with Kabul.

If Omar's death is confirmed for Taliban senior members, it could potentially lead to a breakup of the Taliban, or at least an open rivalry between the Taliban senior members over the leadership of the group. Such a development in Taliban's leadership could potentially derail the peace talks with the Afghan government. However, in that case one of the major camps of the Taliban will enter talks with the Afghan government which probably will not be much preferred for the government of Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan is attempting to reach a comprehensive peace deal with the Taliban that could end the long-lasting conflict in the country. In case of any fragmentation in the ranks of the Taliban, the Afghan government's objective of a comprehensive peace deal would be jeopardized.

However, regarding the government's war efforts, the case could be different. One of the major objectives of the United States and somehow former governments of Afghanistan from peace talks in part was to help fragmentation of the Taliban. While a possible death of Mullah Omar and a split of the Taliban group would not mean good for the Afghan peace efforts, in contrast it would not necessarily mean bad for the Afghan government's anti-insurgency campaign. A possible death or assassination of Mullah Omar could mean fragmented and weakened Taliban insurgency fighting against the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban insurgency without the much-charismatic Mullah Omar, who has been the ultimate unifying figure in the Taliban leadership, would be easier for the government to overcome.

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Ceaseless Violence Exercised to Confiscate Power!!

By Asmatyari

Previously, Eid festivity was observed here across the Muslim world. Generally Lesser Eid is regarded as the festival of breaking of the fast, also called Feast of Breaking the Fast. Eid, is an important religious-cultural festivity celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. The holiday celebrates the conclusion of the 29 or 30 days of dawn-to-dusk fasting during the entire month of Ramadan. The day of Eid, therefore, falls on the first day of the month of Shawwal. It is said that Eid is a religio-cultural practice marked by wide socialization, expression of love, sympathy, dedication, and solidarity towards underprivileged, handicapped, oppressed and denied section of societies. The question emerges which solidarity are we talking of, when most if not all the Muslim world is suffering extremism, terrorism, intolerance, socially segregated and worst polarized.

Nominally it is proclaimed, on this very day, Muslims around the world show a common goal of unanimity and harmony. Nonetheless, the real picture is gloomy and unacceptably admissible. It is true to claim that Muslim displayed a matchless resort of unity by expressing solidarity at endless atrocities executed against fellow brothers in Yemen. Elsewhere, in Iraq and Syria Muslims brothers are viciously engaged and are not tired of butchering the lives of Muslim brothers in their quest to power gains. Neither, the act of solidarity is demonstrated with aggrieved Yemenis nor reckless bloodshed is widely condemned. Most if not all Muslim countries and organization kept mum over heinous crimes carried out against Muslims either in Muslims world or elsewhere.

Till date we are expecting the Muslim world would come forth to play their part by devising strategies, to put down the immediate burning issues of the Middle East. However, disparagingly, the Muslim world along its organizations, such as the summit of the Arab League (AL) or the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) showed negligible interest in the issue instead the stillness was prioritized. It is the point of utter dignity; the Muslims selflessly extend a helping hand to their oppressed and suppressed brothers whilst celebrating the joys of Eid festivals.

Undoubtedly, Eid is accompanied by celebrations of joys, delight, cheers and enchantment. Happiness is a mental state, acquired not through veneration, but exercising of good deeds. Sharing joys rendered to be the principle philosophy operating behind this festivity. Nonetheless, the spirit of all such pleasures gets dimmed, and delights diffused, sensing the magnitude of countless life losses across the Muslims world from Nigeria to Afghanistan. Somewhere the aggressor's occupants elsewhere the extremist elements are found, behind the ongoing agonies of Muslims.

Fatefully, Muslims have earned international fame in pretext to terrorism, extremism and fanaticism. If you have got a Muslim name, you are in trouble and put to through scrutiny at entrances, particularly if you would be tripping a western country. Al-Qaida the sole, reason for such notorious fame, still seeks covert financial and political support from some of wealthy Muslims countries. Taliban who backed and supported Al-Qaida deemed

to be sole factor behind long-lasting anguish of Afghans is tried to join the political course through peace talks.

Intra-religious conflict is another dimension; some of Muslim countries are exploiting the sectarian affiliation of concerned sectarian group to further their political interests in another fellow country. There are several countries where the hostility of majority sect towards minority has reached to the point of no return, that the opposite sect is publically labeled infidel and worthy of butchery. Couldn't OIC come forth to address these pressing issues on emergency basis?

It is true that Islamophobia is being pursued by a group of extremist and radical elements in the West who bear an inexplicable grudge against Islam and Muslims. It is also fact that they have a motivated agenda of hatred and racial discrimination, stereotyping and stigmatization of Islam and Muslims. Without being at fault nobody dares to raise finger at anyone. It is undeniable fact that some of the most wanted terrorists are harbored by some countries and enjoy covert patronage. It can not the only way to seek a political gain, but there are several other routes to sustainable progress and advancements.

It is not the only role of OIC to expose the dangerous game of the Islamophobes and the perilous implications of their actions to the international community. It is the utmost responsibility of OIC member countries to lay down severe punishment for anybody accused of any act leading to earn infamy for Muslims. The Islamophobia and its propaganda machine will automatically be perished. But OIC member states have to apply strict rational laws be it domestic or international in curbing all menaces that tarnish their real image. It is worth mentioning the June 2008, OIC summit that revised its charter. Within the revised charter, the OIC has chosen to support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law. Contrary to the assertions made meager human rights is observed in most, if not all, OIC member countries. The rhetoric made in the summits can not do away the endemic problems of Muslim world, unless their leaders do not change their obsolete insight entailing paradigm shift in their thinking perspectives and begin pursuing the latest scientific and technological advancements with inclusion to adoption of a rational system of governing.

It is time the Muslim countries prioritize education economy and disband extremism and terrorism and rationalize its religion. Muslims being resources sufficient, suffers multifaceted endemic socio-political and religious problems. It is regretting the world's 1.6 billion Muslims have produced only two Nobel laureates in chemistry and physics. The 57 countries in the Organization of the Islamic Conference spend a frail 0.81% of GDP on research and development, about a third of the world average. America, which has the world's biggest science budget, spends 2.9%; Israel lavish 4.4%. If the world has earned prominence through rule of law, safeguarding of human rights we can not excel by suppression and subjugation by violence. Without having changed the flawed perception of ruling the world -through exercise of fear, bloodshed, repression and subjugation, we simply will be driven to blind alley -there will not be light at the end of tunnel.

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