

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



June 07, 2017

## “Connecting People to Nature”

June 5 was celebrated as World Environment Day in many countries around the world. The day was first designated by United Nations (UN) after the Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. The goal of the conference was to forge a basic common outlook on how to address the challenge of preserving and enhancing the human environment. When the World Environment Day was designated, the UN General Assembly also adopted a resolution that urged Governments and the organizations in the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference. Since then the day is celebrated each year on June 05.

This year the theme of the day was ‘Connecting People to Nature’. It urged all the people to get outdoors and into nature, to appreciate its beauty and to think about how they are part of nature and how intimately they depend on it. It challenged the people to find fun and exciting ways to experience and cherish this vital relationship. Since, human beings have taken the nature and its beauty for granted and fail to realize that they are harming this important resource and influencing their relationship with the nature in negative manner.

As a matter of fact, earth’s natural environment has been experiencing certain degradation due to addition of excessive contaminants. These contaminants are basically the outcome of chemicals and products that are being invented and used with a great pace in the modern world. There is no doubt that the scientific inventions have blessed human beings with myriads of facilities; however, the improper use of these facilities and their mismanagement has brought them some evils, as well. These evils have the capacity to disturb our environment and introduce disorder within the ecosystem that is necessary for the life to exist on the planet earth.

Afghanistan is one of the countries that has been suffering from environmental degradation to a great extent. With the growing population and overcrowding in the urban areas of the country, the problem of environmental pollution is getting more serious. The air surrounding us, from which everyone gets his/her share of oxygen is getting more polluted with each passing day. Besides, as there is no proper sewerage system and waste disposal system the situation is deteriorated further. Even the latrine system in the country is not up to the mark and really requires great attention in order to be environmentally safe. The issue of clean drinking water is another great concern, bothering the people to a large extent. Burning of low quality fuel in the large quantity by every sort of vehicle, and burning of wood and coal for household and other purposes add dangerous contamination in our environment continuously.

The problem of air pollution is very much rampant in the urban areas of the country; especially Kabul city has been suffering because of this menace to a worrying extent. The air in Kabul has been announced as highly dangerous for people both by national and international authorities. Along with air pollution the land and water pollution in Afghanistan, especially in urban areas are getting serious as well. The drainage system in the urban areas is still not developed properly or it is left with serious deficiencies. The drains that carry the water containing waste material from household and other uses are not covered. Even in the capital Kabul, the drains are not covered. Rather they have become dustbins for the people. The people throw the wrappers, plastic bags, papers and other waste materials in the drains without any hesitation or humiliation.

Most of the times the drains are blocked by the excessive dirt; and the dirty water flows out of the drains on the roads, generating disgusting smell and inviting different types of insects.

The same water then dries and the dirt along with the dust particles fly in the air because of the passing vehicles and the same air is inhaled by the passersby. Further, the ponds of dirty water are refuge for mosquitos and flies and other insects. These insects are really dangerous for spreading serious epidemics. And such issues are never dealt seriously even in the most developed of the cities.

The issue of environmental pollution should be dealt appropriately both by people and government of Afghanistan before it is too late. Any program regarding environmental protection should be two-fold. First, the government must introduce laws and the mechanism to enforce them. Since, the introduction of nation’s first environmental law in 2005, no remarkable development has been made in chalking out the mechanism to enforce them. Laws, unless implemented, are of no use. Severe penalties should be charged against those who choose for irresponsible behavior regarding the protection of environment publically. Moreover, workshops, Advertisements, Debates, Lectures and other techniques for furthering awareness campaigns must be carried out, especially in the urban areas of the country.

Secondly, every individual must feel his/her responsibility towards the environment and must make sure that he/she does not become a reckless being and must prove helpful for the environment. However, extensive awareness programs in this regard can be really helpful. Environment is a collective and natural property of all the living beings and it must be protected collectively.

## Afghanistan’s Tough Times, Solidarity and Responsibility

By Zia Danish

Afghanistan is passing through hard and challenging issue. The Nation’s opponents seek continuously to dismantle individuals’ solidarity and sympathy and to put tremendous mental pressure on them. The terrorist groups and their regional backers aim to stoke sectarianism and create a wide gap between state and nation through mental disturbance. Such objectives have been proved abortive; however, there is still a need for meticulous and wise view so that the terrorists’ sinister plot does not come to an effect or target national unity.

Constituting a rift between state and nation will pave the grounds for terrorist activities and push the country towards further destruction.

The bulk of the current challenges in Afghanistan is believed to root in the sinister plots which target the national solidarity and are likely to cultivate discord. Cultivating discord will be the most significant way in smoothing the path for foreign interests and this trend has continued for long period.

As Afghan nation seeks to move towards unity within a decade and half, mysterious hands are operating to hamper national solidarity.

Stoking racial, religious and linguistic violence and maximizing the ethnic differences and pointing out the historical tragedies are the issues to target the unity.

Luckily, despite being supported financially and politically for long time, the realm of the plots’ effect has remained restricted with the reinforcement of national solidarity and the enemies’ dream has not come true.

The increasing level of education, the eye-opening issues of the country’s history, global evolution, and sound understanding of citizens’ common interests and equal rights have hampered the cultivation of discord to a great extent. More importantly, the realm of religious tenets has extended through constant calls for unity and preventing Muslims from discord and splinter, which also challenged the political plots. The Holy Koran, Hadiths, and Islamic Sunnah seek to foil the enemies’ plots and stand against the systematic political conspiracy.

National Solidarity and Considering Common Destiny In addition to emphasis on strengthening the spirit of national unity by religion, Afghanistan’s Constitution has also underlined unity and solidarity suggesting the way for strengthening them.

One of the main reasons behind bonding nation in general

and Afghan nation in particular is common destiny and interests. In other words, political interests are the factor in sustaining people’s unity throughout the world.

The differences in languages, sub-cultures, faith and values could not hamper their unity.

Based on this fact, all citizens regardless of their backgrounds will be doomed to a single destiny and have to seek common interests. For instance, economic weakness and strength, military power, and poverty and wealth will affect the destiny and life of the entire citizens.

Therefore, ethnic, linguistic and religious differences, bestowed by the Creator and are indivisible in a society, are accepted globally as a certain principle. Variety and pluralism are accepted as a key factor for development and progress rather than a weak point.

Accepting the principle of variety and pluralism in Afghanistan will also benefit this country. Needless to say, there are multi-ethnic groups in the country with different languages and accent, vision of the world, and certain ethnic and local values which reflect a general fact.

A number of different factors have bonded the nation as a single individual, which is also emphasized by religious tenets. It should be noted that the past bitter-sweet days and success and failure will affect all citizens equally and they have common friends and foes.

This fact has been witnessed through our history and will continue so. “I believe in this method because I think it is the only way to reestablish a broken community. It is the method which seeks to implement the just law by appealing to the conscience of the great decent majority who through blindness, fear, pride, and irrationality have allowed their consciences to sleep.”

In the current critical time, Afghan nation must seek common grounds and bury any kinds of differences. We need national unity more than before since there are many hands behind the scene struggling to stoke sectarian violence and racial injustice.

Despite the apparent differences, which are common around the globe, we are one nation and must stand united and stand as an iron fist against the common enemies.

A society will be dismantled in case of being fallen in the quagmire of disunity and discord. In brief, if we stand united, the life-threatening issues such as terrorist activities and militancy will decline on a large scale.

Zia Danish is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at the outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

## The Strategies of Passing through Difficult Days

By Qasem Irfani

Series of attacks and bloody events of recent days, put country in difficult and dangerous conditions. Passing through these difficult circumstances require the adoption of effective strategies such as self-discipline, solidarity, accountability, reform and earn the support and trust of the people. Of course, the enemies of Afghanistan are trying to drag the country into complete chaos with brutal attacks and massacre civilians, such as Syria and Libya and eventually fade achievements of the past one and a half decades. While we have sad and terrible experiences of the nineties and the Taliban regime in our historical memory.

We have experienced devastation of decades of war and political instability. Hence, recognizing the demonstration of the deeply painful and deadly attack on Wednesday May 31, 2017, the death of several protesters on Friday second of June, and the attack on the funeral and burial of Salem Izadyar on Saturday June 03, 2017, and broad political understanding inflammation in the country, it is necessary that citizens, political elites and government officials to adopt the following strategies to overcome the crisis:

### 1- Accountability

However, accountability is included as permanent responsibility in the democratic system for authorities and ruling elites, but giving this responsibility is fundamental necessary in critical condition. So the spirit of accountability can help to restore the confidence of the affected people by the Afghan government. Accountability requires to pay attention to demands of afflicted and downhearted people in current situation, identifies the main causes of the recent attacks and punishing culprits through urgent paces.

On the other hand, the government deal decisively with those security and intelligence officials that fault or negligence the duty that they were responsible in top priority, in this part, the punishment of those who have been ineffective in the prevention of terrorist attacks, dealing with those security officials who have orders to shoot on protesters is important issue.

Government accountability requires fundamental rethinking and reforms in the security sector especially in Kabul. In addition to this trial and punish, the terrorists who live in the durance of the government, by doing this thing, they can restore confidence of people and demonstrate the government’s determination to fight terrorism effectively.

### 2- Reforms

Another strategy that can be used to pass difficult situation in the country by the ruling elites, are great reforms in administrative structure, financial and security parts of the country. Reform is based on the merit to raise using effective forces capable and committed government departments’ efficiency, and on the other hand result in gaining the confidence of the people especially the young and educated class. In addition, another fundamental pillar of reform is fighting corruptors. A trend that began in the unity government, it

needs to be accelerated transparently and comprehensively. Since corruptions is the main reason for destruction of the country and they are more dangerous than terrorist groups, so this fact is understandable for the Afghan people and international allies. The government can reduce the gap between government and people through this way and people deal decisively against corruption with strong backing and support of international community.

### 3- Continenence

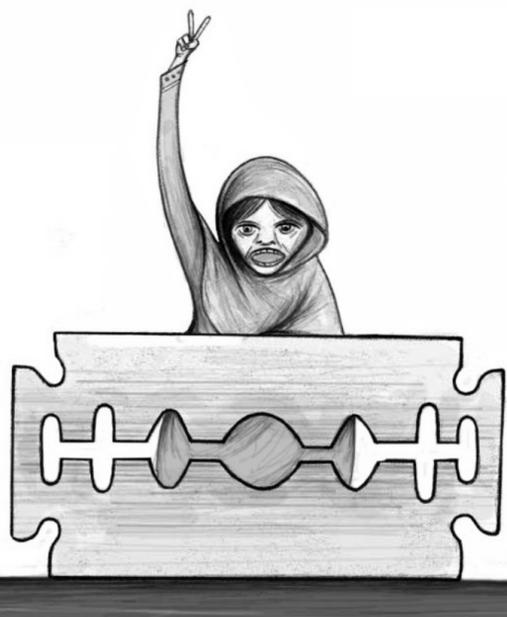
The third key strategy is a principle of continence in the current difficult circumstances. Everyone should pay attention to continence and should consider that Afghanistan comes first. In this part, media, social networking, youth, university professors and students of university, political elites, tribal elders, government officials and all have prophetic mission nationally. We cannot forget that intolerance, exclusion, unilateralism, the lack of space and the idea of tolerance has lead the country into decades of war and conflict that we see its consequences and intolerance. According to preserving the past one and a half decades achievement, we have to wait and restraint forward to strengthen the democracy and political stability and should not accept defeat at this critical juncture.

### 4- National Solidarity

The last and most important strategy that can help us through these difficult days, is maintaining and even strengthening solidarity. Disintegrating the conspiracies of the enemy and creating division within the system, parties, movements and ethnic groups. The enemy is trying to create distance between government and the people in different ways, and trying tirelessly to divide ethnic groups and political factions. If the elites, tribal elders and government officials act in maintaining national unity poorly, they will be in a way that the enemy benefits from this situation. If we stand together in this difficult time then we would be able to defeat terrorists and its supporter in and out side country. Therefore, Afghanistan utterly needs national unity more then ever before.

Although, these days has not been declared a state of emergency from the government officially, but the fact is that we are in a brittle and dangerous situation. This brittle is more than the power of the enemy, it is entangled because of the dispersion and scattering of the people and political masses in Afghanistan. Hurt feeling of the people and widespread demands of people from government activates gaps and weaknesses in the political system and makes it deeper, because of this we need unity, restraint and empathy more than ever. I hope that everyone by understanding the current situation avoid differences. Government should respect people’s demands take action to fulfil them. It is important the Government and people must pay more attention to common values and national interest.

Qasem Irfani is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at outlookafghanistan@gmail.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



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