

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



June 22, 2015

## Global Terrorism on the Rise

Is it the menace of deep rooted poverty, population explosion, hunger and illiteracy less than a hazard to the people of Afghanistan that the dilemma of terrorism, equally defecting the people of Afghanistan? This worst state depicts this piece of land, either choice or by design is pushed to the receiving end of evil plots – given the spread of terrorism turning into the most frightening of all. It's factually undeniable that Terrorism has engulfed fewer criminals than multiplying innocent citizens.

At present terrorism have become a headache for federation and a nightmare for public and is one of the gravest problem the world faces. Though, it is a global issue but Afghanistan has to bear the brunt of it. Afghanistan and international communities' war waged against insurgents sparked the fire of terrorism. We are facing war like situation against the terrorists. Terrorist acts like suicide bombings have become a norm of the day. On account of these attacks Afghanistan is suffering from inefaceable loss ranging from civilian to economic. People have become numerical figures, blown up in numbers every now and then. Terrorists have not spared any place. Bazaars, mosques, educational institutes, offices, hotels, roadside no place are safe anymore.

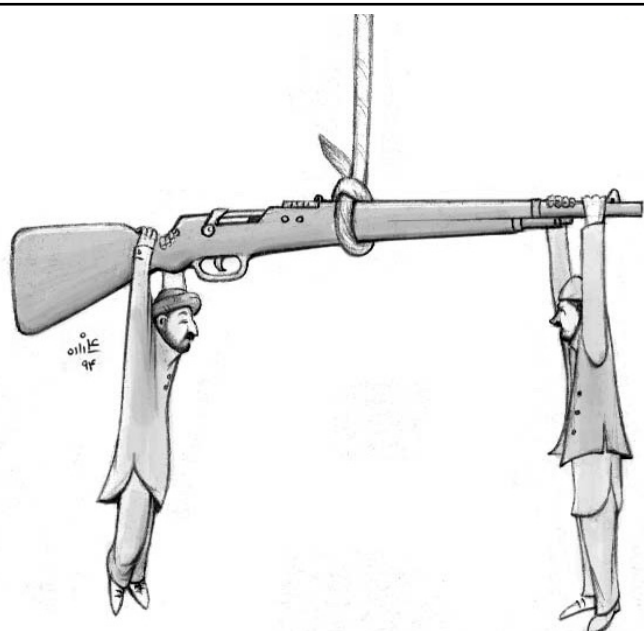
The former report of US State Department is a self-evident account to escalating terrorist attacks and resulting casualties. The report unearths consequential statistics of terrorist attacks in the former year and the relative growth in these attacks in most of terrorist prone countries. The report counts 13,463 attacks in 95 countries in 2014 – up by a third from the year before – with Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan bearing the brunt of extremist violence. In total 32,727 people were killed compared to 17,800 in 2013, according to the figures prepared by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. A further 34,700 people were injured. This report is an eye opener for policy makers, turning the world into a more insecure place to live than it was a decade earlier. One attributes this daunting situation to several factors which include social injustice, economic disparity, political instability, religious intolerance, external hands or international conspiracies and religio-political gains. A handful of people who have their vicious interests to fulfill have not only taken countless innocent lives on stake but also distorted the real image of Islam before the world through their heinous acts.

Terrorism is a problem which the world has been continuously facing for more than two-three decades but now has emerged as a global problem against which an internationally united battle has to be fought incessantly. Terrorism is an illegal and unlawful in nature with a purpose of creating fear and panic in the minds and psyche of people at large, to make the masses feel impotent and helpless, to discourage rational thinking and to lead to a reactionary tendency in the people. The very finding superimposes with the ground realities in some Muslim countries that faces the brunt of terrorist attacks –given the fact the so called Islamic Jihadists destined to let Islamic reign in the some if not whole of the world. In that pursuit they did not even spare their Muslim fellows.

The terrorist group of international fame Islamic State has surpassed Al-Qaida executing mass massacres and ruthless butcheries of people around the world. In addition it has also succeeded drawing great number of adherents from across the world –western countries in particular. The report finds Islamic fighters fuelled a huge spike in terror attacks last year with the global death toll soaring 81 percent in more than 1,100 assaults a month. The largest number of attacks was carried out by Islamic State militants, who unleashed 1,083 assaults last year as part of a deadly march across Iraq and Syria. In Iraq there were a total of 3,360 attacks in which almost 10,000 people died –almost a third of all those killed around the world in terror attacks. "The ongoing civil war in Syria was a significant factor in driving worldwide terrorism events in 2014," the report said. The terrorist attack even affected Africa wherein Nigeria the militants of Boko Haram who has earlier declared affiliation with "IS" has killed 7,512 people in 662 attacks.

It is witnessed the terrorists resort to various ways to accomplish their goals like planting crude home-made bombs, hand-grenades or other explosives in a shopping centre or a crowded place like a bus stand or even a bus, train or airplane, kidnapping, assassination or hijacking. It may be because they want a regime to react or they intend to mobilize a mass support through fear, to eliminate opponents or enemies or to magnify their cause. Kidnappings also jumped by a third, with more than 9,400 people taken hostage, three times as many as in 2013. Ransoms have been used by both IS and al Qaeda as an effective way to raise money.

World leaders and Afghanistan elders should believe that global fairness, peace and human dignity is in the best interest of the global community and terrorism is the greatest menace to human race, thus must be curbed iron handed. The world must do more to restrain extremism and terrorism to alter the very environment from which these terrorist movements emerge. It is the time the world to ponder on transitory policies constituted, that furnishes the breeding ground of terrorism with terrorists, than curtailing, must be revised.



# The Legal Status of the Parliament

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

The Lower House of the parliament decided to convene its sessions beyond June 22, 2015, after President Ashraf Ghani extended the parliament's term until new parliamentary elections are held. The extension of the parliament's working term is coming as an expedient move by the government, the Supreme Court and the parliament itself to avert a political and legal vacuum in the country. A number of the lawmakers described the extension as a legal and necessary measure to avoid a legislative gap and constitutional crisis in the country. This is while others believe the arbitrary extension of the parliament's tenure is itself violation of the constitution. The government has pledged to announce the date of the upcoming parliamentary elections within one month. The extension of the parliament's term is coming while there is no timeline set for holding the parliamentary elections and reforms agenda for brining changes to the electoral bodies and procedures. For Afghanistan's political spectrum, it seems there is sufficient consensus over the parliament's prolonged working beyond the end of its legal term. Consensus-building has been one of the approaches of the government for preparing the ground for deciding on extension of the House of Representatives' term. While developing consensus on issues of national importance is crucial for Afghanistan's political stability, the required constitutional basis for making decisions regarding the prolonged working of the legislative body has gone ignored. However, the move cannot be justified in terms of constitutionality as the Afghan constitution has no provision for authorizing any party in Afghanistan's political establishment to extend or terminate the parliament's working term. Many experts and lawmakers consider the parliament's working beyond June 22 as illegitimate. Experts and some of the lawmakers believe the move is making another precedent in repeated violation of the constitution in Afghanistan.

This is while others argue that the parliament's working beyond the end of its legal term would be legitimate and necessary based on the country's need for having functioning state branches and overseeing the government's actions. It is required that there should be legal and constitutional basis so to provide the critical legitimacy to the parliament's decision-makings until the next parliamentary elections are held. The government and the House of Representatives should explore ways for mitigating the impacts of the arbitrary extension of the parliament's term on constitutionality of the state and political processes.

On the other hand, there is no clarity in the constitution over who can decide in such exceptional cases. The lawmakers' views differ over who has the competency to interpret the constitution on critical matters e.g. extension of the parliament's working term. The Speaker of the House maintains that no other agency has the right to question the legitimacy of the parliament's extended term. The lawmakers have been unable to take a unified stance over who should decide for resolving this constitutional stalemate. In absence of a dedicated body for interpreting the constitution, there are confusions over competency of the Afghan key bodies. With the parliament term extended, the decisions made in the house could be questioned in terms of legality and legitimacy. The fact is that despite a political consensus among key political and

government stakeholders, now there is virtually a legal stalemate in the country. There is no legal solution to the existing constitutional stalemate for the parliament. The stalemate only can be resolved by speedy establishment of election reforms commission and electoral reforms agenda. The government needs to quickly resolve the issue of reforms to the electoral bodies and procedures and task the newly established reform commission to bring the required changes.

The delayed reforms have already created enormous challenges for Afghanistan's democratic practice of voting for electing the members of the next parliament. It is reported that the Independent Election Commission (IEC) has prepared proposed reforms to the electoral system and procedures. This is while the IEC is not supposed to propose reforms to the electoral system as the body itself needs to be reformed. Based on the agreement which led to formation of the current government, the newly established electoral reforms commission should propose changes to the electoral system. However, due to the disagreements over who should lead the reforms commission, the reform agenda for electoral system and procedures is virtually stalled.

The government needs to implement the provisions of the agreement mediated by the United States on reforms to the electoral system and procedures. The National Unity Government should establish electoral reform agenda and set the date for parliamentary elections. Any further uncertainties involving the upcoming parliamentary elections would exacerbate Afghanistan's fundamental administrative and constitutional deficiencies. The existing differences over the leadership of the electoral reforms commission have paralyzed the reform initiative for months. It is time for the leaders of the unity government determination for correcting the harms done to the reforms initiative and the parliamentary elections.

The challenges ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections are enormous. The preparations for the election would be a long and exhausting process. The electoral bodies would need sufficient time and resources to get preparations after they are reformed. The government needs to convince the international community for funding the elections. All these cannot be done without political will from the leaders of the National Unity Government. The President and the Chief Executive Officer should be able to work together to resolve the current stalemate in the process of the parliamentary elections. They should make political compromises and allow the election reforms commission to start working on reform proposals, and the electoral bodies to start preparations for holding the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The current stalemate in electoral reforms and arrangements for holding the upcoming elections has created serious concerns over the current political processes in the country. Afghan political elite should be able to interact while remaining committed to national interests. Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, there have been occasions of serious risks to the political processes in the country. There have been dangers of derailments of state-building and political processes. The leaders of the unity government needs to remain committed to making reforms and making the political processes right.

Abdul Ahad Bahrami is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at [ahad.bahrami@gmail.com](mailto:ahad.bahrami@gmail.com)

## Individual does Matter

By Dilawar Sherzai

As the Utilitarian school of thought in Europe became popular, the concept of individualism started rising. It basically initiated with Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations, which proposed the separation of economic units from government authorities and on micro level calculated each and every product as per its utility. In the political environment the question that whether individual is for the state or the state is for an individual started getting dominance. The political thinkers like J.S. Mill and Montesquieu, after much deliberation concluded that it is the individual liberty and pleasure that counts the most. State is the machinery which must assure individual rights and liberty and not the vice versa. Liberalism, secularism, rationalism and democracy all got unified for the prosperity and welfare of an individual. Resultantly, the seeds of individualism were sown in the soil of Western politics and it was agreed by many that individual does matter and has great importance.

Every individual on the planet earth whether young or old, male or female, black or white, weak or strong, rich or poor, or religious or non-religious, has the privilege to live and to follow the pleasure, unless and until he harms others. In easier terms, it can be stated that a person's liberty ends at the spot from where the second person's nose starts, provided that the second person does not interfere in the affairs of the first. In fact, the concept of individualism is miscomprehended by many people. They fall short to realize some very essential concepts regarding individual and the connections of the individuals with the society. It is indispensable for them to answer some of the basic questions in this regard, "Doesn't every individual have the privilege to live, to earn and to express himself? Aren't the states shaped to safeguard the rights of individuals? Shouldn't every individual have the privilege to have a share in creation of government? Doesn't every individual have his own mind to imagine; his own tongue to converse, his own food to eat and his own contribution of oxygen to inhale? Doesn't every individual think about the welfare of the mass unless it hampers and coincides with his own? Doesn't an individual save drowning man because of his inner mercy for him? Doesn't a mother nourish a baby because of the motherhood existing in her true nature? These are very basic questions and their proper analysis would definitely prove that their answers are in positive, which proves the fact that it is vital to consider an individual before considering social and collective matters. As it is rightly said by Charles M. Schulz, "Snowflakes fascinate me... Millions of them falling gently to the ground... And they say that no two of them are alike! Each one completely different from all the others... The last of the rugged individualists!" These sacred words have been frequented infinitely by

different writers and scholar that killing one person means killing the entire humanity and saving one person means saving the whole humanity. Have we ever tried to reach the very profundity of this adage? This adage, if followed with its true nature will ensure the security and survival of whole humankind. Self-esteem, honor and respect of every individual will give birth to a group of honorable human beings. It can always begin from an individual. Sacrificing individuals for collective reason will never lead to an unwavering and just community; rather dignifying every individual will surely give rise to just, stable and unconquerable community.

Every individual living on the planet earth influences it by his mere existence. His being there in the society may play a role in changing some outlooks, some behaviors and some decisions and may as a result be the cause of an obvious change.

Some of the saints and Sufis have great worth for the individual. They have even gone to the extent of calling an individual a universe and have always educated the individuals to search into their beings and find out the mysteries of the universe. They believe that it is the only way to appreciate the individual and eventually the universe. They believe that the words like We and Us are used to form groups that are actually very unclear and do not have the true sagacity and meaning and in reality defy the individuality of the individuals forming them. As cited beautifully by Ayn Rand, "The word "We" is as lime poured over men, which sets and hardens to stone, and crushes all beneath it, and that which is white and that which is black are lost equally in the grey of it. It is the word by which the depraved steal the virtue of the good, by which the weak steal the might of the strong, by which the fools steal the wisdom of the sages.

What is my joy if all hands, even the unclean, can reach into it? What is my wisdom, if even the fools can dictate to me? What is my freedom, if all creatures, even the botched and impotent, are my masters? What is my life, if I am but to bow, to agree and to obey?

But I am done with this creed of corruption. I am done with the monster of "We," the word of serfdom, of plunder, of misery, falsehood and shame.

And now I see the face of deity, and I raise this deity over the earth, this deity whom men have sought since men came into being, this deity who will grant them joy and peace and pride.

This deity, this one word: "I."

Giving significance to an individual does not essentially mean to invite chaos and disorder; conversely it is to urge every individual to respect every other individual as the other has the parallel rights as one oneself has. We human beings do not require to be governed as long as we oversee our own individuality and respect all other individuals.

Delawar Sherzai is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at [Outlookafghanistan@gmail.com](mailto:Outlookafghanistan@gmail.com)

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




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