

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



March 28, 2015

## Escalating Graph of Insecurity Requires Immediate Reversal

As the spring drew nearer amidst the rumors of peace talk, the magnitude of violence and insecurity practically soared. The consecutive attacks on public officials depict either state's unwillingness to restrict the militants away from commercial and residential areas or have let the militants operate at will. Every time a tragic incident occurs the fatless civilian or public officials have to pay the price by serving sacrifices.

Owing a weak and influentially plagued net of jurisprudence, the militants and insurgents are developing a new reputation: not just as agents of terrorism but as drug lords and agents of criminal activities including kidnapping, people trafficking and smuggling. It is evident that the insurgents further their evil agendas by exploiting the sacred name of Islam, seems to be wholly responsible for earning extremists fame for the adherents of this religion in general and Afghanistan in particular. The aforementioned narrative is a true manifestation of the religion of peace and audacious step forward must be taken to undermine the extremist cause the insurgents are striving for. Nonetheless, the militants intensify their attacks whilst abducting civilians to get them exchanged with their imprisoned fellows.

Everybody extends deep concerns over escalating civilian casualties and deteriorating state of law and order in this piece of land. It worth mentioning the government has too displayed incompetence devising policy and strategy to combat the insurgency. What all it has done is greater reliance on international community and US to sort out a congenial solution for its core issues. President during his stay urged US to get their withdrawal plan slowed down in the wake of growing fear of emergence of ISIS in Afghanistan. However, the evil forces tend to play evil practices to get government surrender at their demand.

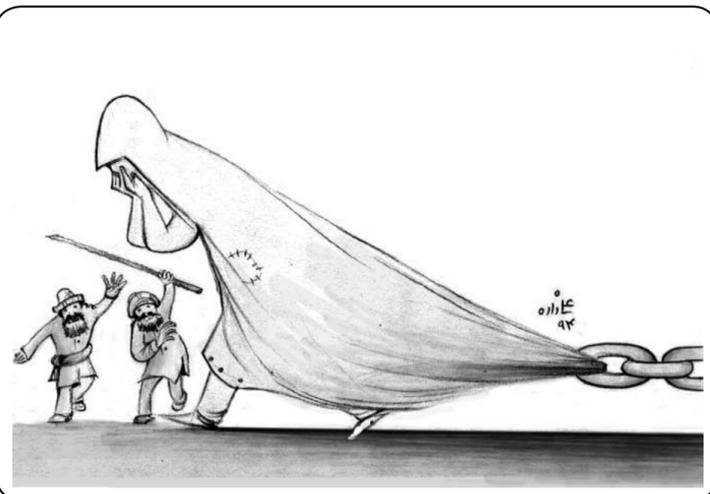
Formerly, a landmine explosion in Paktika province claimed precious lives of two Afghan Local Police personnel including an officer, Musa Khan Andar, who was traveling in a vehicle that ran over a landmine leaving Andar and another soldier killed and one soldier wounded. This was the second explosion in less than two weeks targeting security officers in Paktika province.

Earlier, at least 13 civilian passengers including a woman were reportedly shot dead by unknown gunmen on Kabul-Ghazni highway. The incident took place in Haft Asyab area of Sayed Abad district of central Maidan Wardak province where unknown armed men stopped passengers' vehicles and opened gunfire on them that led to a dozen casualties. The unchecked wandering of militants, insurgents rendered the highways insecure and travel within the country difficult. Particularly the highway between Kabul and Kandahar, lying on unsafe Zabul, Ghazni and Wardak provinces, have been very unsafe over the passed few weeks since the abduction of 31 civilian passengers by unknown gunmen. Almost a month has gone since the abduction but the fate of abductees belonging to Hazara ethnic group is still unknown.

Despite the presence of coalition and Afghan forces, the increasing number of casualties and abduction is a point of great concern for Afghans who would otherwise conclude the US's twelve years long combat mission of no use at all. If concrete measures are not taken to tackle escalating insurgency the state of affair might return to the point of no return post US complete draw down.

What the government has to do is getting the law implemented indiscriminately to ensure order in a state. There is a documented existence of law and with negligible application or it finds prejudicial application can't get us rid of the emerging menace. In our beloved country, seemingly, the militants and anti-state elements have grown to an extent that easily evades the loosely held net of law and order and turn triumphant. After years of conflict and several changes of governments, multiple government-centered and customary and community-based systems of governance and law continue to exist in parallel in Afghanistan. The last twelve years of internationally-supported state-building have added to the complexities of rule of law and governance in Afghanistan. The failure to exclude the leaders of armed militias, many of whom have known records of gross human rights abuses, from government structures and the failure to ensure a comprehensive disarmament process have further weakened governance and rule of law. Regulation makes it possible for men to live together peaceably in a community given the law rule than nuisance. The government must enforce rules that will make it possible for them to live together without conflict. The militants who disband terrorism should be given amnesty and the rest accused of gross human right violation must be tackled through proper course of action.

The militants apprehended must be subjected to a fair trial is a pivotal to maintenance of peace and security. Long lasting peace can only be installed in Afghanistan provided the anti-state elements are brought to book through fair trial, holding the right culprit accountable for his deeds. In doing so the government should too consider the wages and authority of public officials serving this department, so that they shouldn't be misled by attractive offers. The government must get itself cleared, whom to be labeled as terrorists, whom should be talked to and whom shouldn't? It should be learned that both the formation of fair laws, its implementation and regulation makes it possible for men to live together peaceably.



## Will President's Visit to U.S. Bring Peace in the Country?

By Hujjatullah Zia

President Ashraf Ghani has a visit to America urging the US troops not to leave Afghanistan in the lurch. In a joint news briefing with US Secretary of State John Kerry, President Ghani hoped that the talks would enable the two allies to implement their bilateral security agreement. "This is a remarkable opportunity for us to discuss issues in depth ... and to put the strategic partnership agreement and the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) into an operational mode," said Ashraf Ghani. US Secretary John Kerry said the two teams were ready to "spend a quiet, thoughtful day to (talk) about the remarkable transition that is taking place in Afghanistan".

President Ghani's main agenda was the request for extending the stay of US troops in Afghanistan.

Mr. Karzai had refused to sign the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the United States and wanted US troops to leave the country as soon as possible. But President Ghani thanked the American nation for the help "so generously provided over the years" and said the best way for "reciprocating the gift means owning our problems, solving them, and asking of ourselves what we must do for ourselves and for the region".

Ghani further stated that in Afghanistan, the IS was "posing a threat, but we are determined to make sure that they do not do the kind of atrocities that they've managed so well in Syria, Iraq, Libya or Yemen".

Throughout the day - in a speech at the Pentagon, during meetings with American officials and at a news conference at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland - Mr. Ghani stressed his commitment to combating militancy and ensuring that Afghanistan could one day support itself as a stable and functional democracy.

President Ghani then personally thanked two people in the crowd: Col. Sue Myers, retired, the widow of Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene of the Army, who was shot and killed at Kabul's military academy last year, and Capt. Jeremy Haynes of the Army, who was severely wounded in the same attack.

General Greene was the highest-ranking American military officer to die in a war zone since the Vietnam War, and Captain Haynes's wounds were nearly fatal. "We recognize that there are millions of stories like theirs," Mr. Ghani said. "Stories of duty, honor, sacrifice and sometimes of grief and tragedy because over 850,000 American troops and civilians and thousands more contractors have served and sacrificed in Afghanistan since 2001. And so have their families alongside them."

He acknowledged that one of the biggest challenges faced by his six-month-old government was corruption. "It's a bottomless pit," said the former World Bank official who has lived in the US. "The good news is that it can be overcome." Mr. Ghani said he had already gone

after the Kabul Bank, "which was notorious ... a case of fraud. From Day 1, it was established as a Ponzi scheme ... all the books were fake". He said he was going after corrupt politicians and politically connected people who used the bank "to get depositors' money and use it as their own".

Ghani's visit to America appears to have aggravated the security situation across the country. As a result, reports say that 13 civilian passengers, including a woman, have been stopped and shot dead by unknown masked gunmen Monday night on Kabul-Ghazni highway. Two more were wounded in the shooting when unknown armed men stopped passengers' vehicle and opened fire on them in central Maidan Wardak. Since the abduction of 31 passengers, the Kabul-Kandahar highway, lying on insecure Zabul, Ghazni and Wardak provinces have been highly unsafe over the past few weeks, according to reports. And a suicide bombing left tens dead and injured behind in Kabul on Wednesday.

The close tie between Kabul and Washington will undermine the Afghanistan's security on the grounds of militants' dissatisfaction. The direct shooting of innocent travelers is an abnormal incident that has ever happened. The police chief of Maidan Wardak, Khalil Andrabi has said regarding the civilians' death as, "The shooting that has occurred here are quite same like the brutal killings by Daesh in Iraq and Syria."

In recent months, the graph of police and civilians' killing is really high and the security has been fragile. Afghans seem dissatisfied with the plight of insecurity. The Kabul-Kandahar highway has changed into a worrisome issue for the passengers. A sense of fear has permeated the travelers - and the recent killing has compounded their chagrin more than ever before.

It is believed that the peace negotiation will not bear the desired fruit. The unmitigated militancy proves that the Taliban do not give the green light about the issue of peace. Violence and terrorist attacks continue unabated which target the police and noncombatants alike. Unknown masked gunmen, who are believed to be the rag-tag Taliban operating under the guise of Islamic State (IS) group, have augmented their indiscriminate attacks showing no flexibility concerning the peace negotiation. Furthermore, the peace platitude will reach an impasse, if it has been initiated, with the stay of US troops. Hence, a provocative and uncertain attitude will remain futile.

The government is supposed to pay serious attention to the plight of Afghanistan's bleeding nation. Hope, the officials take every necessary step to release the 31 abductees and combat militancy effectively. The repeated violence and bloodshed is beyond the patience of Afghan nation.

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## Difference in Perspectives

By Dilawar Sherzai

I have a different opinion and you have a different one. I am a part of a distinct group and you are with another group. However, it is not a matter that should be considered something weird and negative. It is very natural and at the same time it is because of the efforts to understand truth. I may understand truth from a particular perspective while you may understand it from a different one. It is not something very eccentric and must be accepted readily as a necessary part of social life. However, that is not the case in our society - here the difference in ideas and opinions are treated in a very awkward manner.

In our society the disparity in perspective and outlook between two persons or two groups of people means being each other's enemy. This sort of attitude has created a great deal of mistrust among the people. Is it really the sort of attitude that must be adopted by the most superior of the all the creatures? Does this suit the same minds that have the capacity to think and to distinguish between the right and the wrong? Such sort of attitude is really very destructive for a nation and does not let the cooperation, national integration and nation building take place easily.

In fact, every group thinks that it knows all the truths in the universe and has all the positive qualities in the world; that it has been the most blessed and beloved group on the face of earth and that the developments that have taken place throughout the history are basically because of it - in fact, it thinks that the whole world and the incidents in the world revolve around it and it is the main character of the novel while all others are supporting characters or side-heroes.

Who are you and who are we? And what is the reality of our imaginations, thoughts and our opinions? What are the logics and the reasoning in your mind for which there is no answer in ours and vice versa?

Do we or you have any sort of connection with sacred revelations? Who is among us who can claim that his every breath is taken in the environment filled with truth, that whatever he thinks is truth and will always be truth?

Think and develop the habit of thinking that whatever

others think that can be truth as well. In fact, neither you have come from out of universe nor anyone else. Why is that you are not ready to trust anyone else's opinion and thoughts? Why is that you consider the truth as a chapter in your own book? And the same question applies to your opponent as well.

It is the same right that you and your opponent demand and that is the right to have opinion. Yes, it is correct that you can have that right but you must take care and understand the same right of your opponent. You both have to trust each other and realize that what the other person is saying is basically his opinion, not a sin or a crime. If there is no such trust then there is no need of sharing opinions and ideas and then there is no other way of deciding what the truth is. First, it is really necessary that there should be trust over each other's intentions and then start the discussion and arguments so as to find truth.

There should be discussions and discussions must be continued. However, the unfortunate fact is that there is no discussion at all. In fact, we have not yet learnt the manners of discussions. What we are doing is not discussion but striving earnestly to impose our opinions and ideas on others. We are, in fact, habitual of abusing each other and showing how illiterate and ignorant we are.

Discussion, in the real sense, is the practice of the wisdom and understanding of human thinking and mind. And it seems we lack wisdom and understanding, therefore, what we practice is nothing more than frustration. Unless, we overcome this frustration and invite wisdom and understanding with open arms and have healthy discussions with one another, we are not able to bring about positive changes in our personalities and in the long run in our habits and our society.

Let's trust one another and let's establish a healthy relation between us and our urge for truth and let's start healthy discussions with one another and reach to the truth - the actual truth, the one that can emancipate us from the darkness of ignorance and can bring us to light, show us what is right for us and what we have to do as the most superior creature on the planet or may be in the whole universe.

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