

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



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Rights and Duties in Social Life

Human nature has two aspects, personal and social. Every individual has a desire, a need or a want to do or have something. He wants to satisfy his bodily needs for food, clothing and shelter, his instinctive needs for family and friendship, his social requirement of love and belongingness and company of fellow human beings, his cultural, intellectual and numerous other needs and purposes, ideals and motivations. He makes efforts to satisfy or realize them. This basically forms his personality – the personal or individual aspect of his life. If he were alone in the world, the satisfaction of his needs and desires or the realization of his aims and purpose would be determined by the powers and capacities of his body and mind. But nobody can live alone. Everybody has to live in the company or society of other human beings. Now, in society, when an individual wants to do something it must be directly or indirectly, implicitly or explicitly accepted by others. Basically the origin of the right is the claim or power of a person to do or have something recognized by others.

Thus, right is a socially recognized claim, generated from the very nature of human personality and society. But the question is, "Why should an individual claim a right and why should others recognize it?" Every action arouses a reaction and leads to a social relation. Right raises claim to action on one side and recognition of the claim on the other. Other men recognize only those claims which promote common good, that is, the good life for all. Society recognizes those desires or claims for action which firstly does not injure the equal claims of others, and secondly, endorses its common good. It means, firstly that the individual must be conscious of his own good and develop his power to realize it and secondly he must be conscious of the good of others and help them in realizing their desires and powers. Only those desires and claims of an individual are right which promote the same and equal desires and claims of others. This is the common end of social life, the common good or welfare and happiness of all. This is basically the essential nature of rights, which consists of three things; the needs of human personality, the social recognition and the common good or the moral nature of social life. The recognition of a right may be given by the conscience of men, by the social opinion of a people or by the state. Each agency of recognition gives us different kinds of rights. Human conscience recognized moral rights, social opinion, social rights and the recognition by the state gives us legal rights. Furthermore, right is only one end of a social relation, the other end being duty. A right is a claim of a citizen on others to do or have something, while duty is the others claim on the citizen to the same freedom of action or enjoyment. Thus every right implies a corresponding duty. A good social relation means a reciprocal right and duty. Where a social relation gives rights to one person or class of persons without imposing duties on them, it creates a relationship of masters and slaves.

Rights and duties are correlative. This correlation is mainly because of the functions. A right is claimed to do or enjoy something, which is a socially useful or necessary function. Every right has a function attached to it. Mere enjoyment of a right without the performance of the function that is requires is a hollow claim and an anti-social behavior. After having enjoyed a right, a person has the duty to perform its function also. For instance, every citizen has a right to education. But when he has acquired education or training, he must be ready to contribute his share to the social good for which he has educated or trained himself. This is his duty. State or society has given citizen rights so that he may contribute his share or fulfill his duty towards the common good. Otherwise, he has no right to enjoy his rights.

The societies, wherein the citizens have clear understanding about their rights and duties, are destined to prosper. There is better social setup there and more cooperation and brotherhood prevail. However, the societies that have citizens who are not sure about their due rights and duties face real difficulties in attaining social order and unity.

Afghanistan is also one of the same types of countries. Afghan citizens are not aware about their true rights and they are mostly insensitive or careless about their duties. Some of the educated youth, now, have some familiarity about these concepts but many among them emphasize more on their rights than their duties. They keep on shouting about their rights, but mostly neglect the same for others if they are in a position where they are responsible for some duties. It is the need of time that Afghan citizens must understand and perform their duties as the circumstances in the country demand so, and then they should have emphasize on their rights.



Kabul-Moscow Growing Security Cooperation

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

With intensification of war and violence in Afghanistan, Russia and its southern neighbors bordering Afghanistan are increasingly concerned with the deterioration of the situation in northern parts of the country. The recent failure of peace efforts that was supposed to see start of direct peace talks between the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan has also added to Russian concerns over the war and peace developments in Afghanistan and the country's prospect of security and stability. Recently, Afghanistan's acting defense minister Massoum Stanikzai visited Moscow for talk with Russian officials for the country's help in training and equipping Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). According to officials, the aim of the visit was to attract Russia's military support and cooperation to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The efforts to get Russia's military assistance is coming as part of the national unity government's heightened diplomatic efforts to have more military cooperation from Afghanistan's regional and international allies.

Russian authorities have recently hinted the country's interest in expanding military cooperation with Afghanistan and providing military assistance to ANSF. Russian ambassador to Afghanistan Alexander Mantytskiy had earlier said that negotiations were going on between Kabul and Moscow on provision of MI17 helicopters to Afghanistan. In addition, Russia had earlier provided thousands of automatic rifles to ANSF. In recent years after end of NATO and US combat mission in Afghanistan, Russia has shown interest to expand cooperation with Afghanistan on security and counterterrorism, something both Moscow and Kabul were reluctant for before 2014 during the US-led NATO mission in Afghanistan.

The move from both sides to expand military cooperation is coming at a time when Russia is increasingly concerned over the security situation in northern Afghanistan and its possible implications on stability and security of the former Soviet republics and Russia. The Taliban offensive focusing in recent years on the northern provinces has alerted Russia for infiltration of foreign jihadists to the Central Asian countries. Earlier in March, Russian and Tajik militaries conducted joint military exercises along the Tajik-Afghan border involving tens of thousands of Tajik and Russian forces. The drills mainly aimed deterring infiltration of militants and possible attacks from the militant groups operating in eastern and northern Afghanistan.

A number of foreign-rooted militant groups including some with origins of Central Asian region such as the Uzbekistan Islamic Movement have managed to find a foothold in Afghanistan after withdrawal of foreign forces in 2014 and intensification of Taliban attacks across the country. Many of these foreign-originated militant groups also seek jihad ambitions in their own countries and aim to topple governments at home. Withdrawal of most of foreign forces from Afghanistan by end of 2014 and a military crackdown by Pakistani army on the militant groups operating in North Waziristan were two main factors behind growing numbers of foreign-rooted militant groups finding a foothold in Af-

ghanistan. However, the political crisis that gripped the country and the resurgence of the Taliban as the main insurgency group also helped foreign-rooted militant groups such as the Islamic State and Uzbekistan Islamic Movement to gain a footing for operating in Afghanistan.

The scenario of militant groups with affiliations to the Central Asian nations gaining more ground and expanding activities in Afghanistan is of high concerns for the former Soviet republics and Russia. It would be a nightmare for Russia and its southern neighbors to see jihadist outfits such as Tajik, Uzbek, Chechen militants and the Islamic State find safe sanctuaries in Afghanistan from where they can plan and organize attacks in their own countries. The Islamic State is particularly interested in expanding its activities to the Central Asia, and the militant group has been hoping to expand its influence in Afghanistan so to be able to further expand to the north. Despite that the Islamic State is considerably weakened since it emerged and found prominence last year, Afghanistan's northern neighbors still consider it a potential and long-term threat.

The emergence of the Islamic State group in Afghanistan has largely modified the image of the Taliban before many in the regional and far beyond. Due to notoriety of the Islamic State, many regional and global players were driven to change their approach towards the Afghan Taliban which is the main insurgency group in Afghanistan. Taliban's unrelenting stance against the Islamic State and its fierce campaign against the Syria-born jihadist group led to some regional countries secret approach the Taliban and establish contacts with the militant group. Russian officials recently denied having any links with the Taliban, insisting that Moscow is supporting the central government in Afghanistan. Earlier a top Russian diplomat had suggested his country had established contacts with Taliban over fighting the Islamic State. The comments, which later were modified by Russians, sparked concerns in Afghanistan. Security partnership with Russia is important for Afghanistan. Despite that Russia differs with the US on Washington's policies in Afghanistan particularly over the peace efforts, Russia is a potential supporter of Afghanistan in fighting the Taliban insurgency and curbing influence of the foreign militant groups. Despite that Russia has increasingly grown critical to the US policy in Afghanistan largely due to the two country's tense relations over other global conflicts the two countries have a history of cooperation in Afghanistan. Russia has been supportive to the US-led campaign in Afghanistan, and is a key regional supporter of the Afghan government. Relations with Russia have always been important for Afghanistan. The two countries have had cooperation over combating drug trafficking and security in past fourteen years. However, Russia had no interest in reengaging in the conflict in Afghanistan by playing a more direct role in the fight against the Taliban insurgency. Now with the US taking the backseat with the Resolute Support Mission as it is on the course to further shrink its presence in Afghanistan, it is time for the Afghan government to expand security cooperation with Moscow and seek the country's greater role in the efforts to strengthen the Afghan security forces.

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Malaria's Deadly Comeback

By Thierry Diagana and Nick White

The dramatic drop in malaria deaths since the beginning of the century is one of the great public-health success stories of recent years. Thanks to concerted investments in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, the number of people killed by the disease each year has declined 60% since 2000, saving more than six million lives.

And yet, even as the dream of eliminating malaria seems closer to becoming reality, growing drug resistance is threatening these remarkable gains. Resistance to the most effective antimalarial medicine, artemisinin, has emerged in Cambodia and is spreading across the Mekong Delta region.

Without effective and timely action, this new, resistant form of malaria will become widespread – a pattern that has already occurred twice with older malaria medicines. Governments, international organizations, civil-society groups, and companies must take urgent steps to prevent an epidemic of resistant malaria and stop a painful episode from recurring.

In order to delay the spread of resistance long enough to allow new drugs to come onstream, an urgent short-term objective must be achieved: preventing resistance from taking hold in South and Southeast Asia and spreading elsewhere. If history is any guide, artemisinin resistance could move into India and onward to Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the world, putting millions of lives at risk and jeopardizing decades of progress.

In the 1950s, resistance to another medicine, chloroquine, emerged along the Thai-Cambodia border. The same thing then happened in the 1970s with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP). From Southeast Asia, resistance to chloroquine and SP spread to India, and from there to Africa and much of the rest of the world. Millions have died as a result, most of them young African children.

The consequences of widespread artemisinin resistance would be similarly devastating. Even the most conservative estimates paint a grim picture. One study found that its spread could result in more than 116,000 additional deaths each year and roughly \$417 million in associated medical costs and productivity losses – above and beyond the \$12 billion in productivity losses malaria already costs Sub-Saharan Africa each year.

Despite broad-based concern over the past eight years, artemisinin resistance has not been contained. On the contrary, it has now been detected in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar, on India's eastern border.

There has been a welcome increase in donor support, notably the Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative, funded by a \$100-million grant

from The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. But the slow strengthening of conventional control interventions is not proving capable of outpacing the spread of resistance.

To end malaria, we need a united global front against the drivers of resistance. In addition to efforts to contain artemisinin resistance in the Greater Mekong sub-region, action is needed farther afield. According to the World Health Organization, as of November 2015, national health authorities in six African countries and Colombia had not yet withdrawn their marketing authorizations for oral artemisinin monotherapies – an important driver of resistance.

Stronger commitments from the private sector will be needed as well. As of December 2015, 21 drug manufacturers contacted by the WHO had not yet agreed to stop producing oral artemisinin monotherapies. More than two-thirds of these companies are located in Asia.

Research-based pharmaceutical companies must also invest in the next generation of antimalarial medicines. While many artemisinin-based treatments remain effective, at some point they will need to be replaced – or risk becoming part of the problem.

Through a public-private partnership with the Singapore Economic Development Board, the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases has led the formation of a research consortium with this precise aim. The effort has already yielded two promising new antimalarial drug candidates currently in Phase 2 clinical trials – new classes of compounds that treat malaria in different ways from current therapies and thus have the potential to combat emerging drug resistance.

More broadly, product development partnerships, such as the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative and the Medicines for Malaria Venture, are bringing together academic, pharmaceutical, and funding partners to deliver potential new treatments for neglected diseases. These collaborations can shepherd promising compounds through the lengthy and expensive process of drug development and approval.

Two other antimalarial compounds in Phase 2 clinical trials are currently being developed with support from Medicines for Malaria Venture – one with Takeda Pharmaceuticals and the US National Institutes of Health, and another with the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi. We may be winning many battles against malaria, but familiar warning signs indicate we could lose the war. The spread of artemisinin resistance in Asia today threatens the lives of children in Africa tomorrow. That's why we need effective action to prevent the spread of artemisinin resistance, including urgent investments in the next generation of antimalarial treatments. If we do not heed the history of malaria, we may be doomed to repeat it. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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