

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



May 12, 2015

Likewise Hate Speech, Dreadful Retaliation Renders Condemnable

Exaggeration, misrepresentation, sensationalism and over portrayal at date have turned a common commodity to draw in greater audience. It is noticed an individual goes limitless whilst affixing limits to others in the quest to champion freedom of expression. The way one leads one's life, practice religion and chase a dream, devoid of inflicting harms to others falls in the jurisdiction of multitude of rights. This is the realm of authority one should exercise influence that bares others' interference. The assurance of safeguards to a right safeguards peace and order in the society; otherwise conflict ensues.

Free speech deliberates free expression of one's opinion without any restraints. The right to freedom of expression is recognized as a human right under article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognized in international human rights law in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). One should mind this freedom should not go wild analogous to an unchained mare. Governments restrict speech with varying limitations. Common limitations on speech can be related to libel, sedition, hate speech, incitement, right to privacy, public security, public order, public nuisance and oppression. Whether these limitations can be justified under the harm principle depends upon whether influencing a third party's opinions or actions adversely to the second party constitutes such harm or not. There is multiple incidence of exploitation of right to free speech that had earned serious backlash from intolerant adherents of religion being harmed by such stance.

Earlier, three masked gunmen attacked and killed the editorial staff of a weekly satirical journal Charlie Hebdo in Paris which ridiculed Judaism, Catholicism and Islam. The reason behind the daylight massacre was the publication of highly provocative cartoons published, which had offended Muslims. Following the reprehensible attack other major Western publications instigated to republish the same offensive cartoons that Charlie Hebdo had carried, ostensibly in a bid to show solidarity with the magazine. One wonders whether this is the right way to show solidarity and condemn these attacks. Along with this unnecessary brutality, the likely backlash against the Muslim population of the West in response made the perpetrators doubly guilty.

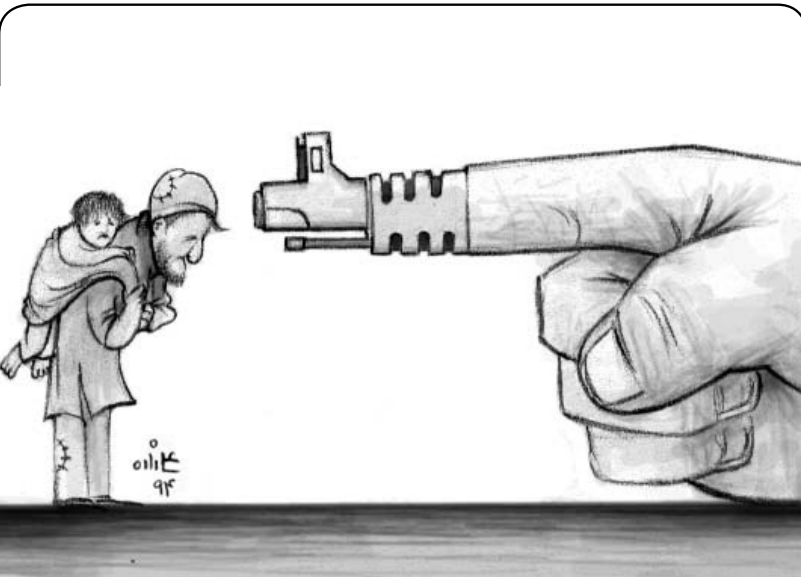
Formerly, Pamela Gellar a controversial champion of free speech went on organizing the contest for drawing Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) cartoons in Garland, Texas that was duly attacked by ISIS terrorists. This is a deliberate display of Islamophobia, a section of people in the West has been denying of being behind such provocative deed, are beleaguering the truth. But it is equally clear that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Art Exhibit and Contest in Garland, Tex., was not really about free speech. Contrarily, it was not Pamela Gellar, first ever incident; in fact she has a long history of declarations and actions motivated purely by hatred for Muslims. It was an exercise in narrow-mindedness and hatred posing as a blow for freedom.

We should learn it, contrary to degree of freedom one enjoys in western democracy, it should be considered that speech offensive to a religion, society, special interest groups or individuals should not go viral. For example, freedom of speech is limited in many jurisdictions to widely differing degrees by religious legal systems, religious offense or incitement to ethnic or racial hatred laws. It crucially significant, however offensive the images were, it never justifies murder instead can serve only to worsen tensions and furnish the ground for extremists brutal acts.

The Muslims all over the world, including those who live in the US and Europe, do not subscribe to the ideology of the IS. Factually, they themselves have rendered vulnerable to the attacks of the terrorist groups, given they shun such interpretation of Islamic teachings. Hence, in many Muslim countries undergoing bloody conflict the pacified Muslims render the prey of extremist Muslims is blameworthy.

The countless innocent killed did not quench the blood thirst of these self claimed champions and sane Muslim; Al-Qaida, ISIS and Taliban whose bloody tale of mass massacre, outpatient the humanists across glob. The Muslim world should come to a conclusion to disown and alienate these evil practioners, manipulating the sacred religion for personal gains, adding than deducing the miseries of Muslim.

Muslims undergo grave suspicion since 9/11. Many innocent Muslims have already paid a heavy price for this suspicion and more would do the same if the extremist fellow champion to be sole representative of Muslim community. What is centrally important, one should understand drawing a distinctive line between free speech and hate speech; the former supports an individual's right to speak his mind uninterrupted whilst the later propagates hatred under the cover free speech in the bid to offend well held religious or otherwise values. We should learn it; the hate speech is equally condemnable to that of atrocious retaliation by extremist.



China's Foreign Aid: Mutual Benefits and Win-Win

By Deng Xijun

I. The Guideline of China's Foreign Aid

China is the world's largest developing country. In its development, China has been providing assistance to the best of its ability to other developing countries within the framework of South-South cooperation to support and help other developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to reduce poverty and improve livelihood. The basic principles China upholds in providing foreign assistance are mutual respect, equality, keeping promise, mutual benefits and win-win. In recent years, China's foreign assistance has kept growing. Asia and Africa are the major recipient areas of China's foreign assistance. To promote the realization of Millennium Development Goals, China directs most of its assisting funds to low-income developing countries.

II. Financial Resources and Forms of China's Foreign Assistance

From 2010 to 2012, China appropriated in total 89.34 billion yuan (14.41 billion U.S. dollars) for foreign assistance in three types: grant (aid gratis), interest-free loan and concessional loan. Grant is mainly offered to help recipient countries build small or medium-sized social welfare projects, and to fund human resources development cooperation, technical cooperation, material assistance and emergency humanitarian aid. In the three years, China provided 32.32 billion yuan of grants, accounting for 36.2 percent of the total assistance volume. Interest-free loan is mainly used to help recipient countries construct public facilities and launch projects to improve people's livelihood. In the three years, China offered 7.26 billion yuan of interest-free loans, taking up 8.1 percent of its foreign assistance volume. Concessional loan is mainly used to help recipient countries undertake manufacturing projects and large and medium-sized infrastructure projects with economic and social benefits, or for the supply of complete plants, machinery and electronic products. In the three years, the concessional loans China provided to other countries amounted to 49.76 billion yuan, or 55.7 percent of its total assistance volume in the same period. Up to now, China provided foreign assistance mainly in the following forms: undertaking complete projects, providing goods and materials, conducting technical cooperation and human resources development cooperation, dispatching medical teams and volunteers, offering emergency humanitarian aid, and reducing or exempting the debts of the recipient countries.

III. China's Aid to Afghanistan

China is not the largest donation country to Afghanistan, but China's aid is sincere and without any political conditions. In the 1950s and 1960s, although China was not better off at that time, it still built some aid projects such as Parwan Irrigation System and Kandahar Hospital for Afghanistan, which still function well in promoting the livelihood and welfare of local people. In recent years, China has been actively supporting the Afghan peaceful reconstruction. By the end of October 2014, China had provided 1.52 billion yuan of grants, trained nearly one thousand professionals in all fields through bilateral and multilateral channels, provided over 10 batches of goods and materials, built important projects such as Jumhoriye Hospital, Teaching Building of Chinese Language Department and Guest House of Kabul University, National Center of Science and Technology Education, and Multi-functional Center in the Presidential Palace for Afghanistan. All

of these have played effective role in promoting the development and people's livelihood of Afghanistan, and gained praises from all walks of life of Afghanistan. During President Ashraf Ghani's state visit to China last October, China committed to provide 2 billion yuan of grants to Afghanistan from 2014 to 2017, and train 3,000 professionals in various fields in the next five years. Not long ago, a working group from the Ministry of Commerce of China held in-depth talks with the Afghan side in Kabul on how to make good use of the 2 billion yuan of grants. We hope the two sides could keep close coordination, and enhance practical cooperation to make sure the Afghan people could enjoy the benefit at an early date.

IV. China will continue to firmly support Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction

Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a successful state visit to Pakistan from 20th to 21st April, 2015. During the visit, the building of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) became one of the highlights, which also got much attention in Afghanistan. Many believe that CPEC will offer new opportunities for the promotion of connectivity of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan, and have great significance for economic development and exportation of energy and mineral resources of Afghanistan. However, there was some Afghan media which made simple comparison between the 2 billion yuan of Chinese grants to Afghanistan from 2015 to 2017 and the so-called 46 billion US dollars of Chinese investment to Pakistan which was only reported by some foreign media, commenting that China favors one more than another. I would like to make the following clarification in this regard: The spending for the construction of CPEC is mainly made up of business investments, project contracts, and even commercial loans, which are totally different from Chinese grants to Afghanistan. Therefore, the two figures are not comparable.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are both close and friendly neighbors of China. The stability and development of the two countries are closely related to that of China. Thus it is incumbent upon China to help Afghanistan realize peace and development. Just as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during his official visit to Pakistan last February that to solve the issue of Afghanistan, reconciliation is the key and reconstruction is the root, that only with people's farewell to poverty at an early date as a result of economic and social development can a brand-new future be brought to Afghanistan, and that the Chinese government is willing to work with the international community to be actively devoted to enhancing the capacity of independent development of Afghanistan. We will earnestly implement every solemn commitment made by the Chinese side in supporting Afghanistan's reconstruction. China will work closely with Afghanistan to implement the package of assistance plans declared by Chinese leaders during President Ashraf Ghani's visit to China last year. Furthermore, CPEC, located in where the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road meet, is a major project of the "Belt and Road" initiative. China is willing to display the radiation effect of CPEC, jointly build the community of common interest and destiny with Afghanistan and Pakistan, and work together with the two countries for the regional development and prosperity.

Deng Xijun is the current Chinese Ambassador in Afghanistan

Fake and Fabricated Extremism!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

News that was of less interest to our media and the least impact on Afghans was about the fear of 'Islamic Extremism' in a number of schools in England. Quite naturally, it was much circulated in the British media and to some extent got coverage on international media as well. According to these 'frightening reports,' Islamic activists who were indirectly and secretly linked with some extremist groups outside the British borders, were busy in increasing the influence of Islamic extremism in a number of British schools. As expected, the rumor was immediately accepted and large number of conservative British politicians, including the former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, jumped into the scenario and got a fresh topic to repeat their old ideas. Inspectors were sent to the schools to reveal the truth and make necessary recommendations but according to police, no visible threat has been found but the investigations are to continue so that 'actual' truths should be brought to the public.

An independent press report reveals something absolutely different. When they contacted the people in the neighborhood, a different story came to surface. According to neighbors, Muslim parents were getting more concerned about the progress of their children in schools and so they were getting more involved in the affairs of school. They had pointed out about some of the weak points of these schools and especially the biased treatment of Muslim students in the British schools due to their religious or ethnic differences. School authorities, instead of listening to them and consider their valid and fair demands, invented a new story which is so often-repeated and accepted that it pushed behind curtain the actual issue and brought forward a new situation. This situation might have definitely harassed the parents who were interested in the academic progress of their children and who aimed to bring positive changes so that the future of their children should be safe and secure. They got this courage after realizing that Britain is a democratic country where every citizen is equal and laws of the country guarantees all the rights to every citizen without any discrimination of race, color or religion. However, they had forgotten that some ill-minded people would use a very bad and unethical weapon to turn them silent.

This is not the first time that so-called 'Islamic extremism' has been used to frighten the people and gain something illegal or unethical. After the sad incidents of 9/11, it has become a safe, effective and proven formula to sideline Muslims, snatch their rights and make them silent. However, normal public is not wise or wicked enough to think of such a heinous plot but governments and especially the secret agencies have found this excuse and pretence very useful to bring out their objectives. The disturbing and sad factor of above incident is that, this excuse is now being utilized on local scale which results in the defamation of a specific

group, brings a rift between the relations of Muslims and other groups living harmoniously in a society like that of London or any other European or American city and discourages those Muslims who actually want to work against extremism.

Although, it has nothing to do with Afghans but it must not be forgotten that Afghans or other minority groups living in London or any other European and American city can be a victim in future. If this formula worked for the wicked and evil-minded school inspectors and politicians of this particular case, it might come very attractive for those who might be thinking of plotting something dangerous and heinous against Muslims living in their vicinity to deprive them of their rights or turn them silent.

The Muslim community of Britain was also targeted when large numbers of British Muslims went to Jihad in Syria. When they had to return, the 'Islamophobia' once again threatened the government and the people. However, it was not asked as why government supported them when they first went to Jihad and did nothing to stop them on the first step. This was not the case when same Muslims went to Libya to topple down the government of Gaddafi.

In fact, this so-called 'Islamophobia' is an effective tool in hands of some British and Western politicians to gain public attention and raise their political figures. The issue was raised on the occasion when Britain was close to its general elections and campaign for the new British Prime Ministers was much heated up. In the same way, former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, also regards it useful to open this 'Pandora Box' from time to time to get some media attention and remain in news.

As far as the reaction of public is concerned; it is unfortunate and sad-denning, even in civilized and educated countries. Media, governments and security organizations have repeated this lie so much that people find it easy to accept without any question whatever is said or presented to them. In such circumstances, it is of no surprise if such allegations keep getting public attention.

On the other hand, on all such occasions, media thinks of material benefit instead of going through the issue and taking the risk of challenging a widely accepted lie and status-quo. Media has to find issues that should bring occasional increase in its readership or viewership and for that, such issues, be true or not, are very useful.

And this gives an indirect message for all Muslims in general and Afghans in particular. The media and governments might be using the name of Islam and Muslims with their wicked intentions so we need not to be under the burden of shame and guilt. True Islamic teachings and a true Muslim never believe in extremism or radicalism and there is not present any second thought in this regard.

Muhammad Rasool Shah is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at muhammadrasoolshah@gmail.com

Chairman / Editor in Chief: Dr. Hussain Yasa

Vice Chairman: Kazim Ali Gulzari

Phone: +93 799 005 019/799 408 271/777 005 019

E-mail: mail@outlookafghanistan.com, outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Address: V-137, Street 6, Phase 4, Shahrak Omeed Sabz, Kabul, Afghanistan

Sub Office: Shora Road, Street 10, District 6, Kartey 3, Kabul, Afghanistan

