

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



May 24, 2016

Crimes are the Product of Disorder in Society

Crime and delinquency are the forms of non-conformity of human behavior. Criminals are the product of society and are caused by the disorganization of the social structure. Keeping in view the law and order system, it is important that the crimes must be brought to light - they should be reported to the relevant authorities or institutions so that they should be identified as crimes. Thus reporting of crime to a specialized government agency is of great importance in today's societies.

Even after reporting if the court of law does not find sufficient proof against the defaulter then he is not a criminal. If an individual is given punishment which may be in the form of a warning or a fine or imprisonment, then the individual becomes a criminal. Further, the extent of punishment is based upon the rigidity of the code of morality and the mores which have been violated. From Afghanistan's point of view, for example, if the religious values are very much adversely affected, the intensity of the punishment will be greater. There is no clear cut dividing line between crime and non-conformity and every non-conformity is not a crime.

In our country the reporting of crime is not so efficient due to various socio-cultural and security reasons. For instance, the delinquent children and deviant women are mostly ignored and their crimes are not reported to the police. Moreover, when women are even the victims in certain sorts of crimes, such crimes are also not reported because women are thought to be the honor of the families and their names are not revealed to the police or in such cases.

In the same way, due to homogeneity of the rural society, having an informal social control, most of the cases are decided by the village elders and are not reported to the police. There is no proper record of these crimes. Influential persons also hush up minor criminal cases. Due to these reasons, the true presentation of the crime statistics is not possible. Crime is one of the major social problems of the country which needs attention of the government and the social actors.

The increase of crime in a society enhances the economic, social and psychological sufferings of the masses. For instance, the murder of the head of the family brings myriads of problems and difficulties for the wife, children and other dependents. The increasing rate of crime in the country disorganizes and disintegrates the whole society and affects all social institutions adversely.

There are different causes of crimes within our society but poverty and illiteracy are the most dominant ones. When the economic position of an individual is not sound and satisfactory he develops hatred against the other prosperous members of society. This state of economic instability and psychological frustration lead an individual to commit grave type of crimes, which cannot be expected under normal circumstances.

Mass illiteracy and ignorance of the people is a major cause for a large number of crimes. Most of the illiterate and ignorant persons commit major crimes without realizing the social, economic and psychological implications upon themselves and their families.

Keeping in view the negative and devastating impacts of crimes in our society, it is really vital to follow a comprehensive strategy to control the situation. The education of masses would decrease the nature and rate of crime in the country. Education inculcates respect for law among the people and promotes among them a sense of understanding of the environment in a better way. An educated person proves to be a better citizen in comparison to an illiterate and an ignorant person. Adult education centers should also be encouraged side by side with the educational program for the coming generations on a country level. Normally, an educated person thinks about the after effects before he intend to commit a crime.

Moreover, every efforts should be made to improve the living standard of the masses, as improvement in the living standard would bring about better housing and sanitation facilities for the masses. Good and enough food and clothing with better environment of the family are correlated with a higher living standard which will lead to a better and healthy socialization of an individual. Frustration due to poverty and economic insecurity would be no more a dominating factor among the masses, which may help in decreasing the rate of crime in the country. The number of cottage industries should also be increased to keep the villagers busy in slack seasons and also to enable them to raise their living standards.

Though the total prevention of the crimes is something impossible, there should be efforts to adopt preventive measures on the one hand, strive to amend the criminals on the other by providing them better chances for their readjustment in society as normal and useful member. It is not a matter of more police, more courts and jails which can decrease the rate of crime, but the creation of healthy brotherhood, better social environment and healthy society, culture and personality that can remedy in the long run.

The Impact of Mansour's Death on Peace Talks

By Hujjatullah Zia

With the revelation of Mullah Omar's death, a gap emerged between the Taliban's splinter groups and appointment of Mullah Akhtar Mansour, on July 2015, as the Taliban's leader led to a serious conflict. Lacking Omar's charisma, he did not carry much weight among the fighters. After all, rumors suggested that Mansour was behind the secret death of Taliban's supreme leader. Omar's death was kept in mystery for two years and disclosed in a highly critical time - when second round face-to-face talks between the Taliban and Afghan officials were about to take place.

Pakistan hosted a talk between the Afghan government and Taliban representatives on late July 2015, at the popular tourist resort of Murree as part of its efforts to put an end to over a decade-old conflict in the war-torn country. Senior officials from Pakistan, China and the United States also attended closed-door talks suggesting that the Murree process had the backing of all major international players. But Mullah Omar's death, which was revealed just a day before a second meeting was supposed to take place, stalled the negotiation. To consolidate his leadership, Mansour called the peace talks as "enemy's propaganda" and made heavy inroads in Afghanistan. As a result, the Taliban declared their "spring offensive" last year which inflicted heavy casualties upon our nation. The graph of civilian casualties increased dramatically - this marked escalation in militancy. Subsequently, the four-nation group, which comprises of China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States, was established to broker the talks. The Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) conducted meetings and the last one was held on February 23, 2016, in Kabul, without the presence of the Taliban. However, none of them bore the desired result and militancy continued unabated.

Mansour refused sitting around the negotiating table and announced Operation Omari, in the current year, to continue their attacks in Afghanistan.

The Taliban's relentless leader was reported killed in a drone strike in Balochistan near the Afghan border and his death was confirmed on Sunday, May 22, 2016 by Afghanistan's main intelligence service, the National Directorate for Security (NDS), Afghan Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Pakistani Foreign Office. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that the late Taliban leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, killed in a remote area in Pakistan during a US bombing raid, obstructed the peace talks between the movement and the Afghan government, holding back the reconciliation process.

Moreover, U.S President Barack Obama said the death of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour marks an "important milestone" in the longstanding effort to bring peace to Afghanistan. "This action sends a clear message to the world that we will continue to stand with our Afghan partners as they work to build a more

stable, united, secure and prosperous Afghanistan," US Secretary of State John Kerry is cited as saying.

The drone attack came just days after representatives from the US, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan had held another round of negotiations in Islamabad aimed at reviving long-stalled direct peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Pakistan has condemned the drone attack and said that it was a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty. A statement issued by the Pakistan's Foreign Office said that Islamabad wanted to remind the world that the fifth meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) held on May 18 had reiterated that a politically negotiated settlement was the only viable option for lasting peace in Afghanistan.

The death of Akhtar Mansour, who swiftly consolidated power following a bitter Taliban leadership struggle after the death of Mullah Omar was revealed last year, could spark new succession battles within the fractious movement. It is most likely that there will be infighting in the Taliban regarding succession after Mansour's death, mainly between Mullah Omar's brother Mullah Abdul Manan and son Mullah Yaqub, and the Haqqani network chief Sirajuddin Haqqani. The question is that will Mansour's death pave the way for talks or vice versa?

Perhaps, the main reason behind Mansour's death was his persistence on insurgency despite the struggles made by the four-nation group to resume peace talks. But his death will put the talks into deadlock and make the process more complicated than ever. The Taliban will persist more seriously, from now onward, on the precondition which suggested the complete withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan. Hence, the QCG will encounter great barriers that hamper them from success. What if Sirajuddin Haqqani substitutes Mansour?

Appointing Haqqani as successor to Mansour will be a major blow to the peace process. Being more radical than Mansour, he will orchestrate heavier inroads in Afghanistan. Haqqani, who has a \$5 million US bounty on his head, is widely seen by US and Afghan officials as the most dangerous warlord in the Taliban insurgency, responsible for the most bloody attacks, including one last month in Kabul in which more than 80 people were killed. The Haqqani network is thought to have introduced suicide bombing to Afghanistan and the US State Department calls it the most lethal insurgent group targeting US-led and government forces in Afghanistan. It labels Sirajuddin Haqqani a "specially designated global terrorist." But it is by no means certain Haqqani would be named Taliban leader. The upcoming conflict between the Taliban's splinter group over Mansour's succession will hardly agree upon his leadership. However, it should be noted that if Mansour's successor, whoever he will be, refuses peace talks relentlessly, he might be the next target of the US drone attack. As member of the QCG, Pakistan should play its role by suggesting a more reasonable figure as Mansour's successor.

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Afghan Peace Process After Mullah Mansoor!

By Ahmad Shah Karimi

Mullah Mansoor was born in a small village in the Maiwand district of Kandahar, a southern province of Afghanistan that shares border with Pakistan's south-western Baluchistan province. Before assuming the leadership of Taliban, he functioned as the acting head of the movement on behalf of Mullah Mohammad Omar, the founder and spiritual head. In this capacity, he is understood to have authorized the release of periodic statement by Mullah Omar on the official Taliban website, even after Mullah Omar had been dead for a long time.

In 2007, when Pakistan security forces captured former Taliban defense minister and the group's acting head, Mullah Obaidullah Akhund, in Quetta. The Taliban shura replaced him with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and appointed Mullah Mansoor as one of two deputies. Mullah Baradar was arrested in a joint ISI-CIA operation in 2010, paving the way for Mansoor to become the acting head of the group. Mullah Mansoor was announced as the leader of the Taliban a year ago after it was revealed that Mullah Omar had died, probably a couple of years ago. Influential Taliban leadership moved quickly to confirm Mullah Mansoor as their leader, in a move aimed at preventing division.

Afghanistan experienced the most lethal and deadly attacks in Mullah Akhtar Mansoor tenure as Taliban head. But the question arises here that will Mullah Mansoor's demise have any outstanding outcome on the current peace negotiations?

Mansoor has been an obstacle to peace and reconciliation process between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban, prohibiting Taliban leaders from participating in peace talks with the Afghan government that could decrease the insurgency and conflict to some extent. The death of Mullah Mansoor who was consolidating his authority over a fracturing Taliban as the militants made major gains on the battlefield last year, would throw the insurgency into its second leadership crisis within a year. Still, it was unclear whether it could create any significant breathing space for the Afghan government, which struggled to bring the insurgents on negotiations table.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Monday in a statement "Mullah Mansour stood in the way of talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, blocking the prospects for progress towards peace and reconciliation for Afghanistan."

US President Barack Obama said the death of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour marks an "important milestone" in the longstanding effort to bring peace to Afghanistan, adding that "Mansour rejected efforts by the Afghan government to seriously engage in peace talks and end the violence that has taken the lives of countless innocent Afghan men, women and children. The Taliban should seize the opportunity to pursue the only real path for ending this long conflict - joining the Afghan government in a reconciliation process that leads to lasting peace and stability."

Moreover, president Ashraf Ghani, since assuming office as Afghan president has expressed interest in holding peace with the Taliban, under certain conditions, but talks so far have foundered. Although the efforts made by Afghan government along with US, China and Pakistan have not yield any fruit but there is a great possibility that the death of Mullah Mansoor may provide the Taliban with an opportunity to pursue a peaceful solution.

The Afghan government should take advantage of Mullah Mansoor's dead and bring other Taliban leaders to negotiation table since they showed eagerness in the past. On the other hand, Afghan government should also launch heavy military attacks to counter militants who are not willing to join the peace process.

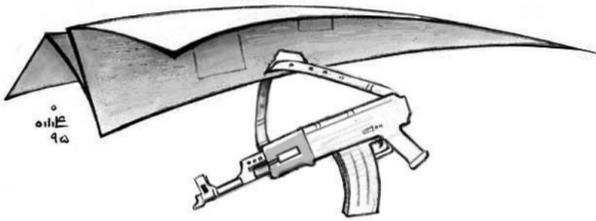
It is for sure that the death of Mullah Mansoor will not have an immediate impact on the military operations of the insurgent group, which has been expanding in the recent months. However, in the status quo, Taliban will increase their attacks to signal Afghan government and its international supporters that they are still in power and can challenge them strongly. Besides, the Taliban may start launching wide-scale operation even more heavily than before to show that they are however solid regardless of their leader's death. Targeting Mansoor is a positive development but will not likely have a dramatic impact on the course of war in Afghanistan, said Michael O'Hanlon, an analyst at the Brookings Institution. "Well established organizations that are large with multiple key leaders can often survive the death of key leader," O'Hanlon said.

Adviser to Pakistani Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Friday Addressing the fifth round of Pakistan-Afghanistan dialogue organized by Regional Peace Institute, Aziz said that QCG comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, US and China, has been making joint efforts for reviving direct talks between the Afghan Government and Taliban but Taliban have not yet responded positively to these efforts. Now as the leader of the Taliban killed, Afghanistan along with Pakistan should suppress militants on ground as much as possible before the next leader assume complete control over the militants on the ground.

In addition, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday that the Taliban chief posed a continuing imminent threat" to US personnel in Afghanistan and to Afghans, and was a threat to peace. "This action sends a clear message to the world that we will continue to stand with our Afghan partners as they work to build a more stable, united, secure and prosperous Afghanistan," Kerry said.

Since Mullah Mansoor was elected as a Taliban leader he had launched several substantial attacks in different provinces which killed and injured thousands of military and civilian personals. Therefore, his demise is definitely cherished between Afghans who suffered and sustained hard times during Mullah Mansoor tenure as Taliban leader.

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