

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



November 04, 2015

The Uncertain Fate of Afghan Refugees

The issue of refugees is getting very serious for European countries and they do not seem in concurrence with each other regarding the issue. Germany that seemed ready to welcome refugees with open arms now seem undecided about them. In a recent step, which is considered as a policy shift by Angela Merkel's government, Germany is to start deporting Afghan asylum seekers. The step is taken to discourage hundreds of thousands of Afghan asylum seekers who are on their way to Germany. In the ongoing year according to UN Refugee Agency about 124,000 Afghans requested asylum in Europe, which is twice as many as in the same period last year and they are second largest group as Syrians are the largest.

The current German government believes that all of the asylum seekers who have reached to Germany are not genuine refugees, as many of them come for economic reasons. It says that Germany will continue to offer asylum to those fleeing areas held by the Taliban or affected by fighting. But it wants to repatriate those who come from areas considered "safe", like the capital, Kabul.

So far, almost 50 per cent of asylum claims from Afghans are rejected in Germany. Those who are turned down are not deported because of the uncertain security situation, but are allowed to remain in Germany in a legal limbo.

Currently, German government wants the EU to negotiate a repatriation agreement with Afghanistan so they can be safely returned.

If it cannot secure EU backing, Germany will try to negotiate a bilateral agreement with the Kabul government.

The Afghan government on the other hand seems worried about the deportation of the Afghan refugees. The Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said on Sunday that Afghanistan will not accept the deported asylum seekers without a mutual agreement between the government of Afghanistan and the European Union. However the ministry urged that the government of Afghanistan is ready to hold dialogues with EU to find a solution to the alarming matter.

The Upper House of Afghan Parliament - Meshrano Jirga also warned of a possible tragedy if the forcible expulsion of Afghan refugees is not managed properly.

The sad story is that the Afghan refugees who return to Afghanistan do not have proper services and requirements available for them. The Afghan government is not in the position to completely absorb the returning refugees and would face immense pressure in order to provide compensations for them.

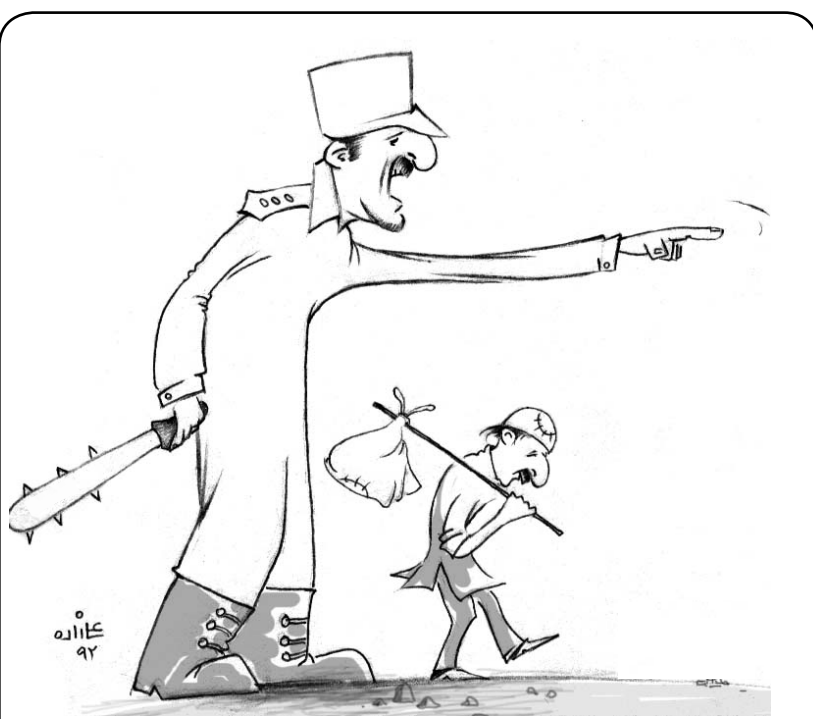
The issue of refugees is an international problem and needs proper attention from international community. The refugees who leave their homelands in search of better life, most of the times suffer different sorts of hardships before they reach somewhere safe. Most of them even do not reach to the destination they set for as happened in the incident mentioned above. On most of the occasions they fall prey to the ill intentions of human-smugglers, who discriminate them as much as they can. Furthermore, they have to go through severe kind of psychological depression and strain as they go through the worst sort of experiences.

The growing discontent in different parts of the world has made the number of refugees and asylum seekers rise considerably. Afghanistan is one of the most dominant countries in this regard. Decades of wars and terrorism along with droughts and shortages of basic requirements have compelled million of people to leave the country. Though there has been remarkable decrease in this regard, millions of Afghan refugees are still living their lives in neighboring countries (like Pakistan and Iran), European countries, Australia, Canada and America; while, there are thousand others who are still in different sorts of camps and detention centers around the world waiting for some sort of sympathy and attention. The circumstances faced by these refugees are not always welcoming and they have to bear the brunt of different sorts of reactions. Though in some countries they are welcomed warmly, in others they are treated in a very cruel manner.

The foreign lands have not always treated Afghan refugees with warm hugs; every now and then they have been the victims of discrimination and ill-treatment. Most of the Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries have suffered the consequences of fluctuations in the way they are treated. Definitely, it has been generous of host countries to compensate the Afghan refugees, who because of wars and instability left their dear homeland, but on certain occasions they have also displayed the attitude that have violated the rights of the refugees to a great extent.

Definitely, these countries have their own problems; they are developing countries and they have their own economic issues to face; however, they have been supported by international community and United Nations to assist the refugees and guarantee their rights under international law.

The European countries at this crucial juncture must make sure that they design a clear strategy regarding the fate of Afghan refugees. Definitely, there are political and diplomatic concerns for all the governments of the world to consider, but the issue of refugees is more important than such concerns, as it involves the precious human lives and the lives of human beings stand more sacred than any other concern, belief or ideology.



Divided Interest Serves Humanitarian Crisis

By Asmatyari

The world was destined to sit in Geneva and talk about ongoing humanitarian crisis Syria that resulted in an unexpected migrant influx into European shores. According to United Nations at the latest as per estimation 220,000 people have died and multiplied number injured in Syria. It is said 350,000 migrants crossed the EU's borders in between January-August 2015, compared with just 280,000 during the whole of 2014. Nonetheless, the mass migration doesn't stop here, round about 218,000 migrants crossed Mediterranean in October the UNHCR latest report reads. Most of migrants are war weary Syrians whose life rested to mercy of ceaseless death. It isn't less than a human tragedy where a portion of world cries foul against unending atrocities while the world mightiest powers are finding it hard whom to talk to and whom to target. The worried sick unbelievable stratagem is right away turning believable.

Part of the world hitherto deems ISIL the latest and most sophisticated terror group that had only succeeded attracting bunch of western youth towards militancy with inclusion to imprinting their footprints deep in the heart of most of the people around the globe. The US greater inclination to launching attacks against the terror group had intensified the perception that group is likely to turn history in the least possible time. Nevertheless, the hitherto vocal existence of the group depicts "on ground politics differs from that of paper politics" is no surprise. It is imminent to get disclosed to the world -the geopolitical interests' lying the top most of political wish list of some countries, may turn catastrophic and irreversible. World of appreciation to tones of humbleness and sincerity to ex-prime minister of UK Tony Blair's, who displayed exceptional courage confessing misdeeds into account of emergence of ISIL subsequent to invading Iraq whose terror tales runs down the spine of people across the globe.

The tale of coldblooded atrocities earned ISIL prominence not only in Iraq and Syria but also in Afghanistan and Nigeria and elsewhere. It is witnessed the ongoing tale of intra-Taliban conflict led to defection of some potential Taliban leader into ISIL, Afghanistan chapter. The faction of Taliban have already responded to the call of Caliph of Muslims al-Baghdadi waging war against innocent civilians here in Afghanistan. Formerly, President Ghani has confessed the threat looming over this land due terror plots of IS fighters. This undoubtedly is an alarming sign for the state of Afghanistan, already worried sick of recurrent attacks launched by local insurgents and militants. Moreover, Afghanistan undeniably serve as a fertile land providing with large number of individuals whose trust can easily be earned, subsequent of assurance of virtues, noble deed and dearness in the sight of Creator. Consequently, it is pretty trouble-free for ISIL, to establish a sound operational ground in this piece of land, hence adding government miseries, has materialized. The government got caught amidst soaring insecurity

with exception of taking tangible measure can't get rid of this menace; provided the ranks of militants widens with incoming fighters.

This comes as a UN report released late in September stated that nearly 70 militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are busy in forming the core of the group's branch in Afghanistan. The United Nation (UN) recently published report showed the self-styled Islamic State (IS) group is making inroads in Afghanistan and recruiting followers in 25 of the country's 34 provinces. The source has said that IS fighter had been fighting Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and the Taliban in different areas of Afghanistan. It said 10 percent of the Taliban fighters had sympathies with the Daesh fighters, adding that 70 percent of the group's fighters came from Syria and Iraq to Afghanistan. Amidst the negligence that deem not them a threat their growth marks is blatant fault. It is highlighted that member of group are travelling to Iraq and Syria.

The whole state of affairs reflects IS accounts for most if not all of miseries of contemporary world. Earlier, the of pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) rally was struck by twin suicide bombing that took the death toll at 97. Islamic State rendered the focus of investigations into bombing.

The latest report published by IHS Jane's global defense publication testifies the group spiked over 40 percent attack per day. The report, recorded 1,086 Islamic State attacks globally between July and September. The report covered activity within countries where Islamic State claims territory, including not only its main heartland in Syria and Iraq, but also Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the North Caucasus and Algeria. Greatest majority hitherto deems ISIL the nascent terror group that is effectively manipulating security situation in many countries. The US and the West are rightly striving to do away the harm by launching attack against the group in Iraq and Syria. It was astonishing to learn the US led coalitions are arming rebels who fight the Bashar-ul-Asad regime that also includes ISIL inspired groups. Subsequent, to commencement of Russia aerial raids against the high profile terrorist sites it was complained that most Russian strikes were against "moderate" rebels "not IS forces -the situation was brought to light. The on ground realities depicts that Washington's "moderate" rebels include the likes of al-Nusra (al-Qaeda's Syrian branch), Ahrar al-Sham (affiliate of al-Qaeda) and the Islamic Front (aspires to establish Islamic State).

A German journalist Jurgen Todenhofer, who spent 10 days inside the Islamic State, reported last year that IS militants are being "indirectly" armed by the West; negates the chances of restriction or extermination of ISIL, ISIL, a thought about perception. The individual pursuit of selfish desires will most likely embolden the terrorists then ridding the world of them instead every troubled part of the world will turn into breeding nurseries.

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Congo Virus- Perils & Remedies

By Dr. Faisal Ali

Exclusive for the Daily Outlook

Since the dawn of humanity, man has always toiled to combat the horror of diseases, with a view to maintaining human society physically healthy and economically vibrant. In the present age, the outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic fevers in different parts of the globe have trammelled the humanity with maledictions of pessimism despite using huge resources on its control. Sprouted by Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV), this disease is considered euphemism for holocaust and inferno in the affected area of east and West Africa.

Physician Ghislaine courtois spearheaded in his research to find out its virus in Belgian Congo in 1956. Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV) is genetically the most diverse of Arboviruses. So far, seven genotypes of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV) have been ferreted out throughout the world inter-alia Africa 1 (Senegal), Africa 2 (Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa), Africa 3 (Southern and Western Africa), Europe 1 (Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Russia and Turkey), Europe 2 (Greece), Asia 1 (The Middle East, Iran and Pakistan) and Asia 2 (China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

The ticks of genus Hyalomma are the principal vectors of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV). They are transmitted to the human body by ticks and domestic animals. Human to human transmission occurs from close contact with blood, secretions, organs and bodily fluids of infected people. Fever, myalgia, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, neck pain and stiffness are the initial symptoms of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) which are followed by mood instability, mental confusion, epistaxis, petechia, ecchymoses, rainbow urine and detectable hepatomegaly. Laboratory tests for timely detection of infection include Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA), Antigen Detection, Serum neutralization, RT-PCR assay and Virus isolation by cell culture.

The purgatory scenes produced by the Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV) are immanent throughout the globe. In Pakistan, many cases of this viral fever occurred i.e. 16 in Karachi, 3 in Zhob, 2 Quetta and 8 in Peshawar in 2014. Some cases were also registered in Afghanistan in 2015. Currently there is no licensed vaccine to beat the danger in the

affected regions, despite the fact the sufficient breakthrough has been made by Refik Saydam Health Institute (Turkey) by developing treatment serum which is 90% effective for the patients. Hence, uniform efforts are required by the comity of the world to invent and certify a standard preventive vaccine in this regard.

Elimination of this virus demands both long term and short term plans. An equitable system of health management like that of isolation wards and separate intensive care units for vector borne diseases is necessitated in the tertiary level hospitals. Minimizing the risk and scale of infection, special stock of Ribavirin is to be maintained in the primary health care centers besides procuring the medicines to the armed forces deployed in the endemic regions.

Achieving the target of better comprehension, documentation cells are needed to be established in health care centers. Various research institutes and pharmaceutical companies shall sponsor and patronize quicker invention of safe vaccine. Research is to be initiated to develop a therapeutic tool which can interfere with CCHFV Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) and its binding partner.

Interference with the binding of the envelope glycoproteins of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV) to the Nucleolin receptor would be a therapeutic breakthrough. Practical invention or discovery of Nucleolin blocker would also minimize the invasion of this virus inside the body cells.

Evidently, a vibrant institutional arrangement for producing the luminaries of Vector Borne Diseases is to be evolved for catapulting the health management system to the new heights. In order to remove the fears of constant damnation, the inefable provisos of better health care shall be implemented in full swing so that tomorrow of today is free of sanguine details. Tracking down the future imminent agonies, it is also added that the government and people of Pakistan urgently need to develop a robust system with steady nerves to beat the danger of imbalance between population and resources, environmental pollution with special focus on safeguarding drinking water table and taking measures for equitable drainage system. Apparently intractable, it is claimed that several easy mechanisms, would ensure the needful infrastructure on low cost basis.

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