

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



November 07, 2015

## Protecting Young Democracy

Since the fall of the Taliban regime, still the people of Afghanistan are suffering from challenges like mounting insecurity, widespread corruption, unemployment, social and political inequality and most importantly ethnic conflicts. These are the most crucial challenge Afghans face in the post Taliban phase of development, Afghans elected government, which had the national and international supports completely, failed to manage and lead the social conflicts and political and security crisis.

The 9/11 terroristic attacks united the world and there was an international consensus to rebuild Afghanistan and restore peace and security in the country by flush out al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters and to solve the political and security problem of Afghanistan and protect the Afghan people, now instead of solving the problem the it became much more complex. The security situation is deteriorating day by day. The U.S. strategy was "clear, hold and build" clear the country from the Taliban and build the state. Now Taliban are determined to recapture Afghanistan it means that mission is not complete yet.

The security situation and the life condition of Afghans are not improved and if the international forces leave Afghanistan, Afghans are not able to improve the situation. Leaving Afghanistan in this serious situation means handing it to the Taliban and accepting military defeat.

Though, The international community has been committed and helpful and generously supported Afghans to emerge from decades of war and oppression, but unfortunately Afghans rulers failed to utilize properly this golden chance and opportunities which after decades of war was provided for tormented people of Afghanistan. At least the three decades of the recent Afghan history have shown that domestic conflict management is crucial. American troop withdrawal is as matter of serious debate, because the outlook of US soldiers leaving the country has made the people of Afghanistan extremely worried. It is because if the international troops leave, the Taliban will overrun Afghanistan and Afghanistan will fall immediately into the hands of the Taliban. The Taliban will reestablish their inhuman and misogynic regime. They will hostage the Afghan people and make Afghanistan a safe heaven for international terrorism.

Afghanistan along its political history suffered from political instability, economical injustice and social conflicts. While the main purpose of existence or establishment of any government is to bring and to ensure the security of its citizens. Nation building, state construction is one the chief responsibility of international backed Afghan government.

Afghans need a homegrown solution for their problems though regional and international powers are involve in Afghanistan issues using it as a battlefield of their interests. The regional and international consensus and support is crucial but it is not enough because the first elected government of Afghanistan had the support of all the regional and international community, but internally Afghans were not ready to solve their longstanding political problem with the help of international community. The government failed to peaceably settle their different wills and create the economic opportunity and rebuild the economic educational infrastructures.

Further more, there is another threat emerging in many parts of Afghanistan, IS or Daesh, which is a great concern for the new formed National Unity Government as well international community. It is already reported that many militants including some of their leaders announced their allegiance to Daesh while Afghan government so far not successfully tackled Taliban militancy.

Political injustice and social inequalities Hampers productivity, lowers morale, causes more and continued conflicts, and causes inappropriate behaviors. The previous Afghan government not only could solve the problem but deepen these challenges. On the other hand, Taliban as a tool are used by national and international power to protect their interests, Afghanistan became the central front in the war on terror. Elements inside and outside Afghanistan are struggling to pave the way for political power or leading the political system towards Talibanization. Overcoming this threat requires military and political efforts. In addition, Afghanistan is a country where most of the people live in remote areas the central government has to provide them the life facilities to win their trusts and supports before militants like Taliban and Daesh reach there.

Whether it is Taliban or Daesh, Afghan government should defeat militancy at any cost. Further more, the people of Afghanistan, political parties with the help of international community have to protect the young democracy and found solution for their domestic problems.

## Violence Against Women Goes Unchecked

By Asmatyari

The culvert was surrounded by throng of aged men with stones in their hand whose size and weight could not necessarily fall to any interpretation when the death aimed. A young girl, whose head and shoulder could only be seen, was haplessly standing in it shown in a picture. The girl laid on the ground with dark marks of violence shown in another picture circulated on social media, was heart jerking. The girl was stoned to death without certification of having been the culprit licitly defined adultery. It was later confirmed, escaping the forced marriage with an overage man, the girl had to marry another guy of her age that held her implicated in the said case. It was this finding that served her ruthless killing of the girl by Taliban militants. The merciless killing took place about a week ago in a Taliban-controlled area just outside Firozkoh, the capital of central Ghor province. The unfortunate girl named Rokhsana aged between 19 and 21 rendered prey to wide practiced callousness. The onlookers indisputably, have had rejoiced the whole of story a women beaten 100 lashes but nobody could dare questioning the legitimacy of Sharia and local court and the standard operating procedure if adopted to charge the culprits with the said crime. The people kept in utter ignorance could not question the legitimacy of Taliban's ruling or when it comes to Sharia -everybody turns wordless fearing defilement. World of thank to Lawmakers, for considering the act inhumane and un-Islamic whilst demanding an end to violence against women.

Earlier, in an identical incident amidst a throng of people a lady with a man associate received 100 lashes being charged of keeping illicit relationship with each other. The sorry picture of the lady lashed in public depicts gravest state of haplessness and irrationality of law treating women. Undoubtedly, the sword of illicit charges always hangs over the neck of a female who dares to turn down a baffling order of public official or local elder. Going against the status quo, simply invites more trouble as witnessed in many cases. Earlier, this year Farkhunda was savagely beaten and set ablaze in capital Kabul after being falsely accused of burning holy Koran. The mob killing triggered protests around the country and drew global attention to the treatment of Afghan women. The worst state of affairs doesn't end here -the growing ratio of domestic violence another point to worry about. During couple of days, at least three women have died as a result of domestic violence and suicide in northern Afghanistan, according to media reports. Going through detailed account of credible statistics women are primarily demeaned and left vulnerable to violence. According to the AIHRC, more than 2,000 cases of violence against women cases were registered during the first three months of the ongoing solar year, compared to 2,500 cases during the entire last year. The official claims most of the victims of suicide attacks, roadside bombings, illegal courts, harassment and torture happened to be women. Pragmatically, Afghanistan is ruled over by National Unity Government with a president and CEO

pursuing modern ideals of democracy where human right irrespective of distinction of gender is given prime importance should be a widely used practice. The hitherto rampant violence against women underlines the persisting gravity of the problem.

Subjugating an inferior to harsh suppression has been prominent feature of patriarchal society where women are hold prone to suppression and intimidation. This isn't to render man at fault; instead laws safeguarding women's rights are minimally applied. Every alternate day endless tales of butcheries, physical torture, harassment and sexual assaults are surfaced where women render prey to flawed cultural practices, biased laws and Sharia doctrines. We turn deaf ears to the hapless cries, blind eyes negligent to see the magnitude of mental sufferings she endures while getting out to earn a livelihood, numb to realize the numerous pain of gender based victimization she bears frequently, because of fallacious socio-religious structure based on irrational biases. It reflects women are coerced to repression after being found hapless and voiceless.

The exercise of abusing children and women across the land is not worrying for patriarchal Afghan society and for those with fundamentalist temperaments. The sexual abuse and rape of women and children have been rampant in Afghanistan is chronicled. The government instead of taking measures to uphold women rights is back lashes by enforcement of stoning in Afghanistan penal code. Human Rights Watch registered grave distress said that a working group led by the Justice Ministry that is assisting in drafting Afghanistan's new penal code had proposed provisions on "moral crimes" involving adultery that call for stoning. The political leader has got to lead the nation towards modernization that accepts democratic values and human rights matters.

The long course we advanced, could earn us nothing, except the rule of nuisance, wicked deeds, widespread manipulation of power, suppression of oppressed and endless tales of barbarism against powerless segment of society. The blind and irrational socio-religious dictates has irreversibly dominated our deeds and thoughts, equally beleaguering our fairer and lucid disposition in every field of human endeavor. Deeming women inferior creature is deliberate negation of their innate aptitude and universal attribute of God's equity. We have to turn to think otherwise, about this much belittled section of our socially betrayed society. The widespread ignorance provides strong reason to ongoing violence. The flawed cultural practices supported by high degree of illiteracy ratify intense violence against women, stand legitimate and justified. The culture deeming women as subordinate citizen multiplies their receptiveness to greater tendency of being subjected to worst treatment. Apart from formal education, community based adult education and awareness campaigns on momentous right's issues complementary to Islamic teachings might assuage the stringency of substandard customary law that undermines women rights.

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## Warring Factions Deteriorate Security

By Hujjatullah Zia

According to a local news report, the Taliban splinter group - who refused to pledge allegiance to Mansour - has elected Mullah Mohammad Rasool Akhund as Omar's successor. "Akhund is our new emir. He will now lead the Mujahedeen to continue their fight against the US-led foreign forces and the Afghan security troops," a senior member of the rival party is quoted as saying. However, the announcement is yet to be confirmed by Afghan Taliban.

A rift emerged between the warring parties when the death of Mullah Omar was revealed this year on July 29. The news came two years later than the death of Mullah Omar - which was a secret for many high-ranking Taliban members. The appointment of Mullah Mansour as Omar's successor has been a bone of contention between the Taliban from the very first day up to now. Previously, the family of deceased Taliban leader Mullah Omar refused to pledge loyalty to Mansour but they reached a settlement later.

Similarly, Mullah Mansour Dadullah, a battlefield commander leading a breakaway faction of the Taliban, had also refused to pledge allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mansour and accused him of being subdued to Pakistan. A skirmish broke out between Dadullah and Mansour but Dadullah was reportedly rescued by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Despite its recent moderate success in Kunduz, it is rumoured that the rift is growing, with the opposition to Mansour being led by Mullah Omar's son. It is a divide ISIL will be eager to exploit. Fighting to reconstitute the historical Khorasan into the so-called "caliphate" of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the ISIL poses threat to the Taliban through battling and creating gap between the Taliban's warring elements.

Causing friction with the regional and overall leadership of the Taliban, armed battles have increased over the past few months with dozens of Taliban fighters killed in clashes, most notably in the Taliban stronghold of Nangarhar province.

ISIL's local chapter has also managed to attract dozens of fighters from the Taliban's ranks into its fold, while foreign fighters unable to make it to Syria and Iraq have thronged to the group's territory.

The precursor group to ISIL, comprised mainly of disaffected Pakistani Taliban, first began making inroads into Afghanistan in 2014, announcing their arrival with the hanging of a dozen Taliban commanders in Nuristan Province.

In February, the Pentagon spokesman had called ISIL's presence in Afghanistan "nascent at best", but by October, the US commander in Afghanistan, General John Campbell, said that the group had transitioned from "nascent" to "operationally emergent". It had a presence, he said, in two regions of Afghanistan:

Helmand and Farah provinces in the southwest and Nangarhar in the east, along the border with Pakistan.

"ISIL preaches a version of jihad that's a militant form of contemporary Islamist political ideology that seeks to re-establish the caliphate, a state with jurisdiction over all Muslims, and enforce a harsh version of Islamic law based on a literal interpretation of the Holy Koran and sayings and practices of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The Taliban, however, accept Afghanistan as a nation-state and indeed express pride in its history. They have repeatedly said that their jihad is limited to their own country."

One group now in Afghanistan has recently renounced its affiliation to the Afghan Taliban and given allegiance to Baghdadi and ISIL: the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which Pakistan's military has pushed out of the tribal areas and into Afghanistan.

The reason behind the rule that Afghan Taliban do not join ISIL, Abdul Rauf Khadim, proves that sectarian differences can be decisive. Khadim, whom ISIL had appointed deputy emir of Khurasan province and was killed by a drone in July 2015, had been expelled from the Afghan Taliban. While detained in Guantanamo, Khadim accepted the jihadist preaching of his Arab cellmates.

In such a sensitive state as the Taliban and ISIL deteriorate the security situation in Afghanistan, Pakistani officials, who insisted on resuming peace talk, say that now it is not ripe for talk. Pakistani Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said that it is not the right time for Pakistan to work for the revival of Afghan reconciliation process.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, Mr. Aziz explained that for revival of peace talks both warring sides needed to be convinced about the usefulness of the process and should create the right atmosphere for it.

"Pre-conditions for a successful outcome are required, and that requires consensus on both sides. The Afghanistan government is one of the sides and the Taliban are the other, and they have to come to the situation which they think that useful discussions can take place," he said.

But Aziz suggested that reconciliation was the surest way to peace in Afghanistan. "Obviously, anything that will reduce the level of insurgency and infighting would be welcomed by Pakistan. Reconciliation is in our view, as the Washington statement also says, one of the best (options)," the adviser said. Now, it is the Afghan government to decide how to tackle the security crisis and deal with both the warring factions: the Taliban and the ISIL insurgents. But I believe that one strategy will not respond positively to two different groups.

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