

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



November 07, 2017

Teachers can Guide the Nation Towards Progress

As education have gained ultimate importance in the lives of nations, the role of teachers has also become paramount. They are believed to have the vital role of transferring education and knowledge to the students so that they are able to become responsible members of the society.

The countries that are backward and that suffer from instability and disorder require teachers to have a greater role. They are expected to play their role with more determination and zeal so that the people are guided properly towards better future. Younger generations that decide the future of the nation need to have a very clear picture of what they can achieve through peace and tranquility and how they can reach to that goal. They need to realize that only through education they can fight against instability and chaos within the society.

Unfortunately, that is not what we always see from the teachers in our country. The teachers in our society do not always seem to be the ideal teachers. They lack the skills and the talents that are required by a teacher. They, on certain occasions, even lead the students astray and on many other occasions make them follow everything blindly.

They want their students to be obedient and dumb and do not like them questioning much. They consider the agile, motivated and enthusiastic students as ill-disciplined and worthy to be standing outside their classes most of the times.

They, in some cases, even beat the students and insult them verbally. They do not treat the students the way they should be treated.

At the same time, there are observations that show that our society does not treat the teachers the way they should be treated. The teaching profession is not given the worth it deserves. Teachers are not paid properly for their tiring job. They cannot feed themselves and their families properly with what they earn through teaching.

The training opportunities are very much limited for the teachers. There are only few schools, colleges or universities that pay so that their teachers can be trained. Teachers are expected to be super-humans; much is expected from them while they are not given much as a reward. It is forgotten that teachers have families and they have lives just like all the other people.

It is important that both the responsibilities and the rights of the teachers must be highlighted and debated so that measures can be taken to deal with deteriorating situation properly. There should be discussion and learning opportunities facilitated by the relevant ministry. And, taking advantage of this opportunity, the government authorities, the teachers and students can highlight the issues pertinent to the rights and responsibilities of the teachers so that they are able to have better role and contribution in the society and can truly play their role in the lives of the students.

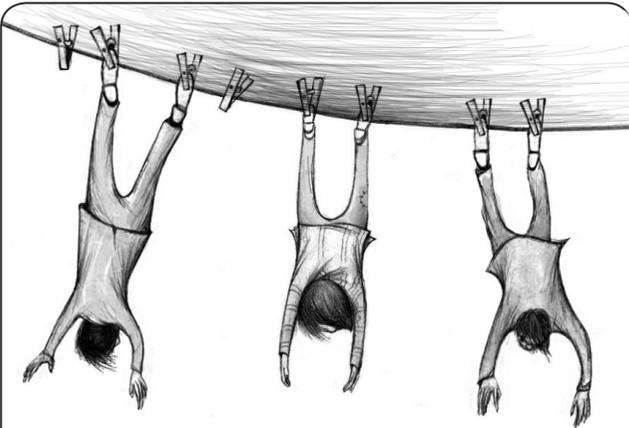
Afghanistan is one of the countries that have been suffering from insecurity and economic instability. The teachers have been suffering from lack of facilities and they have been facing gigantic hurdles in performing their responsibilities with full devotion and justice. Ultimately, the students have paid the price. It is high time for Afghan authorities to take serious decisions in this regard.

Afghan government, in particular, has to play a very imperative role regarding heightening the position of teachers and of modern education in our country. Initial commitments by the National Unity Government (NUG) were appreciable. There were promises that new plots would be allotted to teachers. An increase in salaries of teachers and other privileges were also promised. It was also pledged that no one would be allowed to grab the land plots allocated to teachers by the Ministry of Education. Ministry of Interior was directed to take concrete action to vacate the land plots that the Ministry of Education had allotted to teachers, but were grabbed by powerful individuals.

However, it can be observed that all those promises have not been met yet. Moreover, there are no guarantees that all the teachers, especially the ones that do not have connections with the relevant people in the ministry would be able to acquire their share of land.

This step seemed very promising but it requires real commitment to make this happen properly. President, himself, needs to monitor the progress regularly in this regard and make sure that this promise does not remain a promise alone because if this promise is fulfilled it would be of great support in lifting the morale of the teachers.

Moreover, it should also be ensured that there is corruption in the process of distribution and all those who deserve should be given their share. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that there are many other issues as well that are influencing teachers and their performance; therefore, those issues must also be handled properly so that the overall education system is put on the right track.



The Peril of ISIL Continues

By Hujjatullah Zia

The self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is losing its ground in Syria, will continue to menace the region. The defeat of ISIL group in Iraq and Syria is not its death knell since it claims many terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, especially in Afghanistan.

The liberation of Raqqa, Syria, the ISIL's final stronghold, has severely weakened the group as a military threat. But as its members slink off the battlefield to melt into local populations or infiltrate nations in Europe, Africa and around the world, they leave a region in ruins.

Over four gruesome years, ISIL swallowed up large areas of Iraq and Syria, taking control of oil fields and using beheadings, rapes, and other cruelties to terrorize populations. That is to say, they were involved in harsh and immoral practices, shed streams of blood, raped girls and women, and decapitated innocent civilians to satiate their wicked desire. The ISIL fighters, the bulk of whom was formed by mercenaries, valued their humanity nor international instruments. They sought to inflict casualties - mainly on ethnic minorities - and ruin cultural monuments.

The ISIL network recruited a large number men and women from around the world despite its harsh ideology and cruel practices. Russia is said to pay great sacrifices and a great number of individuals flocked to ISIL group from this land.

Almost 3,500 Russians fight for ISIL, making Russia the largest source of recruits - ahead of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, the Soufan Center, a US-based think-tank, is cited as saying on October 24. But Russian President Vladimir Putin said in February that "up to 4,000" Russian nationals fight for ISIL. In June, he said that ISIL is "preparing plans to destabilize" ex-Soviet Central Asia and Russia's southern regions.

Between January and July, 190 suspected fighters were sentenced to jail for "organization of or participation in an illegal armed group". ISIL declared war on Moscow and took responsibility for at least a dozen attacks, including the 2015 bombing of a passenger plane over the Sinai Peninsula that killed 224 mostly Russian tourists returning from Egypt. It became the largest air crash in Russia's history, and Moscow stopped flights to Egypt altogether.

The human fatalities and destruction left by the ISIL group is a great stain on human history. People suffered severely as a result of ISIL's radical ideology and inhuman practices. However, its defeat does not necessarily

mean that people will be immune to its venom. Following its collapse, the ISIL loyalists have been splintered and gained foothold in many countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It is believed that ISIL loyalists will continue terrorist activities in the region and beyond.

Iraq and Syria will bear the brunt of its militancy as before. For example, Afghanistan is still beset by militancy despite the downfall of the Taliban's regime. The Taliban guerilla fighters carry out indiscriminate attacks against Afghan soldiers and civilians.

As a result, Afghanistan is called a war-torn country and the defeat of Taliban could not stabilize the country. Iraq and Syria will be doomed to the same fate. Syria is likely to be more vulnerable than Iraq in light of continued conflict.

Although the ISIL group was dismantled, it will continue not only its terrorist activities but also spreading its ideology through social media and radio channel.

Since a number of people simply fell for the bogus claim of ISIL, it will continue to fool more into joining their group. In short, ISIL is not able to operate in systematic way but individually or in line with other terrorist networks.

With the escalation in militancy and death toll, the ISIL militants will be a serious threat to the region if it is downplayed or deemed the end.

To view Afghanistan, it has gained firm foothold and claim many terrorist attacks. ISIL loyalists is seeking to foment sectarian violence in the country and kill people on their religious and racial backgrounds the same in Iraq and Syria.

Although Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the ISIL's Caliph, has lost its influence and will no more be able to organize its defeated men, ISIL's splinter groups will continue their violent acts out of revenge and anger.

Political analysts believe that ISIL fighters will be planning massive attacks against countries in Asia and Europe. This is not impossible as ISIL lost everything. Now the countries will have to tighten their borders and continue their anti-terrorist campaigns so as to prevent from human fatalities.

Afghanistan was not immune to ISIL's danger and the presence of the Taliban fighters facilitated ISIL loyalists to gain firm foothold in the country. To protect the nation and reduce civilian casualties, the government needs to intensify its attacks against all militant groups, mainly the Taliban and ISIL fighters.

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The Cornerstone of House is Ruined

By Syed Asif Husseini

The acknowledgement of financial corruption by head of parliament is a big fear in Afghanistan. When Wolesi-Jirga (the lower house of parliament) is engaged in corruption, is there left any other secure place? The condition of parliament shows that legislators pursue corruption under the aegis of law. The financial corruption committed by a legislator will be highly perilous, therefore, curbing and pursuing this is extremely hard. Financial corruption by MPs is the same as an owner steals from his/her own house. S/he knows every way and will be able to close any way.

Reports about the engagement of MPs in corruption shows that corruption is widespread. The public have lost their trust in their representatives due to the nationwide corruption. They seem no more honest or committed to people. The status quo is unsatisfactory. All social relation is based on mutual trust and the public reliance is formed when there is peace of mind. This confidence is founded on moral precondition, the lack of which will lead to the disintegration of social reliance. For a legal relation, the public need to search all the ins and outs of one's background to make sure that their family was not engaged in corruption.

MPs have also put the reputation of their children at stake. Besides being engaged in corruption, they have had gain without pain. Such corruption generates further corruption and misery.

A number of individuals learn corruption in the same positions. Those who have no power or position will not dare to engage in corruption.

The widespread involvement in corruption made it hard to campaign against corruption. Judicial institutions were not able to prosecute the influential individuals. Therefore, corruption is growing every day. If this issue is not payed serious attention, the national anti-corruption strategy will not be effective enough in curbing corruption. Civil and international institutions expect an independent and powerful body to fight corruption in the framework of this strategy in order to curb the corruption committed by influential and powerful individuals. Only mafia is not the powerful perpetrators but any perpetrators that go beyond the legal boundary is called powerful. MPs also deem themselves either beyond law or immune to justice. The judiciary power seems unable to bring them to justice.

There lies a problem with Constitution with the same issue. Afghan Constitution bestowed MPs a high and impeccable position, which has created a great sense of courage for them. In other words, MPs have turned bold under the secure shelter of law.

When the head of parliament confesses to several millions of embezzlement, no tremble emerges in his voice and no MPs turn red - which is a strong blow to law and justice. The law enforcers and judicial institutions are unable versus one who confesses his crime. So, the right of nation is violated in such a simple way. When nation's representatives and defenders spoil the House of People, it means that the house was destroyed from the bases. In such a case, fighting administrative corruption in other government institutions will be no more than a title for the media or press.

Afghan government is aware of the fact that the continuation of international assistance depends on fight against corruption. It is clear for the world that Afghan soldiers die hungry; whereas the head of people's representatives spend millions of Afghans for the decoration of his house.

Afghan government must prove to the international community that it is decisive and capable of fighting corruption. The government's weakness in combating corruption will reduce global support to a great extent. Apart from global community, the National Unity Government (NUG) is losing the public trust if it does not prove its resolve to fight corruption.

The measurement of financial corruption does not amount to much in parliament but losing trust will be an irreparable loss. Afghan parliament has lost public trust and besmirched the House of People - this is an unforgivable crime. There is no prosecution when the head of parliament confesses his crime, this way will be followed by any other powerful individuals. Besides being a braveness, it will also put a pernicious effect in the country.

Lacking access to information is also violation of nation's right. People have the right of access to information and should know the issues going on in parliament. The reports by truth inspector should be read in open and be available to everyone. Now the report should be handed to the media. When a corruption is confessed openly, why the detail is kept hidden?

It should be noted that MPs are not beyond law. Afghan Constitution states in article 102, "If a member of the National Assembly is accused of a crime, the responsible official shall inform the House of which the accused is a member, and the accused shall be legally prosecuted.... If the accusation takes place during an Assembly recess, the permission for arrest or detention shall be obtained from the administrative board of the respective House, and the issue shall be referred to the first session of the aforementioned House for decision."

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