

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



November 12, 2018

## Extremism Must be Discouraged

Though human world is remarkable, it is also unfortunate to note that there are violent incidents and happenings that show ugly aspects of human life. As a matter of fact, the violence has been able to overshadow the docile aspect of human nature every now and then both through major wars and individual conflicts. On many occasions, hundred of people are killed in a short span of time. People in the name of religion, isms and ideologies have massacred their fellow-beings without a slight hesitation.

Though human beings have developed much, which they mostly claim by exemplifying the technological developments achieved so far, they are yet to go miles regarding civilization and humanity. In true sense, the world has been greatly jeopardized by the reign of terror every where. And one of the basic reasons of this terror is extremism.

Extremism itself is not any religion or ideology; rather it is the nature of the perspective through which any religion or ideology is comprehended that gives birth to extremism.

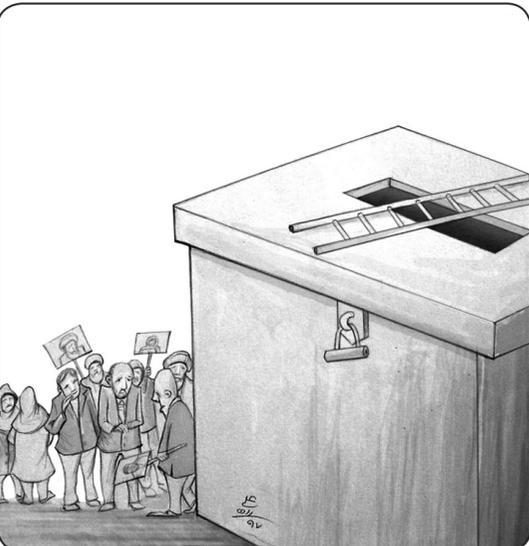
The annals of history are filled with the examples of violence and tyranny invigorated by extremism. The religious extremism of the Dark Age in Europe has many stories in this regard. Only because of slight deviation from the believed religious principles, people were put to severest kinds of punishment, including burning them alive in public. The development of political systems and ideologies after the Dark Age had to display different manifestations of terror through extremism. The content only changed from religious beliefs to the nationalistic ideologies. The rise of Fascism and Nazism were clearly blended with the extremist nationalistic ideologies. The two world wars were fought on the basis of strive to prove one nation greater than the other. The Cold-War era was also, every now and then, marked with extremist display of two modern political ideologies - Socialism and Capitalism.

The current world of ours is not excluded from the tyrannical clutches of the terror. In this regard the condition of our own country Afghanistan can be cited. Taliban's religious thinking put some ugly scars on the face of peace and tranquillity. The country under their reign displayed evident violation of human rights. The people were forced to follow their interpretation of Islam. The women were in the worst condition and the way to prosperity and well-being was blocked tightly. There was no margin for deviation and the so-called infidels had to die an easy death as the minimum punishment. Even today as the Taliban are claimed to be defeated, there have been many incidents that have displayed the worst kind of terror.

Though, in the present day, it is not only the extremist thinking of Taliban that is urging them to go for such adventures but it is a crucial part of it. Even, the concept of suicide attack that has been threatening the whole world at the moment is closely linked with the concept of extremism. A person, so extremely believes in a particular ideology and in the absurdity of others that he even explodes himself to bring harm to others. This is the worst kind of extremism that can engulf an individual's mind. And it is also interesting to note that the history of suicide bombing is not confined to religious extremists, rather there have been certain people who have committed this act for political ideologies as well.

It is really unfortunate to mention that in today's world there are many such people who have extremist attitude regarding their ideologies and religions and at any instance they can turn violent to prove themselves right and the other wrong. It is vital that such people and groups of people must be discouraged as much as possible. For example, if Taliban and Daesh are allowed to further their views and ideology with impunity, they will turn our country into a hell. Therefore, it is vital that they must be handled with iron fist so that they are able to realize that their do not have any right to make others follow them through violence and extremism.

The contemporary world of ours is turning out to be a terrifying place to live in, and extremism has an evident role in making our world so. It is the need of time that extremism in its every form should be condemned and measures should be carried out to make the people more moderate in their thinking and believes. Though every man has the right to be related to any religion, ideology, ethnicity or nation, as he is bound to be so in accordance to the social phenomenon of ethnocentrism, but this relation must not get so sacred that humanity must be neglected for its sake. Ultimately, it is the human life that stands as the most valuable asset in this world.



## Fears of Ethnic Violence as Afghan Taliban Target Hazara districts

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Following the recent deadly attacks in Uruzgan, the Taliban launched coordinated attacks from several directions on Jaghori districts leaving nearly 30 dead and 21 wounded, as estimated by a local resident today (Saturday afternoon). Taliban also burnt residential houses, destroyed telephone networks, and blocked the ways to urban centers while the war is being continued. Such war is imposed on the people who are more famous to be peaceful, loyal to new democratic system; they are committed to live under democratic system, send their girls and boys to education, participate in election process, and wish to have brotherly relation with all regardless of any differences. Nevertheless, they are stormed by the Taliban, but the government is failed to defend the people in the realm of its rule.

Taliban stormed the most secure area of Afghanistan. First, they attacked two border check posts of local police in Angory and Dawood area of Jaghori from Rasana neighboring area being equipped with high-tech weapons. They warned the west of Jaghori (Hecha and Baba village) to surrender otherwise would attack by the given deadline - Saturday 2PM. The people are very disappointed due to being disarmed and lacking of government. They are afraid of repeating the tragedy happened in their neighboring district Uruzgan.

Most people criticize government over their inability and not taking on-time action; some of the Ghazni MPs in the Wolesi Jirga also accused government, especially security departments, of being negligent regarding the Jaghori attack. The MPs said although they repeatedly urged government to send backup forces to Jaghori and save people from Taliban's attacks, security departments did nothing to help. "Government must defend the lives and properties of the people," MP Abdul Qayyum Sajjadi said. "No action has been taken and the security officials with their false promises and irresponsible and negligent behavior have allowed the terror attacks and death of our people to increase," MP Shah Gul Rezaie said. However, President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazavi initially stated on his Facebook page that helicopters were sent to Jaghori air space to fight the enemy. He also wrote that Jaghori will become the burial site of the Taliban.

In recent years, such attacks are increasingly repeated on Hazara community. Taliban and IS have been accused of committing human rights violations against certain group of people. However, The Taliban denied targeting "any specific race, ethnicity or sect," in a statement posted on their website. The attacks were against the "Kabul regime and American hiring positions in Jaghori", spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said. This is said after, many expressed concerns about the apparent deliberate targeting of Hazaras.

The latest attacks on Jaghori comes after tragic battle between Taliban fighters and Hazara civilian with local police in the central province of Uruzgan Khas that reportedly killed one hundred people and around 500 families

displaced to neighboring districts. Due to late action by security forces and vastness of tragedy it is highly pertinent to any fair person to ask why the government take delayd action. Is it lacking will to defend their obedient people against terrorist or it lacks ability? In fact, this is a common the question on the tip of every tongue, and so the government must respond to this question.

From the standpoint of international humanitarian law, these laws are also violated in the presence of the international community, particularly in terms of war crimes as civilian areas are widely targeted by the military. This situation requires that the international community and the NATO mission in Afghanistan, based on international humanitarian law, actively support the victims and the people at risk.

Anyway, It seems that the Taliban want to extend their territory to Malistan and Jaghori, to control all of these areas and put more pressure on the central government. Thus, they compel Hazaras to surrender, and want to make them more disappointed from government and international support. If the Taliban reaches this goal, the legitimacy of the central government, will weaken and religiously will be argued that this state has lost the necessary power and authority.

If the security forces fail to fulfil their duty to protect these people, the distances and distrust between the government and people will increase. At least, the result for the existing government will be, not to vote in the upcoming elections, as it could not defend them against terrorists. While the more important consequence is that the Hazaras have historically always had the idea that they should defend themselves independently and treat themselves as being at risk. It is important, because this feeling has become more prominent today highlighting the danger of IS and the Taliban, and it becomes a deep understanding of the whole people. If this demand is not met by the government and international partners, then it is more likely to propel people towards unexpected approaches such as Alipoor, Shojai and so on. The consequence is that the country is to be engulfed with a sectarian and proxy war.

Therefore, the logic of politics requires that the government and its partners rescue the Hazaras of Jaghori, Malistan and Uruzgan and if not, the Hazara community will lose their belief in the existing system as a whole. As a result, peaceful, law-governed, and civilian people will inevitably turn to violent and out-of-state control to defend themselves. While the Defense is easy and relatively costless. In addition, the security forces must change their reflective approach towards proactive approach, and it is useless to show themselves when houses are burnt and things are destroyed. They cannot revive the lives of innocent children, men, and women once they are massacred.

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## The Khashoggi crisis: Saudi Arabia Braces for Tougher Post-Election US Attitude

By: James M. Dorsey

Saudi Arabia is bracing itself for a potentially more strained relationship with the United States in the wake of Democrats gaining control of the House of Representatives in this week's mid-term elections and mounting Turkish efforts to corner the kingdom in the Khashoggi crisis.

To counter possible US pressure, the kingdom is exploring opportunities to diversify its arms suppliers and build a domestic defense industry. It is also rallying the wagons at home with financial handouts and new development projects in a bid to bolster domestic support for crown prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Democrats' election victory has strengthened Saudi concerns that the Trump administration may pressure the kingdom to back down on key issues like the Yemen war that has sparked the world's worst humanitarian crisis since World War Two and the 17-month old Saudi-United Arab Emirates-led economic and diplomatic boycott of Qatar.

US officials have argued that Saudi policies complicate their efforts to isolate and economically cripple Iran.

The officials assert that the boycott of Qatar and the fallout of the October 2 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul constitute obstacles to the creation of a Sunni Muslim alliance against the Islamic republic, dubbed an Arab NATO, as well as the achievement of other US goals in the Middle East, including countering political violence and ensuring the free flow of oil.

Going a step further, senior Israelis say they have given up on the notion of a Sunni Muslim alliance whose interests would be aligned with those of the Jewish state and see their budding relations with Gulf states increasingly in transactional terms.

The Trump administration signalled its concerns even before the killing of Mr. Khashoggi.

"Our regional partners are increasingly competing and, in the case of the Qatar rift, entering into outright competition to the detriment of American interests and to the benefit of Iran, Russia and China," National Security Adviser John Bolton wrote to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in a letter late summer, according to Reuters.

With the House expected to be tougher on arms sales to the kingdom and possibly go as far as imposing an arms embargo because of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen caused by Saudi and UAE military operations, Saudi Arabia has wasted no time in casting around for alternative weapons suppliers.

In apparent recognition that the Saudi military, reliant on US and European arms acquisitions, would find it difficult to quickly shift to Russian or Chinese systems, Saudi Arabia appears for now to be focussing on alternative Western suppliers.

That could prove to be risky with anti-Saudi sentiment because of the Yemen war also running high in European parliaments and countries like Spain and Germany either teetering on the brink of sanctions or having toyed with restrictions on weapons sales to the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia, nonetheless, has in recent days contracted Spanish shipbuilder Navantia to jointly build five corvettes for the Saudi navy and offered South African state-owned defense group Denel \$1 billion to help the kingdom build a domestic defense industry.

The partnership with Denel would involve Saudi Arabia taking a minority stake in German defense contractor Rheinmetall, which designs armoured fighting vehicles and howitzers.

With sale of the US-made precision-guided munitions bogged down in Congress, Spain has stepped in to address Saudi Arabia's immediate need. The question is however whether Spain can fully meet Saudi demand.

A US refusal already before the Gulf crisis and the Khashoggi incident to share with Saudi Arabia its most advanced drone technology, paved the way for Chinese agreement to open its first overseas defense production facility in the kingdom.

State-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) will manufacture its CH-4 Caifeng, or Rainbow drone, as well as associated equipment in Saudi Arabia. The CH-4 is comparable to the US armed MQ-9 Reaper drone.

Saudi Arabia also fears that Democratic control of the House could strengthen opposition to a nuclear energy agreement with the kingdom. Five Republican senators called on President Donald J. Trump days before the mid-term election to suspend talks with Saudi Arabia.

Development of a defense industry would over time serve Prince Mohammed's efforts to diversify the Saudi economy and create jobs.

So would King Salman's inauguration this week of 259 development projects worth US\$6.13 billion ranging from tourism, electricity, environment, water, agriculture, housing, and transport to energy. King Salman launched the projects during a curtailed visit to Saudi provinces designed to bolster support for his regime as well as his son, Prince Mohammed.

On the other hand, the government's most recent decision to restore annual bonuses and allowances for civil servants and military personnel without linking them to performance constitutes an attempt to curry public favour that runs contrary to Prince Mohammed's intention to streamline the bureaucracy and stimulate competition.

Bonuses were cut in 2016 as part of austerity measures. They were restored last year and linked in May to job performance.

In a further populist move, King Salman also pardoned prisoners serving time on financial charges and promised to pay the debts up to US\$267,000 of each one of them.

King Salman's moves appear designed to lessen Saudi dependence on US arms sales and project a united front against any attempt to implicate Prince Mohammed in the death of Mr. Khashoggi.

The moves come as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan insists that the order to kill the journalist came "from the highest levels of the Saudi government" and the Trump administration demands Saudi action against the perpetrators and those responsible for the murder.

Failure to be seen to be taking credible action may not undermine King Salman's rallying of the wagons at home but will do little to weaken calls in Washington as well as European capitals for tougher action in a bid to force Saudi Arabia to come clean on the Khashoggi case and adopt a more conciliatory approach towards ending the Yemen war and resolving the Gulf crisis.

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