

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



November 13, 2018

### THE POWER OF 'THE STREET': The Right Means for Demanding the Legitimate Rights

Peaceful stances against unequal civil rights have been successful throughout history and nonviolent movements can lead to meaningful systemic change. Reflecting back on several landmark moments can act as a guide for action in these tumultuous times to gain equality for all lives in society. AS the Salt March, Suffrage Parade, Delano Grape Boycott, Montgomery Bus Boycott, Singing Revolution led to historical positive social and political changes, any other peaceful stance has more or less the same power to contribute to such changes in the society.

Based on the great lessons of the above-mentioned civil stances, Shia hazaras have always pursued peaceful means to seek their legitimate rights including calling the Afghan government and the international community to protect them against the terrorist groups. To this end, hundreds of protesters marched through the night from the western parts of Kabul to the city center, close to the Presidential Palace, in protest against what they say is neglect on the part of government to secure large parts of Ghazni and Uruzgan provinces.

They want the government to provide enough security to the central parts of the country especially in Khas Uruzgan district of Uruzgan province; and Malistan and Jaghori districts of Ghazni province, which is home to mostly Hazaras.

Though the march started late Sunday night by a few demonstrators but as they marched through the night their numbers grew. And by early Monday morning hundreds of protesters had made their way close to the Presidential Palace.

They carried protesters with slogans - "Ghani and Abdullah Wake up". The protesters called on the National Unity Government (NUG) to clear Khas Uruzgan, Jaghori and Malistan districts of Taliban and to send in emergency humanitarian aid to displaced residents, along with extra, permanent, troops to the areas and to establish a military corps in the region.

The protesters will continue their protest and will call for wide-spread action across the country if their demands are not addressed they the government.

#### Nonviolence as active force when properly understood and used

Every Afghan citizen is entitled to join with fellow citizens in protest or peaceful assembly which is critical to a functioning democracy. At the same time no party either government or protesters shall violate this right ensure that it is covered by law, is necessary and proportionate, pursues the interests of national security or public safety, the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health or morals and the protection of others' rights and freedoms. And the government shall ensure not using mass arrests, illegal use of force, criminalization of protest, and other means intended to thwart free public expression.

The right to protest is one of the basic means to stand unequal civil rights. It provides the legal tools to demand our rights from the government. At the same time, we shall always adhere to nonviolent principles in our civic movements in order to strengthen the principles of democracy in our country and not let anyone to misuse our stance seeking our basic rights.

## Afghan Government Should Protect Relative Calm Zones In The Country

By: Mohammed Gul Sahibzada

The recent attacks by Taliban on Jaghori and Malistan districts in Ghazni province and the attacks on Hazara population in Urogon province are cases in point to prove shameful failure of government to provide protection and security to it subjects across the country - especially in areas of relative calm in the ongoing war on terror in the country. Dwellers of Jaghori and Malistan districts in Ghazni province are mainly Hazara population. It seems Taliban insurgents have changed course in their military tactics and have cleverly charted strategy to militarily target areas of high social and political impacts. The aim of Taliban insurgency is to hit all Afghan government administrative units and provinces which are relatively calm in the country in order to create chaos and disturbances across social, political, economic and military specters. Hazaras are peaceful, hardworking and honest supporters of the present political system in Afghanistan. They have supported Afghanistan government at all levels and Hazara men and women are front runners in areas of education, economic activities (most business entrepreneurs are young Hazara men and women). Provinces such as Bamyan, Daikundi, parts of Ghazni, Urozgan, Parwan including provinces in the North, and main neighborhood in Kabul city where Hazaras dwell are peaceful and calm. Afghans associated with other ethnic and tribal groups are comfortable in dealing with our Hazara countrymen. In fact, brave Hazara men and women represented Afghanistan in major international events, including sports and businesses, and have achieved remarkable success, brought medals and honor to the country. It is the responsibility of Afghan Government to provide security, safety and support to our Hazara countrymen and women.

It is understandable that Afghan government is flexing muscles with an invisible enemy in the shape of entrenched insurgency, which is supported by intelligence services of neighboring countries who have vested interests and malicious designs for our country, but this cannot be ground for excuses for the government to fall short to provide security and safety for the citizens - especially those who do not allow hostile elements to operate against government among them. Afghan government should plan for complete protection and provide overall security for minorities and places where people have kept rela-

tive peace and calm in their districts, provinces and regions. Hazaras come first in this category. In addition, government should bring in projects of high impact economic development and flourish tourism industry in central Afghanistan. There are chances these pockets of 'green zones' with economic activities across geographic landmass of Afghanistan can be a beacon of hope and encouragement to people living in other provinces in the to take steps and copy the model to their own districts, provinces and villages. Government should separate war matters from economic development issues. As much as government put efforts, resources and time in war efforts to counter the insurgency, equal efforts, resources and time are required to develop economic activities, bring in employment opportunities for its subjects. By doing this, insurgents will find all doors shut on their faces for recruitment of fighters from among populations where government has intervened and supported people. We have countries which have been in the same situation as Afghanistan is now, including Sri Lanka, Colombia and India. These countries successfully managed to provide safe zones for citizens to conduct normal daily lives including business and investment opportunities, education and employment opportunities etc. Countries such as Colombia and Sri Lanka have come over these issues and they are now united, under their own political and economic systems. War had grinded these nations for fifty and forty years respectively.

Demonstrations staged since last three days in Kabul exhibit high political and rights awareness level of Hazaras. Government of Afghanistan should listen to and accept all the demands they have concerning security, economic development and implementation of projects of national importance. In fact, people from other provinces should learn from Hazaras to stand out and pressure government to address and move on critical matters that affect their lives. Afghans - including all clans, tribes and ethnic groups - have been living together since centuries. People should nib at the bud all attempt to separate people and create chaos, anarchy and depravity in the country.

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## Simple Dose of Solution to Rescue a Nation

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

No one doubts that fundamental reform in Afghanistan is not possible unless strategic investment on education. This means education is the first determining factor to propel the country towards sustainable development; so we need to change the mindset of the whole generation of this country through a big educational project and put education in the top priority when making the national budget plan. Nothing makes us a united nation unless we get rid of ignorance and enrich our lives with understanding to peace, prosperity, and dignity. It improves the quality of lives and leads to broad social benefits to individuals and society. Education raises people's productivity, creativity and also promotes entrepreneurship and technological advances. Overall, it plays a very crucial role in securing social progress and reaching economic development.

In World War II, a number of countries were more successful in reconstruction of their countries than others, because they had better human capital while other remained broke and poor because they lacked educated human capital. For example, Japan's education system played a central part in Japan's recovery and rapid economic growth in the decades following the end of World War II. Legally, education is compulsory at elementary and lower secondary levels in Japan. As a result, they have got ZERO illiteracy rate and is considered as a strong world economic power.

In the other word, there are two complimentary factors, human capital and financial capital, which can gear a nation towards socioeconomic development; while either type of capital could have been the factor limiting investment in the other type of capital. However, there are some variations in the relative amounts of the two types of capital, but no country has high levels of only one type. For example, the U.S. has more educated human than financial capital, while Japan has more financial than human capital, but both countries have high levels of both. Similarly, studies show that economic development does not occur automatically. If it did, there would not be such large differences in the magnitude of the capital stocks between countries. There are also some other characteristic(s), which is not available in the less developed countries. It is also evident that whatever these characteristics are, they vary widely across countries because levels of capital/adult vary widely.

Therefore, it is the educational system that undertakes to provide human capital through basic and higher educational systems; while private financing of this type of investment is not feasible for poor children. Countries that are highly developed today have a long history of providing free or highly-subsidized education to the poor. A review of their history suggests that the initial motivation for schooling had a religious basis, but that as the public's level of education and income rose,

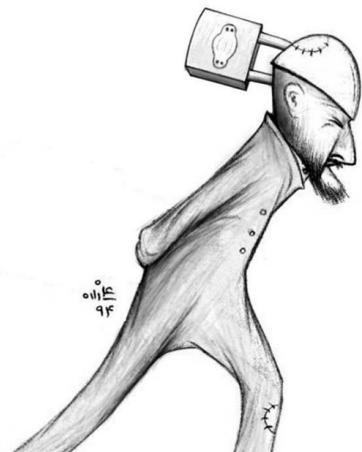
their demand for schooling rose, and the financial support from private donors was replaced or greatly augmented with public funds. If poor countries wish to achieve high levels of national income, they need to provide public funding for the universal education of the poor, at least at the primary and secondary levels of schooling.

The current educational system of Afghanistan is not responsive to educational needs of the country, because there is a wide gap between the quality of the Afghan education system comparing to regional and global standards. There are many factors but the root factor is lack of enough budgets or enough salary; as a result, education or educators have the lowest prestige in our society. That's why the talented or the university graduated talents are not willing to become teachers, and only weak and jobless will get the teaching job. Based on this, it is easy to conclude if we have weak teachers, the result is to have weak generation; if we have strong teachers we would have strong generations. Furthermore, female school instructors just constitute about 30 percent of teachers nationwide. Afghan girls face many obstacles when it comes to their education, including early marriage, security conflicts, and inaccessibility to nearby schools. As a result, only 9.2 percent of girls reach secondary school, compared to 28 percent of boys.

Quantitatively, Afghanistan is still one of the countries where many school-age children have no access to schooling. According to the UN Children's agency (UNICEF), a large portion of the children living in conflict zones are deprived of schooling, with ranking the fourth worst-affected countries after South Sudan, Niger, Sudan. And a staggering 40 percent of school-age children are out of school in Afghanistan. It is obviously when children are not in school they are at an increased danger of abuse, exploitation, and recruitment into armed groups. Conflict and fragile security impedes delivery of school supplies, enrolment, monitoring, and school supervision these challenges are exacerbated by entrenched tribal norms that oppose the education of girls.

Finally, without investment in quality education, the future of the country looks dark; in fact, there is no way to end from poverty unless we put education at the top of national priorities. It is possible to change the whole generation within 17 other years and it is considered as the best way to reach sustainable peace and development. Therefore, we have to make it an obligatory duty through national constitution aiming to reach zero illiteracy level in the future. Meanwhile, education for girls is not less important than boys; we need to eliminate the barriers and any illusions that keep girls deprived of education. Thus, we must acknowledge that when a girl is educated, a small community will be educated, but when a boy is educated, just an individual is educated.

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