

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



November 15, 2018

## Crimes and Their Prevention

Currently, Afghanistan is suffering from myriads of problems and among them the rising rate of crimes is a dominant one. The persistent insecurity and instability have provided the opportunity to the criminals to take full advantage. Moreover, the prevailing circumstances - the snowballing poverty and unemployment, growing injustice and unreliable law and order system - are further pushing the people towards crimes and corruption. It is always important to see that there is a prominent link between poverty and crimes. There are many people who commit crimes only because they are not able to feed their families or they are capable of fulfilling the ever-growing necessities of life.

The important point is to realize that though poverty is one of the basic reasons of why people commit crimes, it is not the only reason. It can be observed that the criminals are mostly rich and have connections with authoritative people in the society. Moreover, there are criminals among the ruling elite and they commit huge crimes and never brought to justice.

Thus, there are different reasons behind the crimes that are committed within a society and they are not always evident to us. What is evident is the outcome of the crimes as it directly influences the people. Whether there is a murder, robbery or a kidnapping, the effect is very direct and can be felt by the victims, their relatives and other people who come across those crimes. These impacts of the crimes disturb the normal social life and may prove to be a ripple that can generate more crimes and disturbances within the society. Therefore, it is important to safeguard the society from these influences and control the crimes in the best possible manner.

Two types of strategies can be effective in this regard - short term and long term strategies. The short-term strategy is basically carried out by the law-enforcement system in the society that works through the institutions of courts and police. Law-enforcement system within a society basically works on the principle of identifying the criminals, bringing them to justice and punishing them. The countries with weaker law-enforcement systems suffer to a large extent in providing justice to the alleged criminals. Such societies also suffer from lack of providence of timely justice. The system of courts is not very efficient. There are many cases that take many years in courts and yet remain undecided. The people who are influenced by such cases experience a complete change in their lives, which is from bad to worse and by the time they reach to justice, their lives are already destroyed. It has been also observed that the cases that belong to influential people are pursued immediately while the ones that involve the ordinary people are kept in files and they never reach to the courts.

And then there are detention centers that, in fact, do not transform the criminals into useful citizens, which is the basic philosophy of them. They, on the other hand, turn them into bigger criminals and if unfortunately, which mostly happens, there is a person who has been punished wrongfully; such a person becomes a true criminal after leaving the detention center. Unluckily, Afghanistan is one of the same types of countries that suffer from weak law-enforcement system. Though there has been much development in this regard, serious concerns still prevail and raise questions about the system. The police force in Afghanistan is still in the preliminary stages and it really requires years of attention and support to reach to a truly professional stage. There are many areas in the country where the police do not have enough penetration and where they cannot reach to crimes and criminals. Then there are many areas wherein the people still go to traditional courts, which are dominated by religious and tribal leaders instead of going to the courts that are established by the government.

There is a great margin of tireless efforts for the improvement of detention centers as well. The basic facilities that the prisoners get are in no way enough and the environment is not very much healthy. Even within the detention centers the criminals are able to keep their communication with the outside world and are able to lead or to participate in their unlawful activities.

It is really imperative to keep in consideration that the law-enforcement system can provide short-term solution to the crimes. If a society is really interested in controlling them there should be a long-term strategy that must deal with the basic reasons of the crime and try to nip the evil in the bud. There should be efforts to work on efficient administration, better economic condition, political stability, good governance, providence of basic human rights and control of corruption. Justice should reach to all the people of the society alike and the citizens must not feel alienated from the society. Moreover, there should not be discrimination as far as practical implementation of the criminal law is considered. Law should not serve the rich alone as is happening in many societies of the world; rather all should be treated equally in this regard.



## The Cycle of Violence Starts from Violence against Women

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Undoubtedly, Afghanistan has gained some progress in the field of women's wellbeing but still fundamental works need to be done. Because the underlying factor of violence has not rooted out the shallow solutions do not usually work. As a result, they are suffering from various types of violence or challenges while the cycle of most social and family violence originates from Violence against women. Sometimes media reflects horrible cases of such as suicide, poisonousness, self-ignition, sexual abuse but the most essential one is economic violence. The number of women job holders and women participants in economic activities are much lower than men; the number of women who get their heritage right is almost Zero, and the number of girls who get into higher education are much less than the boys. These shows that there are still obstacles that prevent them from participation in economic arena, especially in the remote parts of the country.

In the other words, the isolation of women from education and economic activities are the root factors to many other types of violence in Afghanistan. It means, some types of violence against women are systematic and has deep root in our traditional lifestyle, and so needs deeper attention and strategy. Some figure of violence is a sign of a silent crisis in the country, which requires serious attention. It is said that every nine out of ten women and girls in urban communities face harassment in Afghanistan. While Women are the half part the society, any kind of progress and achievements are incomplete without meaningful presence of women in all arenas.

One of most common types of violence needs to be highlighted is sexual violence; it is very serious and concerning type in Afghanistan. A large number of women and girls become victims of this crime in work places, streets, and universities but as sexual violence is considered as a taboo in Afghan society it remains unseen. Thus, it occurs in form of sexual assault, uncommon sexual relations, insult and sexual humiliation, forced prostitution, forced abortion, etc. therefore, they try to conceal cases of sexual violence and not to be registered.

The next common type of violence against women, which is not much disclosed, is verbal and psychological violence; verbal and psychological violence is the most common type of violence. Such types of violence exert negative effects on the psychology and spirit of the victims. Humiliation, insult, and threat are the common types of violence that, inflict serious negative impacts on the characteristics and spirit of women. Verbal and psychological violence against women may occur at home or public places in the form of harassment on the streets and puts women in a difficult and dangerous situation. However, violence against women is not limited to the above-mentioned violations.

The factor of so many issues, especially the factor of violence against women

is the culture of impunity and lack of rule of law in Afghanistan. As a result, women try to hide the crimes and not to refer to judicial system for fear of and mistrust upon government agencies; this also open the way for power-brokers and unprofessional people to interfere in resolving the cases within the boundary of community. The current condition of women in Afghanistan not only shows a weak justice system but also shows a shameful condition as a Muslim country. While the Muslim's prophet was the first person who fought in elimination of violence against women and he rescued many women from being burying alive in the Arab ignorance era. His first wife, Khadija, was his chief adviser as well as his first and foremost supporter.

The other cause of violence against women is being weak in terms of mentality and economy. There many stronger and happier women than men because they are educationally and economically powerful. In fact, there is always a powerful woman behind a powerful man, and so there is no genuine reason to prohibit women from becoming powerful means working, educating and socializing outside of home their homes. Naturally, human is called social animal; means, every human needs to satiate their social instinct through interaction with friends and community; otherwise they get psychological problems and then would not be able to play their role as a normal human. Many women use violence against their children because they learn or receive violence from a violent contexts and ill society. As a result, the cycle of violence will be continued as long as we do not change our mindset against women.

However, the women empowerment program drew much attention in last 17 years in Afghanistan but there is no fundamental process has observed in their lives. As a result, women, who are almost half of the Afghan population, stuck at their homes and the T.V and New media have become their daily hobbies. While the main targets of these programs are youths and young girls who are getting familiar with the new culture and new life style. After the young women compare their lives to them, find a huge contrast, which lead to more expectations and family conflicts in poor Afghan society.

Finally, we should also fulfil our international commitments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The State has a responsibility to act with due diligence to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. This responsibility includes the protection, prevention, investigation, punishment, and provision of effective remedies, including compensation measures. Furthermore, the State has a responsibility to hold accountable not only the perpetrators of violence, but also state authorities who fail to protect and prevent the violations of women and girls human rights, due to a lack of response or because of ineffective responses.

Mohammad Zahir Akbari is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at mohammadzahirakbari@gmail.com

## Strange Bedfellows: Ideology Trumps Defense of Ethnic, Religious and Minority Rights

By: James M. Dorsey

A global rise of nationalist and populist tendencies has not only given anti-migrant, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic and racist tendencies a new lease on life, but opened the door to alliances between groups that once would have had nothing to do with one another.

Developments in Israel, Indonesia and Germany suggest renewed nationalism and populism is in some cases redefining how states perceive concepts of national interest and purpose and how religious and ethnic communities seek to shield themselves against discrimination, persecution and/or extremism.

The redefinition was no more evident than when Israel, founded as a safe haven for Jews irrespective of creed, sect or political belief, sided against its own ambassador with authoritarian Hungarian President Victor Orban, a proponent of Christianity rather than multi-culturalism as the glue of European society, in denouncing billionaire left-wing philanthropist George Soros, a survivor of the Holocaust.

In doing so, Israel, founded on the belief that Jews needed a state to shield themselves against discrimination and persecution rooted in anti-Semitic prejudice and racism that has been endemic in Christian culture, sided not only with a Christian nationalist leader in Hungary but with a global right-wing trend that sees Mr. Soros as the mastermind of a globalist movement, determined to subvert the established order and dilute the white, Christian nature of societies through immigration.

Israel's acknowledgement of the redefinition of its raison d'être came in response to a Facebook posting by Yossi Amrani, the Jewish state's representative in Hungary. Responding to anti-immigration billboards depicting a smiling Mr. Soros with the slogan, 'Let's not let Soros have the last laugh,' Mr. Amrani, backed by Hungarian Jewish leaders, warned that they evoked "sad memories, but also sow hatred and fear."

Israel's foreign ministry, days before a visit to Hungary by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, rather than taking a firm stand on rising anti-Semitism, effectively defined the Jewish state's interest as joining Mr. Orban in denouncing a Jew.

As a result, Israel, despite seeing itself as the fulfilment of the Biblical prophecies of the Ingathering of the Exiles and the protector of Jewish rights, opted for denouncing a Jew together with a leader whose policies prompted the European parliament to pursue unprecedented disciplinary action against Hungary over alleged breaches of the European Union's core values, including minority rights.

"In no way was the (ambassador's) statement meant to delegitimize criticism of George Soros, who continuously undermines Israel's democratically elected governments by funding organizations that defame the Jewish state and seek to deny it the right to defend itself," the ministry said.

The implicit message, like Israel's decision to bar entry to its Jewish critics despite its law of return that grants anyone who is Jewish a right to citizenship, was that Israel rather than being the potential home of all Jews was a home only to those who support the government's policies.

Mr. Netanyahu's alignment of Israel with right-wing nationalist and populist forces like his support for ultra-orthodox Jewish groups that deny equal rights for less stringent religious trends in Judaism on issues such as marriage, divorce, conversion and prayer at Jerusalem's Western Wall, are likely to drive a wedge between the Jewish state and world Jewry, particularly in the United States.

The wedge, that puts Israel at odds with the Jewish Diaspora, could be deepened by this week's Democratic Party success in regaining a majority in the US House of Representatives. Jews historically tend to vote Democratic in the US, a stark contrast with Mr. Netanyahu's growing alliance with right-wing evangelists who support Israel because they believe the Messiah will only return to a Holy Land controlled by Jews.

Many evangelists, however, also believe that Jews will not be saved on the Day of Judgement without first converting to Christianity.

Israel's divisive approach to World Jewry is not without its supporters in the Jewish Diaspora. Anti-Muslim and anti-migration sentiments have prompted some Jews to form their own group within Germany's far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) political party.

The notion that bigotry and prejudice are the best defense against rising anti-Semitism has meant that AfD Jews have little compunction about joining a party whose members favour abandoning Germany's culture of remembrance and atonement for its Nazi past.

One AfD leader, Alexander Gauland, described Nazism as a "speck of bird poop in more than 1,000 years of successful German history."

To be fair, the issue of rising prejudice and bigotry is not the exclusive perch of right-wing nationalist and populists. Britain's Labour Party, traditionally a home for Jewish voters and activists, has been plagued by charges of anti-Semitism and reluctance to put its own house in order.

Moreover, the emergence of strange bedfellows in a world in which ideological affinity replaces defense of a community's minority rights is not uniquely Israeli or Jewish.

Nahdlatul Ulama, the world's largest Islamic movements with some 94 million members in Indonesia, in a bid to reform Islam and counter all political expressions of the faith, risks being tainted by its potential tactical association with Islamophobes and Christian fundamentalists who would project their alliance as Muslim justification of their perception of the evils of Islam. Nahdlatul Ulama is not alone in the Muslim world's opportunistic engagement with the Christian right.

Saudi rulers, who long aligned themselves with a supremacist, intolerant interpretation of Islam that viewed Christians as swine and Jews as apes have discovered that they share with evangelists and fundamentalist Christians, a significant voting bloc in the United States and part of President Donald J. Trump's support base, conservative family values as well as political interests.

In a first, Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, last week met with a delegation of US evangelists that included Reverend Johnnie Moore, Israel-based evangelical political strategist-turned-novelist Joel Rosenberg, former congresswoman Michele Bachmann, and prominent religious broadcasters.

The jury is out on whether the fallout of the rise of nationalism, populism and extremism heralds a new world in which bigotry and prejudice are legitimized as a defense strategy against discrimination, racism and persecution and an anti-dote to radicalism - a world that would likely prove to be far more divided and polarized and likely increasingly unsafe for minorities on the receiving end.

Dr. James M. Dorsey is a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, co-director of the University of Würzburg's Institute for Fan Culture, and co-host of the New Books in Middle Eastern Studies podcast.

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida  
Vice Chairman / Exec. Editor: Moh. Sakhi Rezaie  
Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com  
Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019  
www.outlookafghanistan.net



The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.