

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



November 18, 2015

Lack of Cooperation in Security Forces!

At last, the government sources confirmed that the cooperation at different levels of forces has deteriorated, giving rise to the lack-luster performance of Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) against Taliban and terrorist groups in different parts of the country. Both ministries of Interior and Defense acknowledged on Sunday November 15, 2015 that the cooperation between forces is problematic at some levels and this is creating problem for the overall performance of our forces.

According to the Interior Ministry, the problem exists in the lower ranks where officials are not much cooperating. While Ministry of Defense issued the statement confirming report from Interior Ministry regarding the lack of cooperation in the security forces.

The Deputy Interior Ministry spokesperson, Najib Danish admitted that there is lack of cooperation in the lower-ranking officials of security forces while there is no such problem in higher-ranking officers. He added that they are making efforts to increase cooperation among the lower ranking officials of security forces.

Although the government ministries have admitted but such rumors were in air for more than a year. The dubious factors responsible for the fall of Kunduz to Taliban, the continuous re-emergence of Taliban in a number of districts in Helmand province, the increased activities of Taliban in Badakhshan and repeated kidnapping and killing of innocent travelers on Kandahar-Kabul highway has been a matter of great concern for all the citizens.

The statements given by Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) about the actual security situation in Afghanistan has also been doubtful and contradicting the statements of each other. In the on-going military operation in Helmand, the provincial governor talks of the surrender of 65 security members to Taliban while the ministry of defense rejects it. In the same way, our forces cleaned a number of districts in Badakhshan of Taliban and ISIS militants but the same areas fell again into the hands of militants and our forces had to carry out military operations for a number of times.

In the case of Kunduz, the city captured by Taliban given that thousands of members of ANSF guarded the city. It is said that, the security forces retreated without showing any resistance against Taliban and Taliban were able to control the city without any bloodshed and loss. In the same way, our forces left behind dozens of armored vehicles and more than hundred pickups that were later on taken away by Taliban when they were forced to leave the city.

Similarly, the lack of communication regarding intelligence is another problem. In the case of Kunduz, Helmand and numerous other incidents, the intelligence service was not able to detect the large-scale movement of militants in the area and it remained a secret until an area fell into the hands of anti-state forces.

According to the spokesperson of Ministry of Defense, retreat is a tactical plan of war in the country and it is all done under inevitable circumstances but realities on ground are much different from this.

A number of media outlets also reported of the lack of motivation and disappointment of low-ranking officials or soldiers. According to them, they are not given permission by their high-ups to retaliate or attack on Taliban until it gets too late and then they find themselves seized by Taliban militants. There are also reports that at many occasions, the security forces were not provided with backup support by headquarters after many hours. In some instances, a few soldiers kept fighting with Taliban for almost 48 hours requesting for backup support but they were not given any support. They ended with no ammunition or supplies and had to surrender to Taliban or were captured and killed by Taliban.

According to local people, Taliban are much afraid of helicopters and they can hardly resist it but in many cases, the helicopters were kept idle and not used against them and our ground forces struggled to stop the attacks of Taliban. In the case of Kunduz, when our forces were desperately waiting for the aerial support and helicopters, dozens of helicopters were standing idle in Kabul. In the same way, when the helicopters are badly needed to push back Taliban in Helmand, large numbers of helicopters are standing idle at the Kandahar airport.

Similarly, the passengers on Kabul-Kandahar highway were attacked by Taliban when a police or national army check post was less than a kilometer away. In all these circumstances, the passengers were left on the mercy of Taliban and no action was taken against them. The soldiers state that they kept waiting for the orders from their superiors either to interfere or not. In the same way, the sad incident in Zabul also gave rise to many questions regarding the role of security forces on this highway. Zabul is one of the most restive parts of the country and at the place where the seven passengers were abducted is one of the heavily guarded areas.

There have been numerous incidents on this highway but there has never been any serious investigation or follow-up of these incidents. The abduction of 31 Hazara passengers last year and many others remain a question mark on the performance of government and security forces.

According to analysts, until the problem of lack of cooperation in security forces is not solved, the security conditions in the country will get worse and add to the misery of public.

The Strong Case of Afghan Asylum-Seekers!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

In this year's influx of refugees, Afghans stand on second position after the Syrians. Tens of thousands of Afghans left their country in the hope of better future and now they are at a number of places. Many of them made to Germany, many are waiting for a good time in Turkey, while thousands more are in the transit states of Greece, Serbia, or even far Russia from where they aim to head to Germany, France, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Britain and other developed countries of Europe. However, Germany remains a favorite destination for all the immigrants and kind and welcoming attitude of German people and their Chancellor, Angela Merkel, gave hope to millions of asylum-seekers to reach Germany, hoping better prospects of future.

The saddening pictures of young Ailan Kurdi, who was found dead on a beach in Turkey, moved the sentiments of European public and their leaders and thus started the process in which tens of thousands of immigrants started their journey towards Europe, most of them passing through Turkey. However, the conditions are no more the same and suitable for immigrants. The number of refugees going to Europe was so massive and frightening to European masses and leaders that soon voices rose up against immigrants. In a few weeks' time, border restrictions were tightened, laws to accept refugees were made strict and now, the plans are underway to start repatriation of refugees who fail to prove that their lives are in danger in their homelands. Last Friday's terror attacks in Paris can be declared the final nail in the coffin that washed away all the public support and empathy for them and Europeans now seem to be more concerned about their security instead of the condition of refugees.

The ongoing G-20 conference in Turkey is also important in this regard. Almost all the powerful and advanced nations of the world have come together to discuss the issue of refugees as well among other issues. However, the present wave of hatred against Muslims and immigrants from Muslim countries is going to sweep the conference without any good result for immigrants. It is feared that, this gathering might do more harm to the refugee issue than good. Recent announcements by a number of state governments in the United States to close their doors for the refugees are in reaction to Paris attacks. Eight ISIS terrorists, who gave a blow to the peace of the entire continent by attacking Paris, have eased the work of all anti-immigrant politicians and groups.

As all the immigrants are hearing this bad news, present scenario is also shocking and unacceptable for all the Afghans who have left their country in the hope of reaching somewhere peacefully outside Afghanistan. It is generally believed in Afghanistan that if a person makes to any European country, his miseries and difficulties come to an end. However, this time, it does not seem to be happening like this. Recent voices raised by representatives of a number of European countries in Afghanistan show that they are seriously considering to deport large numbers of Afghans who have sought asylum in their countries. Here are a few examples in this regard: Two important diplomats of Norway, Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs paid visit to Kabul on Sunday November 15, 2015 when they met with President Ashraf Ghani, CEO Abdullah Abdullah and a number of Afghan ministers. In all these meetings, the prime agenda was that of Afghans who have sought asylum in Norway. Though not officially

declared, media reports that both the governments reached to an accord according to which 90% of Afghans who have applied for asylum in Norway will be deported. Only a small number of Afghans will be granted asylum who have genuine cases and have fear of life in Afghanistan. The Norwegian deputy ministers also called for Afghans not to make their way to Norway, as they will no more be welcomed in this Scandinavian country. Norwegian diplomats were successful in making Afghan government to accept those who will be repatriated from Norway. Most of the Afghans made their way to Norway through Russia and many dozens of them used bicycles to go through the freezing Russian cities and jungles. Although Norway is a country with relatively smaller number of Afghan asylum-seekers, the concerns of Germany remains more valid in this regard, as it is the country facing largest number of immigrants from Syria and Afghanistan. According to Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, more than 80,000 Afghans have applied for asylum in Germany while 146,000 Afghans have sought refuge in Europe this year. On Monday, German Ambassador in Afghanistan confirmed the voices that his government is planning to deport large numbers of Afghans who have applied for asylum in the European country. According to him, all the Afghans who have left the country due to economic crisis will be deported while a small number of Afghans will be allowed to stay in Germany who have genuine threats to their lives in Afghanistan. Similarly, German government is launching a public awareness campaign in three major cities of Afghanistan to deter people from leaving Afghanistan to Germany. There are also reports that Afghan and German governments are having talks to deport those Afghans from Germany who do not have any solid reasons to seek asylum. Very recently, there has been much criticism against government for its decision to accept Afghans who are going to be deported from a number of European countries. When we look at the conditions persisting inside Afghanistan, the plight of refugees sound reasonable and justified. Having a look at these facts, the efforts and talks of Afghan government with different European states for deportation of Afghans seem flawed and misdirected. The condition of the country is much clearly depicted by a recent survey report issued by The Asia Foundation. This organization conducts a mass survey in all parts of the country every year and this year's survey shows that morale of Afghans are at the lowest since the formation of a democratic government in the country. According to the survey, almost 58% Afghans think that country is going in a wrong direction while a massive 67.4% think that they are not safe in the country. The survey also shows a sharp decline of public trust in government institutions and majority of Afghans are of the view that job opportunities have sharply declined in last one year.

On the ground, people are jobless and earning enough to feed a family is getting difficult with every passing day. Taliban and Daesh or Islamic State (IS) pose great threats to the lives of Afghans and every passing day intensifies this threat. People do not see their lives and that of their family members' safe in the country. Overall, there is a great pessimism and lack of hope in the country that leads to the immigration of Afghans out of the country. While considering the decision to deport Afghans, European leaders and diplomats should keep in mind these grave circumstances and harsh realities of present-day Afghanistan.

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Laws Protecting Women Rights Suffers Negation

By Asmatyari

Both woman and man should be deemed as engine and trunk of a vehicle whose collective efforts may garner material success. The non-acceptance of women's due position, contribution and participation in structuring a developed and advanced society may deepen our miseries. The unfortunate girl late teen aged Rokhshana rendered prey to wide practiced callousness -killed in cold blood without conviction of adultery. The merciless killing took place about a week ago in a Taliban-controlled area just outside Firozkoh, the capital of central Ghor province. There is nothing to worry about -insurgency, extremism and violence have homogenized in a single whole. But what the government has got to do nothing less what was practiced publicly. Regrettably, the government instead of taking measures to uphold women rights, back lashed 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 then outdated norms. The culture deeming women as subordinate citizen multiplies their receptiveness to greater tendency of being subjected to worst treatment. 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. Apart from formal education, community based adult education and awareness campaigns on complimentary right's issues complementary to Islamic teachings might assuage the stringency of substandard customary law that undermines women rights.

It is witnessed the prevalent violence that hold women on receiving end is to do with social upbringing and irrational socio-religious practices. Being born and raised underestimating girls, consequently we dare hindering equal participation of women in socio-political arenas; we strive hard equating their right to liberty and pursuit of happiness, bashfulness and contrary to Islamic teachings. Going short of tolerance and patience finding women chase a goal-oriented life getting enraged is ridiculousness. The statistic released by Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) is in harmony with said state of affairs. It is unearthed incidents of violence against women increased this year mainly due to the presence of illegal armed groups, insecurity, corruption and failure to pass the law that prevents violation of women's rights by parliament. According to the statistics, 815 incidents of violence against the gender were registered during the first six months of the year compared to 764 incidents during the same period last year. More than 800 incidents of violence against women took place during the first six months of the ongoing solar year, compared to 764 incidents during the same period last year.

It is strange that till date the social participation of women deemed a taboo at large -makes them difficult to head to public offices on a distinct position multiply their susceptibility to violence. Women found exercising her willingness contrary to parental dictate is subjected to severe criticism and humiliation; is recklessly shunned to depth of utter hopelessness. The society where negation of unsound commandment is deemed immodesty and conceit, and pursuit of a rational discourse unpardonable sin, lies at the depth of moral abyss. Hence, a woman is bound to lead a life, at utter submission of her family associates otherwise the harshest possible violence await their fate. The MoWA has recorded 2,880 incidents of violence include murders, beatings, suicides, torture, self-emolition, might be the part of figure that got public. Last year's crimes against the gender included 36 murders, 21 suicides, 32 sexual attacks, 300 cases of torture, 48 divorces, 41 forced marriages. But this year 39 women were murdered, 22 committed suicide and 27 were sexual attacked, 390 tortured, 47 divorced and 36 forced into marriages. The remaining cases include elopement, underage marriages, discrimination, dowry claims, alimony, denying education and inheritance rights, kidnappings, physical torture, verbal torture, insult, and death threats. Subjugating an inferior to harsh suppression has been prominent feature of patriarchal society where women are hold prone to suppression and intimidation. This is not 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 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 might assuage the stringency of substandard customary law that undermines women rights.

The contemporary society of Afghanistan does not lag behind in this regard the hindrance to former ratification of law safeguarding the women's right is the manifestation to underlying fact. It should not stereotype women's isolation and dependence, as an emblem of decency and modesty; -it is meant to plague the half of resourceful human resource. There is a single Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) law awaiting its fate whose approval can check the violence against women. Due to differences, the Afghan parliament is yet to approve the EVAW Law, which was decreed into law through an Executive Order by the former President Hamid Karzai on July 20, 2009, while parliament was in recess. The denial to turning it into law depicts women nothing more valued than an object that could be turned and twisted to any direction devoid their mutual consent.

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