

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



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Every Human Deserves Basic Needs of Life

Human beings depend highly on the environment where they live. Both the physical and socio-economic circumstances provide them the opportunity to fulfill their different sorts of requirements. Among these requirements the needs to live alive are the most basic one; they include food, shelter and certain other opportunities. It is only after fulfillment of these basic requirements that human beings are able to divert their attentions towards other objectives and goals. In fact, they would not be able to give proper meaning to their lives and will not realize themselves unless they have their rudimentary requirements properly met.

It is also very important to note that there are enough resources around the world that can fulfill most of the requirements of most of the people in the world. However, there are millions of people in the world who do not have the basic requirements. They suffer from extreme poverty and dearth of resources. Many of them die because of the same reason. This unfortunate fact leads us to think that though human beings consider themselves as the wisest of the creatures, they are not able to prove the same through their actions. They have designed modern states and systems, yet they are not able to provide their own kind even the basic requirements of life, which is really unfortunate. Only some of the people have access to most of the resources of the world while most of the people suffer from poverty.

There are some thinkers who even suggest that human beings are bound to be so. Or, they consider it a necessary outcome of the evolutionary process, which they believe is based on the survival of the fittest. The ones who have acquired limitless resources just for their self-centered motives are thought to be fittest and thus the rightful winner of the competition that is prevailing in the natural world. However, they fail to understand that the distribution of the wealth and resources is basically the result of unjust economic and political systems that are designed by human beings themselves not by nature.

The nature does not discriminate between rich and poor. The fragrant breeze in the nature blows for everyone without the distinction of race, community, poor and rich. The river that flows in nature provides everyone with same bewitching scene and cold water to drink. The fountains do not recognize the strata and the economic status. And even the natural calamities; like earthquakes, floods and deadly hurricanes destroys everyone equally. However, some may have developed better defense against all these calamities by the dint of their wealth, which is because of the economic system in society developed by human beings themselves, not the nature.

It is the socio-economic and political systems in the country that split the human beings in different classes. These classes are demarcated with bold and clear boundaries. The dissimilarities found in these classes are enormous and one gets astonished to see how human beings are really satisfied with so much distinctions. The examples are not difficult to find. There are millions of poor people in the world. They have not enough food to eat, no water to drink and no cloth to wear. The economic system developed by human beings, with the intentions to fulfill their requirements, has in fact cheated them and they are at a stage of misery. The class-based system and the vivid class disparities have neutralized the capacity of human beings to fulfill their basic requirements from the unlimited resources.

The same can be observed in our own country, as well. The ruling class, that includes the political and religious leaders, the business tycoons, the warlords and the chieftains, has accumulated most of the wealth and resources while most of the poor people suffer from misery and deprivation. This ruling class is not interested in any other thing except pursuing its own selfish goals. That is the reason that poverty, unemployment, terrorism and insecurity are haunting our nation to a large extent and they are getting worse with each passing day.

Our socio-economic system has a dominant imbalance and this imbalance has further created different sorts of evils in society. There are crimes and injustices because of the same system. Poor, because of negligence and lack of basic requirements are bound to break the law and the rich, because of their authority to mock the law and order system, break it. Poor, to quench the thirst of their children and fill their stomach with few morsels of food, break the law; while the rich, to quench their thirst for luxury and adventure, break it. This system cannot guarantee sustainability and prosperity. There is a crying need for drastic changes. The imbalance has to be diminished if it is not completely eradicated. True justice should be followed and the resources and wealth should be used for the poor as they deserve it, not the rich who already enjoy all the facilities and luxuries of life.



Afghan Soldiers Victim of Absence of Battle Field War Strategy in the Face of Ongoing Relentless Attrition

By: Mohammed Gul Sahibzada

Casualties of Afghan soldiers in battle fields continue to rise as Taliban insurgents persistently attack government installations and military outposts in country sides across the country. A rogue police officer turned his gun on his sleeping comrades in Farah killing fifty people. Another seventy personnel of Afghan national army were killed in fighting in the same province last week. These incidents were reported by brother of one of the police personnel who was among the killed ones. In Kunduz province, Taliban insurgents have killed seventeen local police and army personnel in Qalai Zal district on fifteen November. Almost the same numbers of local police personnel were killed in another attack four weeks ago in Qalai Zal district. These figures represent Afghan security and defense personnel casualties in two of the provinces while fighting rages on in several fronts in many provinces across the country, and casualties arising from those battle fields are not at hand. It seems government policy concerning records of security and defense personnel are strictly controlled and real figures are not put out to press or public attention. This staggering figure of losses in human lives among police and army personnel in Afghan security and defense institutions is alarming. Taliban insurgents have embedded themselves in this war of attrition using highly sophisticated tactics against Afghan security and defense personnel. According to Mr. Faiz Mohammad, police chief of Qalai Zal district in Kunduz province, 'Taliban insurgents have powerful night vision tools while Afghan security and defense personnel do not have any kind of night vision tools'. He said Afghan government logistical support to military outposts in villages, districts and city outskirts was very weak. Commander Faiz Mohammad further said 'Government had already lost control of two districts, namely Qalai Zal and Dasht Archi. In both of these districts, Taliban are in control of almost the entire district population and landmass. Government has relocated the district administrative buildings out of the district centers, and installed them in another area closer to main army bases where they cannot serve any government related services to the people. The only reason for such government buildings is to show to outside world that government had a presence in the entire province while tacitly acknowledges Taliban insurgents' rules in those areas by ceding territories to them.

Lack of strong leadership and faulty command / control structure in Afghan security and defense institutions has negatively affected performance of these critical institutions. Navigating all military decorum, rules and ethics, Minister of Defense who was summoned by Parliament early last week, had clearly said that Afghan defense and security personnel were not capable to counter Taliban insurgents...'. Such statements from the highest security officials of the country can only demoralize military and police personnel and can reel back progress made during last one and half decade. This exhibits pathetic conditions of the abilities of the officials in leadership positions who run and lead the brave soldiers and police personnel in the battle fields. Afghan soldiers - men and women - have showed valor and continue to sacrifice their lives for the pure cause to defend the motherland. Bravery, valor and a will to fight and stand the enemy fire in battlefields is the only reason for such a staggering number of casualties on the part of Afghan security and defense personnel. Appointment of senior officers in Afghan security and defense institutions has been faulty and not based on merit. Political dispensation, regional and ethnic affiliation had been the norm to recruit senior officials in these important institutions. The result of such defective course to formation of Afghan defense and security forces has led to alarming level of casualties inflicted in battlefields because of lack of knowledge, education, experience and logistical

know-how on the part of senior military and police officials.

Afghan Government is fighting an entrenched insurgency for last more than one and half decade. Defense and security institutions should have in place a viable battlefield war strategy that can meet existing challenges of a war natured by insurgency and foreign interference. It goes without saying that formulation of such a multi-faceted strategy with many moving parts is a job that requires highly trained, experienced and knowledgeable leadership at the helm of affairs of these institutions. Such a strategy should include formation of robust military armed units stationed across the country with bulk of them in provinces that are more exposed to insurgents attacks, a relentless campaign in cities, districts, villages and main population centers to impart awareness to the public about enemy designs to exploit peoples' religious, ethnic, linguistic and regional affiliation sentiments against their government, and to unleash large development programs in countryside, areas where people are affected by ongoing war and other areas of larger population centers to garner support for the government. Engaging people in economic activities is one of the most successful tools government can use to fight insurgency and build a bulwark on the way to insurgents' recruitment of young people in their ranks to fight against Government. Such a strategy is non-existing!

Afghan Government repeatedly complain about lack of advanced weapons, resources and related amenities, but to have a deep look into the money and weapons, vehicles, airplanes and intelligence support by NATO, Afghan army and police force is one of the richest in the region. They spend more than five billions US Dollars per year. At least, compared to what Taliban insurgents have or use in battle against the army and police force, Afghan army is positioned in a much better place. It is inherently true to say that incapable army officials always create smokescreen to cover for their shortfalls / sufferings in battlefields. Persistent demands for more and still no results in battlefields require serious attention and overhaul of entire defense and security institutions, their organizational health, command / control structure and logistic / supply management system. It is imperative on the part of Government to keep Afghan security and defense institutions out of political dispensation and build efficient military academies in order to impart training and education to Afghan police and military personnel.

Afghan Government should take heed of the present situation of the battlefields / theatres in the country, and focus on shortfalls and defects in the ongoing military operations across the country to address those issues on the spot. The first step towards undertaking such work is to extensively form and mobilize military and state intelligence agencies and activate their cells behind the lines of enemy and within the ranks of Afghan security and defense personnel and institutions. Flow of data and information is critical for keeping a stable, strong and efficient army. Putting in place an efficient command and control system across thirty-four provinces of the country is equally important. It has been reported that Taliban insurgents have formed rapid offensive battalions across the country, called 'Red Units'. Presence of powerful night vision tools with Taliban fighters across the country, which they use in every military operation, is a cause for concern. Afghan army and police units should be equipped with more advance tools to cancel the effects of the enemy forces. Casualties inflicted on Afghan army and police units are mostly due to this imbalance in quality and quantity of weapons and supportive gadgets, created due to their abundance with Taliban insurgency and their lack with Afghan Government forces.

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The Privatization of War in Afghanistan

By: Abdul Qahar Bakshi

Private military industries in the US are behind the proposal of privatization of the war in Afghanistan. Erik D. Prince, the founder of the Blackwater Worldwide private military company, and Stephen A. Feinberg, a billionaire financier who owns the giant military contractor DynCorp International, each see a role for themselves in the future of the US long-drawn-out war in Afghanistan.

It could get worse if handled in this vein. In a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed, Prince laid out a plan whereby the fighting force would be led by an American viceroy who would report directly to Trump. Modeled after General Douglas MacArthur, who ruled Japan after World War II, the viceroy would consolidate all American power in a single person. His mission: Do whatever it takes to pacify Afghanistan. No more backseat driving of the war from pesky bureaucrats in Washington, or restrictive rules of engagement imposed on soldiers. An American viceroy with a privatized fighting force would make trains run on time in Afghanistan—if they had trains.

Who would this viceroy be? Probably Prince had himself in mind, and that worries everyone. Under his watch, Blackwater military contractors opened fire in a city square in Baghdad, killing 17 civilians in one of the worst episodes of the Iraq war. When asked by Congress how he addressed potential wrongdoing among his employees in 2007, he said: "If there is any sort of ... problem, whether it's bad attitude, a dirty weapon, riding someone's bike that's not his, we fire him."

There are other problems with Prince's proposal. MacArthur was fired by President Harry Truman for abuse of power—hardly a venerable model for a viceroy. Also, the armies of the British East India Company did much harm in India, and bankrupted the company. British taxpayers had to bail it out in 1770, and then the government had to seize control in 1874. This said, utmost attention should be paid to nature of the viceroy-centered war which Eric dreams of in

the case of Afghanistan. From military perspective, there are many concerns about accountability, morality, culture, people's reaction and so on. In a country such as Afghanistan where Islamic ideology predominantly calls the shot over the hearts and minds of the people, this would further create a sense of hatred among the people given the past behavioral factors of outfits such as Blackwater in other parts of the world, Iraq's case taken as a live example where 17 people were killed by Blackwater's mercenaries. On the other hand, if privatization of war is realized, the Afghan anti-government forces would make much of it by mobilizing the illiterate masses in the areas where insurgency is on the high, under the title of Jihad the plight of which the country has been suffering for so long. People's emotions could be very easily overtaken by proselytizing forces and the so-called jihadists against America. According to Ahmed Rashid the distinguished Pakistani journalists, twenty three thousand Islamic madrassas exist across Pakistan and almost all of them are already contributing in Afghanistan war providing manpower and suicide bombers to Jihad cause. Given this fact, they would be much emboldened than ever, and would encourage more sympathy towards the Taliban grounds. So much so, this issue would bring about further mayhem and destruction on Afghanistan past two decades half-baked achievements and democracy. This type of an initiative is doable for a small force under certain conditions and proper oversight, but it is wholly different from what Eric Prince has envisioned for the war like Afghanistan's. However, the privatization is already underway in many other areas, denial is not a strategy to manage and sort out this growing problem. Prince sees how it can be harnessed for U.S. interests and is pushing his proposal, as are others in the industry. But America is not ready for such a radical idea, and may never be, given the historical experiences it has in the course of its wars in other places.

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