

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



November 26, 2015

We must Pursue Peace

As there have been Insecurity, poverty and discriminations in different parts of world, there have been different types of social problems as well. Among them one of the most dominating one erupting from the countries with insecurity, disorder and poverty is Human smuggling.

Human smuggling takes place when the person being smuggled gets into any sort of agreement with the smuggler and gives his consent to be smuggled to the desired country. The agreement is basically decided on a particular amount of money that has to be paid by the customer to the smuggler after reaching to the destination. In most of the cases, however, the customer pays the money in advance as he has no other option. This creates a sort of problem as well, as he cannot get his money back from the smuggler if he is not taken to his destination.

Human smuggling is a complex phenomenon and it involves different individuals and some times groups. The whole process actually includes these individuals and groups as various players at different locations that take the customers to their desired place. The techniques used by different individuals and groups differ from one another and they include both legal and illegal ways of crossing the borders. One of the most disturbing facts about human smuggling is that it includes the risk of life. The illegal ways that are adopted through the process include very risky attempts within which the people can easily lose their lives. The border control police or forces in different countries can even shoot the people who try to cross the border illegally. However, the facts show that people consider this choice much better than the lives they are having in their own countries and happily agree to opt it. Another fact is that the people being smuggled do not always involve young men. They also include children, women and even old people and this makes the process even more pathetic.

Human smuggling is mostly a trend in the countries where the standard of life is not satisfactory and people suffer because of lack of economic facilities or they are threatened by instability that has even jeopardized their lives. Feeling dissatisfied for life or threatened by danger, they agree to give the rights of their lives to someone whom they may not even know and for that they even pay money. What they only have in their minds is the dreams of better lives, which may not be fulfilled at all but may easily fill the pocket of the ones who are involved in this dirty game.

Human smuggling has been happening in different part of the world.

With the growth of instability, human smuggling has evolved into a sophisticated service industry. And certain routes and enclaves used by smugglers have practically institutionalized; for instance: from Mexico and Central America to the United States, from West Asia through Greece and Turkey to Western Europe, and within East and Southeast Asia. A combination of interacting factors, like weak legislation and lax border controls to corrupt officials and the influence of organized crime, is responsible for the flourishing business of human smuggling.

Afghanistan is a country that has been the victim of this evil. The dissatisfied, insecure and poverty stricken life has compelled the people to leave their motherland and run towards any country where they can find comfort. The series of civil wars and religious fanaticism have made the life miserable for most of the people and many have migrated out of the country, among them there are many who have opted for being smuggled. Since the downfall of Taliban the circumstances are claimed to have improved but there are serious concerns that are developing after the withdrawal of international forces and return of instability. Taliban have made security a big challenge for the Afghan National Security Forces in different parts of the country. There are certain districts that are now under the control of Taliban. Civilians have been suffering much from this growth of insecurity as they are mainly the victims. At the same time, other threatening militant groups that are multiplying insecurity are also emerging in the country. Daesh is the most dominant one among them and is now threatening people because of its ruthless killings of the poor and innocent people.

People are thinking of securing their lives by leaving the country and the human smugglers have come to the scene to rescue them. The number of human smugglers has risen in Kabul where they are making good money by promising the people 'bright future'. According to certain estimates, they charge people about \$15,000 to take them on the risky way to Europe, Canada or Australia.

Human smuggling is really a serious crime and all the ways that strengthen the process must be checked properly through strong legal measures. At the same time Afghan government must make sure that ordinary people are provided the rudimentary requirements of life and stable political and social circumstances so that they should not go for this option.

Violence against Women Should be Discouraged

By Asmatyari

The data published by United Nation Organization reflects heart throbbing statistics on account of women rights violation. It reads -35% of women and girls globally experience some form of physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime with up to seven in ten women facing this abuse in some countries. On account of enforced marriages, it uncovers, more than 700 million women alive today were married as children, 250 million of whom were married before the age of 15. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are less likely to complete their education and more likely to experience domestic violence and complications in childbirth.

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. The world turns deaf ears to the hapless cries, blind eyes negligent to see the magnitude of mental sufferings they endure 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.

Violence against women in Afghanistan have kept women very far away from education which is one of the reasons that usually subjected them to extensive discriminations because they are kept ignorant to their fundamental rights. The choices of Afghan women are extraordinarily restricted; the family decides the fate of their lives. There is little chance for education, little choice about whom she marries no choice at all about her role in her own house.

The role of women in peace, reconciliation, rehabilitation and nation building must not be repudiated. They must be heard by granting maximum if not equal opportunities in societal making. The upcoming government keeping his promise should take bold and immediate measures undoing all such developments eroding and restraining the capabilities of women to work for the good of society provided empowered women can effectively contribute in the development of the country. Every year November 25th is celebrated as an International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. This year a campaign "Orange the world: End violence against women and girls" is launched to create awareness among the people. Women constitute half of world population. They can play foundational role in formation and development of the society for upcoming generation.

They owe equivalent vigor to outstand and undertake the societal undertakings. Regretfully, they are deemed and treated second class citizen; meant to plague their innate capabilities rendering them dysfunctional. If properly educated and socialized they can be turned into valuable human resource earning enormous riches for poverty stricken countries. If shun in constant denial they will degenerate without productive contribution. In Afghanistan violence against women is much widespread and deeply rooted in different parts of the country. Violence against women is a dramatic problem in Afghanistan that has caused lots of damages to the life of women itself as well as to the society. Women in Afghanistan have no or little voice to be heard and they have always been victims of violence either from their own family or from the society. They have never

given equal rights specially the right to freedom and never been treated equally because the traditions, customs and practices have always kept men to be superior.

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 ill-treatment. Apart from formal education, community based adult education and awareness campaigns on momentous right's issues complementary to Islamic teachings might assuage the stringency of substandard customary law. The wretchedness does not end here as the incidents of violence against women remain largely under-reported because of cultural restraints, social norms and religious beliefs. Widespread discrimination and women's fears of social disgrace or threats to their lives discourage them from seeking to prosecute their offenders. Being receptive to pressure of international community, former President Hamid Karzai issued presidential decree on women's rights "Elimination of Violence against Women Law" (EVAW), which faced staunch opposition by conservative lawmakers and their supporters inside and outside the parliament. The law also outlaws "ba'ad," a traditional practice of exchanging women or girls to settle disputes or debts. Unquestionably, the conservative elements aired their concerns, demanding the development should be averted. The fact being about the law if properly applied it may provide remedy to most if not all issues related to violence against women.

Afghan authorities are continuously called to take, much greater steps to both facilitate reporting of incidents of violence against women and launch immediate investigatory cells in districts and division level facilitating the prosecution. As long as women and girls in Afghanistan are subject to violence with impunity, little meaningful and sustainable progress for women's rights can be achieved in the country. Ensuring rights for Afghan women - such as their participation in public life, including in the peace and reconciliation process and equal opportunities in education and employment - requires not only legal safeguards on paper, but critically, speedy and full enforcement of the EVAW law. Afghan authorities are continuously called to take, much greater steps to both facilitate reporting of incidents of violence against women and launch immediate investigatory cells in districts and division level easing the prosecution.

The European Union (EU) and European Union Police Mission (EUPOL) in Afghanistan in a joint statement on the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women urged Afghan government to eliminate violence Against Women. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the EU in Afghanistan expressed its concern over the continuing violations of women's rights in the country.

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Terrorism - A Global Threat

By Hujjatullah Zia

The militant ubiquitous elements have undermined the global security and the entire world is left at the mercy of terrorism.

Non-combatants suffer the brunt of insurgency - especially in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Syria. The emergence of the self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is the product of ideological fundamentalism as Taliban, has posed greater threat to the world. The recent terrorist attack in Paris shows that ISIL seeks to extend its realm of power around the universe.

Currently, combating terrorism has changed into an international issue. The world has found out that only a military deal and approving strict law regarding those involved in militancy will tackle the security crisis. In the wake of terrorist attack - which led to the death of 141 people including 132 schoolchildren - on the Army Public School in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on December 16, 2014, Pakistan embarked on strong military operation against the insurgents. The attack, which was said to be the deadliest terrorist attack ever to occur in Pakistan, was carried out by members of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Similarly, under the previous government led by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), no one except a soldier convicted by court martial was put to death since 2008. The Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N), which came to power in the May 11th general elections, ended the moratorium imposed by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008.

The PML-N led government in July had announced there would no longer be any general amnesty for the convicts awaiting execution, raising concerns from human rights activists and opponents of capital punishment. The terrorists will also be executed, if sentenced to death, following a prosecution in the Anti-Terrorist Court (ATC).

Moreover, France approved strict law, following the attack at Charlie Hebdo, regarding the individuals affiliated with insurgent groups. Likewise, the France President Francois Hollande will suggest changes to the constitution after the deadly attacks in Paris on various locations such as bars, restaurants, a concert hall and a stadium in which 130 people lost their lives and the ISIL claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying it was in retaliation for the French airstrikes on ISIL targets in Syria and Iraq.

Speaking during a joint session of both houses of parliament, Mr. Hollande said the constitution needed to be amended as "we need an appropriate tool we can use without having to resort to the state of emergency". Other measures he said would be pursued included:

- 5,000 extra police posts in the next two years and no new cuts in the defense budget.
- Making it easier to strip dual nationals of their French citizenship if they are convicted of a terrorist offence, as long as this did not

render them stateless.

- Speeding up the deportation of foreigners who pose "a particularly grave threat to the security of the nation".
- Pushing for greater European action against arms trafficking and greater penalties for it in France.

In addition, France is committed to "destroying" the ISIL and bombed Raqqa, IS's stronghold in Syria, heavily as a backlash against the recent terrorist attack. Despite harsh rule concerning the terrorism, France hardens its law and plans further preventive measures to counter insurgency effectively and secure the citizens.

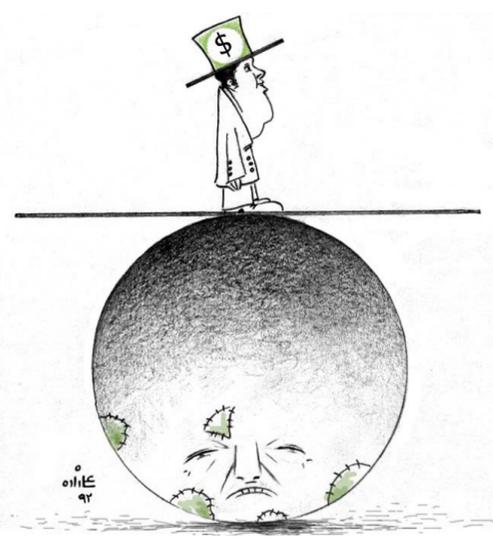
The 9/11 attack at the Twin Tower in America led to the downfall of the Taliban's regime in Afghanistan and prompted NATO to embark on "war on terror" as the Bush administration reacted against the terrorist attack. It is hoped that the 13/11 terrorist attack in Paris will lead to the collapse of Baghdadi's caliphate and ISIL's terrorist network in Middle East.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also said he wanted global cooperation to combat terrorism in the wake of an Islamist militant attack on a luxury hotel in Mali that killed 19 people including six Russians. Less than a week after the Paris gun and suicide bomb attacks, a group of heavily armed and seemingly well-trained gunmen stormed the Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako. Jihadist groups Al Mourabitoun and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility for the attack. Offering condolence to President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Putin said that "the widest international cooperation" was needed to confront global terrorism. Moreover, the US President Barack Obama said, "The terrorists began ruthlessly killing people and taking hostages [at the Bamako hotel]. On behalf of the American people I want to extend our deepest condolences to the people of Mali and the victims' families, including at least one American."

The ruthless killing of civilians ushered in by terrorist groups, mainly ISIL, has prompted the world leaders to initiate a global anti-terrorist campaign.

As ISIL seeks to pursue its terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, Afghanistan is no exception. Our nation falls prey to its acts of violence to a great extent. The ISIL's influence is salient in restive parts of the country, especially in Nangarhar province. Afghans suffer from escalated militancy carried out not only by members of ISIL but also by the Taliban insurgents. The insecurity has led to exodus of Afghan youths to foreign countries and caused mistrust between state and nation. However, no effective strategy is adopted by the National Unity Government (NUG) to counter insurgency or tackle the security crisis in the country. The government has to garner the international support and launch an intensive operation against both the ISIL and Taliban militants.

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