

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

Daily
Outlook
AFGHANISTAN
The Leading Independent Newspaper

October 13, 2019

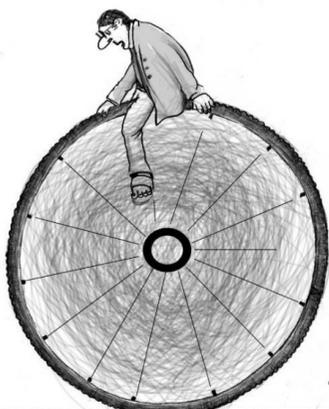
Afghan MPs above the Law

According to the Constitution of Afghanistan, the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the highest legislative organ in the country; it manifests the will of the Afghans and represents the whole nation. Every member of the National Assembly must take into judgment the general welfare and supreme interests of all people of Afghanistan at the time of casting their vote. Afghan MPs shall be the rule model of implementing the law in the country, because they pass them. By doing so they will encourage the people to respect the law and support the law enforcement and Justice Institution of the country. This means that people would obey laws, whether they like them or not. They can be the champions of prohibition of discrimination in the country; they can support the government to eliminate every obstacle which impedes the equality of men and women in social, political, cultural and economic life based on the race, language, religion, and Political opinions, personal and social conditions.

However, MPs of Afghanistan usually have perused their own interests and privileges. Most of them usually do not take part in the meetings of their boards and the National Assembly. They have tried to pass laws and regulations to ensure their personal interests. They passed the Law on Impunity and Privileges of MPs in 2014. Afghan civil society, social media, press and people reacted strongly against this act of the MPs and called it an act of seeking personal privilege and considering themselves above the law and people.

Many MPs have reacted violently against the Afghan National Defense and Security measures to maintain the security of the Afghan citizens; e.g when ANSDF have tried to implement the law on the MPs they have treated them against the law. For example, when MOI decided to remove the films and colored windows of the vehicles of the Afghan authorities they asked Moil to treat them as an exception. Afghan people believe that vehicles without number plates and vehicles with colored windows play a key role in increasing the crime rate in Kabul and other provinces. They believe kidnappers use these vehicles and terrorist groups conduct their operations using these vehicles too. In addition to this, they use more body guards as mentioned in the law; they do not follow traffic rules and regulations, bully the police and the people, and use vehicles lacking number plates or use illegal vehicles.

Afghan Parliament is the highest legislative institution of the country. Members of the National Parliament can play a key role both in approving the laws and institutionalizing respecting the rule of law by the citizens if they are a rule model themselves. However, the Afghan MPs have not been much successful in both passing the laws and playing a constructive role in obeying the laws they have passed. As a result, they have not been a champion of observing the law before the people. They have taken measures to pass the laws to ensure their own privilege and impunity. Afghan MPs have frequently violated the regulations to improve the security including regulations on not using filmed or colored windows by vehicles, prevent using vehicles with no number plates in Kabul and other cities. The last but not the least, in order to maintain security and prevent crimes in Kabul and other cities, the law shall be implemented equally on all citizens.



How to Face the Challenges

By: Dilawar Sherzai

Every society is recognized from the types of its problems and the nature of its values and habits of its people. The great societies of the world that achieved the zenith of development and success and the ones that have dominated the contemporary socio-political and economic spheres of life are the ones that discuss and value new ideas, knowledge, scientific developments, philosophical questions and modern thoughts. Their considerations and problems are the ones that are related to human development and advancement and the progress of human societies. They do not prefer the issues that are obsolete, have no value in human life and society and can in no way benefit them.

They strive to discover the universe, the living beings in them and try to uncover the reasons of different phenomena. They have reached to other planets and have extended their knowledge and research to the limitless expansions of the universe. They prefer education, educational institutions and respect teachers and students. They spend their whole lives in discovering ways to fight different diseases. They, as a matter of fact, have kept on evolving and developing with the changing nature of time.

On the other hand, if our society is recognized by its immature behavior, it is not really weird. Insignificant thoughts and false displays are within the roots of our society. Actually, we are suffering from the stagnancy of thoughts and there is no thirst for knowledge and wisdom within our people. We, as a matter of fact, are the dwarfs who, even standing on their own shoulders, appear to be dwarfs. We are only worthy of being mocked and laughed upon.

The traditions and values in our society are really odd and out of understanding. A limited number of people have decided to devour the entire wealth of the nation. Another group is busy only in the false display of wealth and status. Certain old men have shouldered the responsibility of proving the wrongs of the ruling elite right through holy scriptures; while another honorable group is striving tirelessly to earn fame in every possible manner.

They have, in reality, lost their connection with the actual problems of the time. The most unfortunate fact is that the intellectuals have forgotten their responsibilities. Though they claim their rights from the society but they seem to have forgotten that the society which they ignore cannot be expected to understand their rights, as well. Has earn-

ing fame ever been a top priority issue for the sane people of the society? Our society has adopted the non-issues and wasting time on them. As a matter of fact, we are far behind our actual social, civil and philosophical problems. Our people are behaving like the immature boys and it seems to be written on our foreheads that we do not have any serious issues at the moment and for the times to come God will keep us away from all the problems.

Though we are human, we have forgotten the habits of thinking and understanding. The fact is that our people have not been provided the required sanity and boldness to ponder upon the challenges of time and challenge the prevailing values and understandings. We are habitual of saying only those words that seem appropriate to everyone as we are afraid to make others angry. We, from the very beginnings of our lives, are taught to compromise and adjust. Even if there is a place for one person to sit in a car, we can adjust two persons there. We strive to fit ourselves in the mold of traditions and practices even though they may be obsolete and insane.

Someone had said that whenever I consider the problems of others as mine, they become angry and consider me their enemy. Same is the case in our society; if a person tries to divert the attention of others towards their actual problems, they mind it and consider it a lie.

We have only a single ideal to pursue and that is our 'past'. Unfortunately, the past has not always been glorious and our people seem to follow the same portion of the past that was inglorious. I don't understand why our people do not live their own lives instead of living the lives of their forefathers. If they really want to make difference to themselves and to the world, they need to start living their own lives - their present not past.

If we lack a serious consideration to our present and to the life, we would never be able to have a sincere relation with knowledge and even with our beliefs. Though we seem to have inhabited the cities, but we have deserted our conscience and our spirits. We seem like alien in our own world. We need to wake up; we need to understand that we are pursuing the wrong directions and the wrong destinations. We must realize that we are not using our humanly attributes in their full capacities and we are not fulfilling the responsibility of being true human being.

Dilawar Sherzai is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at email.urya@gmail.com

A Report of The Truth of Hong Kong

By: Robert Ovadia

I have never seen disinformation weaponised with such venom as my time in Hong Kong.

We see in social media, right around the world, people's refusal to acknowledge basic fact if it doesn't confirm their entrenched political bias. In Hong Kong right now, this is toxic and dangerous.

Well known Hong Kong actress, Celine Ma, protested the protesters. She had no less right to protest than they did, but because of it a solitary woman surrounded by an angry mob (championing "freedom" and "democracy") was sprayed in the face, punched, shoved to the ground and had a glass bottle smashed over her head. This is fact and unambiguous.

Organisations like Apple Daily, which has specific links to the "pro-democracy" protesters, deliberately edit videos out of context to alter their audience's impression of what happened, to make it seem like she attacked protesters first. A brief description of this is "propaganda". Apple Daily starts its sequence with Ms Ma defending herself, making her look like the aggressor and that became the narrative for so many.

She was outnumbered and brutalised by a mob that wants democracy, but only the sort of democracy it seems where everybody must agree with them or they cop it. I have seen other instances - more brutal - of people speaking out and getting assaulted:

I have seen police accused of beating and raping protesters before they go to court, of undercover police being the ones starting fires, with absolutely zero evidence to back that up. If there were evidence, we would report it without fear or favour. There is little doubt such accusations are peddled by propaganda machines like Apple Daily and, alarmingly, there are so many people who swallow it and it becomes their "truth".

My role in this was little more than a journalist seeking to

interview her and I put myself between her and the mob to do it. I had not anticipated her pleading with me to escort her to the police station, which I felt compelled to do, and I certainly did not anticipate what followed in the coming days.

For helping this woman, I was labelled "pro China". That led to the standard doxing we see today on social media, a torrent of abuse online and, far worse, death threats. My name and picture were circulated among protesters and intelligence sources informed us we were to be targeted by these "peaceful protesters". That is not spontaneous violence - it is calculated, premeditated - all because allegiances here are so fanatical, a mere act of kindness could only be viewed through the prism of politics, immediately judged and avenged.

It has long been said truth is the first casualty of war. That used to apply only to the generals, politicians and strategists who could try to manipulate the public. These days, everybody has a voice online. Everybody is in on the dirty secret.

I have dealt with many decent protesters in Hong Kong - people who were polite, who are understanding of what journalists do, who offered us water and one who helped wash tear gas out of my eyes. There are many kind people and I have no doubt, the origins of this mess are founded upon good sentiment.

But if these people are truly fighting for democratic rights, they must observe their own principles. I have received a flood of communication from people thanking us for our unbiased coverage, but only doing so in private messages, they say, because they don't want to fall victim to the angry mob either. One has to wonder what sort of democracy they are trying to preserve.

Robert Ovadia an Australian journalist, who recently visited Hong Kong and revealed the truth of Hong Kong on Facebook

Daily
Outlook
AFGHANISTAN
The Leading Independent Newspaper

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

افغانستان
The Daily Afghanistan Ma

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.