

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



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Grave Human Rights Violation Reported in Kunduz

Man endures, not only when the part of the world in he resides is hit by natural calamities like earthquakes, famines, floods, diseases etc, but occasionally also at the hands of men driven mad by political, economic, social or religious power. In the former case, it takes the form of efforts to bring relief to the stricken. But whenever man has been made to suffer at the hands of other men, the conscience of humanity has been outraged, and the cry has gone round for some sort of guarantees to afford protection to him against the tyranny of his fellow human beings, so that he can be assured of at least his rights to life, liberty and security. Nonetheless, seeing at the magnitude of aggression and barbarism has turned into an overriding phenomenon of our society, one tends to justify violence getting the unaccomplished undertakings done. Earlier the turn of every seasonal offensive the intensity of violence inclined rendering the foreign diplomats, public officials and civilians' prime target of attacks -but every now and then the insurgents cling to overrunning the developed cities exercising far and wide bloodshed. The growing attacks on foreign and civilians indicates the insurgents are underlining their pretentious presence. The individuals driven by evil motives, put them in the black race of domination, leading to formation of a human society we witness at the moment, characterized by rule of mob, violence, aggression, innumerable bloodshed and ruthless killings of fellowmen. Unluckily our society at present is governed by some of identical dilemmas. Factually stating, rights come second, first come the preservation of human's priceless life -which they are not cognizant to. We must be pre-determined to instill the realization "a human life worth thousands" followed by assertion of human rights that let him exercise his free will in accomplishing his desired goals without anyone's meddling. Afghanistan suffering from decade of bloody conflict is in dire need of in-depth realization of profound human dignity.

Formerly, Taliban had launched storming attack, involving hundreds of fighters on the northern Afghan city of Kunduz that finally fell to Taliban. Subsequent to overrunning Kunduz, Taliban made resilient victory capturing Baharak district of Badakhshan Province and Kohistanat district of northern Sar-i-Pul province. Though the government via Ministry of Defense after a large-scale military operation, managed to retake Kunduz and other districts, yet one is rendered speechless to the degree of escalated aggression and civilian killings as a result of this seizure and its recovery. It is indeed a good sign the religious scholars unanimously declares Taliban's deed illicit against the teachings of Islam.

It was rumored post seizure of Kunduz Taliban had executed tales of atrocities that included killings, lootings and rapes. These facts are tallied in the latest findings of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) released earlier that revealed a list distressing crimes were committed by the Taliban and their affiliates during their siege on the northern city of Kunduz about three weeks ago. The report unveiled, murder, rape, looting, torture and beating, targeted killings, taking of hostages, sheltering in civilian homes, freeing prisoners, blocking roads and preventing civil services. According to the findings, the Taliban had violated human's rights by attacking the civilians and sheltering in their homes. However the Taliban has repeatedly rejected these claims as untrue.

Furthermore the report went on to say that nearly 50 civilians were killed including a school teacher and 350 others were injured after the Taliban stormed the city. Based on the findings, 15 of those killed were attacked when they were fleeing their homes. At least 22 people were killed, including 12 staff members of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hospital after it came under and airstrike. The aerial attack causing deaths of staffs of doctor without border was carried out by US forces -the commission that formed the report accused Taliban and their affiliates are responsible for all the crimes in Kunduz except for the bombings on a hospital belonging to "Doctors without Borders." Luckily Taliban was evicted to carrying out this attack and the US forces must be held accountable for those killings. According to the findings of report the rebranded insurgent group is also hold responsible of displacing large number, round about 100,000 residents displaced.

This is not the final report that depicts the worst state of human rights violation at the hands of insurgents. A similar state of affair was unearthed formerly by UN's report which is an eye opener for the government and its security institutions. The report discloses 1,000 civilians being killed in the Afghan conflict in the first four months of the year, while 1,989 were injured. It is not only the civilians who are preyed the aid workers aren't spared either in the ongoing conflict. The UN chronicles contains serious reservations against ruthless killing of civilians in general and aid workers in particular. The report attributed most of the casualties to Taliban who is said to be engaged in large-scale attacks and bombings across the country as part of their summer offensive. The report depicts cowardice of insurgents who hold innocent civilians prey to head to their evil designs.



Taliban Ill-Considered A Potential Threat!

By Asmatyari

The decades of war has turned Afghanistan into a barren land. US have reserved its status of being major donor country, whose financial support has helped Afghanistan run its socio-political and economical matters. Afghanistan is in dire need of financial assistance to cope its huge military and economic needs. Afghanistan and US ties are reinforced after "Enduring Strategic partnership Agreement" was established in 2012, that laid the foundation of long-lasting relationship pre and post US draw down. It should be ascertained the two partners will fully utilize every single opportunity getting the war-torn Afghanistan rid of some if not all problems; certainly terrorism being the prior most. It was expected the U.S. should exercise its influence in the greater interest of peaceful and politically durable Afghanistan by leaving no stone unturned in bringing all the factions on the table of negotiations or inflict a crushing defeat to denying faction. The on ground gesture depicts the former being a prior most agenda beleaguering the later categorically.

The former unprecedented attacks in Afghan capital, jail break and seizure of potential Province Kunduz by Taliban intimates an official war waged against innocent civilian to chasing their political aims. It's no surprise after decade long bloody conflict at the behest of infrastructural and human losses US has shifted to rebranded Taliban and armed insurgent not terrorist group. Unobjectionably, the wave attacks and intimidation of Afghan civilian seem not to be convincing even to brand them local terrorist if not international terrorists. This shift has certainly come into being after US dismantled Al-Qaida and Taliban nexus and spectacular assassination of Osama Bin Ladin in Pakistan. The comeback of Taliban in political arena seems to be part of set script is likely hatched in the form ongoing demands for peace talks from across the world. This is what I was expecting out of President Obama's former diplomatic speech that asserted the revival of peace talks off-sighting Taliban's political gains at the cost of civilian losses. Taliban be reintegrated in the political setup of Afghan government, seems the most favorite proposition by international community.

Reversing policy on Afghanistan, President Barack Obama announced to maintain 9800 forces through 2016 and subsequently reduce it to 5500 beyond it. The said number of residual forces will primarily be providing security to US military installations, embassy and partake in advice and train mission of Afghan National Security Forces. Earlier the two heads of state Obama and Ghani have discussed a range of issues ranging from strategic, security, diplomatic, and economic relationship and plan to pace the foreign troop withdrawal. One of

the core issue that earned vital importance during the talks was the push on the US to slow down its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Entertaining the request put forth by president Ghani the US President Obama later in joint White House news conference announced to keep its current 9,800-strong force in Afghanistan until the end of the year, without a change in end mission as planned in 2016.

It was said that post U.S's forces withdrawal 10,000 troops would be left behind to look after security of US embassy and officials. It was said that the U.S. would keep the Kandahar Airbase in southern Afghanistan and Jalalabad Airbase in eastern Afghanistan open by the end 2015, which was earlier planned to be closed. Jalalabad has been the primary base used by the C.I.A. to conduct drone strikes in the tribal areas of Pakistan including the edge-cut assassination of Osama bin Laden. President Obama's speech conformed the already set deals the two heads of states.

In addition both the premiers seem to be on same page deeming Taliban a political entity and ISIS a security threat. US deem the emerging terrorist group of Islamic State affiliates with gaining foothold in Afghanistan, a potential threat to Afghanistan and other countries.

The U.S. government, for its part, has already taken steps to facilitate negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Previously it has supported differentiating the U.N. sanctions that apply to Al Qaeda from those that apply to the Taliban, to allow the lifting of travel bans on members of the Taliban. Many Taliban inmates in detention center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, were set free.

In the light of established nexus found between Afghan Taliban and Pakistan, -it used to play vital role in persuading Taliban for peace talks. As witnessed Pakistan accordingly is playing its due part in carrying forth talks given rounds of informal proposition surfaced earlier. Afghanistan blames the neighboring countries for some of its harms. For instance the military operation in tribal areas of Pakistan is deemed to have pushed a major series of global terrorist networks is the concern expressed by president Ghani. Obama confirmed by stating the Al-Qaida affiliates are pushed into Afghanistan in the wake of military operation in tribal areas of Pakistan. In order to do away with this very problem Afghanistan should increase its surveillance at the borders areas and movements of individual should be closely checked. The US can help Afghanistan in getting out of the said emerging woes of infiltrating Taliban and ISIS. Both the state should not let terrorist use its border areas for vested interest of other. In spite of altering relation between the two countries Pakistan's role in reviving the peace talks seems unarguably essential.

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So Many Question Marks!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

Though the situation in the country is deteriorating badly and this is a matter of concern to all the Afghans, living inside or outside the country, but the number of points that need to be clarified are also increasing. Situation of Kunduz is still not much clear and there are differences in what government claims, media shows, social networking sites depict and people describe. For a week or ten days, our only source of information was media and we had to accept each and everything without any question but now, so many people have come to Kabul and other cities of the country and many of them have brought their stories with them. These stories and statements of people are in some cases much different from what it was showed on the media and what the government had been claiming. I would like to share some of the statements of people whom I met personally and who used to live in Kunduz but the clash between Taliban and government forces compelled them to leave their houses and search for a safer place to their families.

The conflict between Taliban and our security forces in Kunduz continued for many days and from both the sides, light and heavy guns and ammunition were used. It is quite understandable for our security forces as they have a coordinated network of supplies but the question arises as from where Taliban were getting such uninterrupted and massive supply of ammunition. One person said that in three days when Taliban controlled the city, they noticed that every evening, Taliban forced the people to go inside their houses and then warplanes used to drop boxes of bullets and ammunition for them. He himself heard the big and shrill sound of the boxes landing. Unfortunately, he was not the only person to hear this; many others were ready to testify his statement.

Similarly, the conflict of almost two weeks brought heavy casualties for Taliban. Our security forces killed hundreds of them and many more were injured. However, nobody has seen any wounded member of Taliban getting treatment in any hospital of nearby cities or towns. It is also not possible for them to transfer their injured comrades to any of the Central Asian countries or let them die without any treatment. Now, I leave it to readers to solve this puzzle as where these injured Taliban would have been transported and why not they were stopped on the way when they were being transported in such large numbers.

Right from the beginning, Taliban are always well supplied. They have enough money to buy food, clothing, motorbikes, cars and they pay handsome salaries to all the members. Many writers and political analysts have been urging the government to cut their supply lines. Once they stop receiving funds and other supplies from inside or outside the country, they will not be able to survive for long. However, these advices were never taken seriously and now a lot of water has passed under the bridge. In the incident of Kunduz, Ghazni and others, it is another question mark that Taliban are given such huge sums of money, necessary

equipments and other items but our security forces either don't know about this activity or they are not allowed to do anything to stop it.

Kunduz also fell to Taliban in doubtful situations. Hundreds of Taliban had already entered the city in disguise before the actual attack and our forces were not able to recognize and catch even one of them. At the night of attack, large numbers of our troops were deployed in the city but they left the city without any resistance against Taliban and the city was presented to them like a gift. This situation leaves behind many questions as why this was done and if our own people had hand in this arrangement.

There reports were also in the media that many times, the dangerous terrorists captured by our security forces were taken into custody by American forces. Later on, same terrorists were captured again or killed in the battlefield, resulting in the great shock and disappointment for our security forces. In the same way, government (especially of Mr. Karzai) released large number of dangerous Taliban on the name of reconciliation process. These facts are not simple to be digested easily by common Afghans.

In Kunduz and some other incidents in Badakhshan as well, some of generals gave extremely doubtful and wrong orders to the soldiers on the field. These decisions or orders in fact helped Taliban on many occasions. This is also a question mark as why these generals have not been questioned and if they are involved in the whole process.

After Kunduz fell into the hands of Taliban, more than 200 brave soldiers of our army kept fighting hundreds of Taliban militants to protect the strategically important fort of Balahisar. These soldiers fought for three days and continuously requested for reinforcement as they were getting out of ammunition. However, they were not given any help and in the end, they had to surrender to Taliban. Later on, Afghan commandoes were able to retake the control of this fort in no time. The question is why not these soldiers were helped and left on the mercy of Taliban.

Similarly, eyewitnesses verify that security forces left behind hundreds of police and army vehicles and armored trucks, which were later on captured by Taliban, and now Taliban are using them against our forces. If security forces can escape on foot, it makes no sense to leave behind their vehicles and armored trucks. People are also unhappy of the heedless bombing and shelling of our security forces in Kunduz. According to them, Taliban were hiding in houses and bombshells were landing in houses, killing many innocent citizens. People say that they were more harmed by government shelling instead of Taliban's atrocities.

These questions are not limited to Kunduz only but to all the places where different anti-state groups like Taliban, Daesh and others are fighting.

It all shows that there is a plan and everyone is involved in it, and the problem is from inside the house.

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