

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



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## Rudimentary Requirements Must Reach Everyone

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.

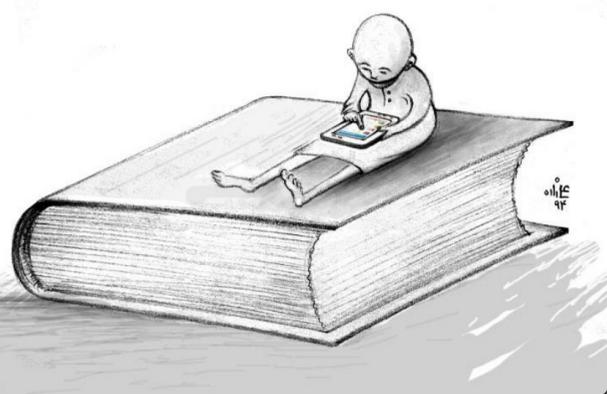
The nature does not discriminate between rich and poor. The fragrant breeze in the nature blows for everyone without the distinction of race, community, poor and rich. The river that flows in nature provides everyone with same bewitching scene and cold water to drink. The fountains do not recognize the 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.



## The Outlook on Multi-lateral Struggles About Peace

By Mohammad Qasim Erfani

Recently, struggles were made at regional and global level for resuming peace process. The sixth round meeting of Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) in Muscat, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Contact Group Meeting on Afghanistan in Moscow, and the announcement of a New EU Strategy to promote peace and security in Afghanistan are the latest worldwide steps following the declaration of US strategy about Afghanistan and South Asia. The question is whether the fruit of peace has come to maturity? A logical answer to this question is in need of viewing the objective hotbed of peace and war in the country.

### The QCG Meeting:

The sixth round meeting of QCG in Muscat, Oman's capital, came as the fifth round of talks was held in Islamabad in second month of 1395 (Afghan calendar) and stopped afterward as a result of tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The tension emerged as Pakistan did not fulfill its promise. Negotiation is resumed as Pakistan offered following the declaration of US strategy for Afghanistan and its harsh rhetoric against Pakistan for backing terrorist groups. Pakistan has ushered in taking step in this regard so as to reduce international pressure, including the America's.

The trip of Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, to Kabul, the release of Canadian-American Boyle family of five, and the QCG meeting were all pertaining to the issue of peace. Despite the optimism expressed by Afghan officials and High Peace Council (HPC) in terms of recent meeting, which was held in a new international atmosphere following the US strategy, there will not be enough reasons for being optimistic. In short, Pakistan was expected to bring the Taliban to negotiating table, but this was not done in the latest round of QCG and no new promise was made by Pakistan.

### SCO Contact Group Meeting on Afghanistan:

SCO Contact Group Meeting was hosted by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs on October 11, 2017. The meeting was attended by the SCO member-states at the deputy foreign ministerial level.

Afghanistan's demand for full membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organization, counter terrorism, cooperation of SCO member state in maintaining of security in Afghanistan and expansion of economic cooperation in the region were key issues discussed in the meeting, which was held after the suggestion made by President Vladimir Putin. The SCO Contact Group was established in 2015 with the aim of strengthening ties between Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Afghanistan but there was not a palpable result. Russia's alignment with Pakistan regarding peace

talks comes as Russia, according to Times London report, contributed to Taliban through sale of oil - this report has not been confirmed by Afghanistan. Although Russia is concerned about the rise of militancy and terrorism in the Middle East, but its negative reaction to the US strategy reflects its dissatisfaction.

### New EU Strategy:

The EU new strategy on Afghanistan, adopted on October 16, 2017 by the ministers of foreign affairs from all 28 EU member states, focuses on four priority areas: promoting peace, stability and regional security, reinforcing democracy, the rule of law and human rights and promoting good governance and women's empowerment, supporting economic and human development, addressing challenges related to migration.

The new Strategy is the latest illustration of the European Union's strong engagement in and strong commitment to Afghanistan. Notably, it follows the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, held in October 2016 in Brussels, the signing of a new EU-Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development in February 2017, and the appointment of a Special Envoy to Afghanistan in June. Unlike the SCO Contact group and QCG, the EU state members have no direct talks with the Taliban. Hence, Europe is not expected to influence the Taliban but its overall support to Afghan peace process is important.

### Field Development:

It is believed that the progress in peace process and the maturity of peace fruit is in need of fundamental changes in the battlefield. Despite the increase of US troops in the country and provision of new military equipment and military services, the Taliban have not been defeated in the battlefields since they have protected their offensive attacks in several provinces. Maruf district in Kandahar has been under threat, explosives are sent to Kabul, and the recent attack on police headquarter left 40 dead and 160 wounded.

In another attack in Ghazni province, 30 Afghan security forces were killed and a police station was attacked by hand bombs in the city center. Hence, tangible changes have not occurred in battlefields.

### Conclusion:

In spite of regional and global moves towards regional security and stability, the fruit of peace has not come to maturity to be achieved shortly. In the wake of policies announced by major regional powers for combating terrorism, militant fighters carry out heavy offensives. So, there is no reason behind expressing optimism in terms of security in the country or region.

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## Indescribable Sufferings of the Rohingya

By Hujjatullah Zia

The violation of Rohingya's inherent rights and freedoms in Myanmar continues unabated and the poignant stories of women and children, who bear the brunt of violence, will outrage one's conscience. Rohingya Muslims sustain great pain and heavy casualties in the wake of lethal acts of Myanmar security forces. The lurid reports about Rohingya, mainly the silence of Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, have drawn international condemnation.

More than 507,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since Myanmar's army launched a military crackdown on October 25, 2016 in response to what it claims was an attack by Rohingya armed men on border posts, in which nine police officers were killed. Those who fled violence and persecution in Myanmar have told stories of rape and other sexual abuse, indiscriminate killings and arson perpetrated by Myanmar security forces. Muslim minority, who live primarily in Rakhine State, is not recognized as an ethnic group in Myanmar; their freedoms are curtailed and their rights and dignity are trampled upon.

The distraught octogenarian Rohingya women speak with tremulous voice regarding the derogatory acts and blatant carnage. Their children were killed and their houses were razed. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of a Child called on Myanmar authorities to stop violence forthwith in northern Rakhine.

The committees said, "We are particularly worried about the fate of Rohingya women and children subject to serious violations of their human rights, including killings, rape and forced displacement."

Similarly, the UN rights experts said, "Such violations may amount to crimes against humanity and we are deeply concerned at the state's failure to put an end to these shocking human rights violations being committed at the behest of the military and other security forces, and of which women and children continue to bear the brunt."

The UN and other human rights organizations have warned that the mass exodus following killings, rapes, and burned villages are signs of "ethnic cleansing", asking the international community to put pressure on Suu Kyi and her government to end the violence.

However, Myanmar repudiates the alleged ethnic cleansing. It says its security forces are fighting insurgents of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. Likewise, the Nobel winner San Suu Kyi believes that the Rohingya Muslims are outsiders which prompted the world to call Suu to be

stripped of her Nobel. She declaimed against the international aid groups and complained about "a huge iceberg of misinformation" aiming to help "the terrorists" - presumably meaning the Rohingya. When a hapless Rohingya woman recounted how her husband had been shot dead and how she and three teenage girls had been gang-raped by soldiers, Suu mocked the claims, on her Facebook page, as "fake rape."

Discriminating an individual or a group on the basis of their racial, sexual, or religious backgrounds is against the international instruments. It is aptly stated in the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) that belittling human rights led to barbarous acts in human history, whereas respecting the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of mankind is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

To peruse the history or scrutinize the fact, violence and bloodshed stemmed from disparaging the rights and dignity of mankind and claiming racial or religious superiority out of megalomania. In other words, streams of blood were shed in the two World Wars in light of superiority claimed by one nation over another.

Notwithstanding the historical hemorrhage, the gory incidents continue around the human society. Ethnic minorities are still left at the mercy of bias and unfair treatment. The cycle of systematic killings and sectarian violence never stops. Violation of human rights is rife in many parts of the world. The rampant militancy and ethnic strife increased human fatalities to a great extent. The widespread violence is believed to root in lack of religious tolerance and racial acceptance.

For instance, religious extremists spill the blood of people on the basis of their race, color, creed, etc. Similarly, the cruel practices of Myanmar Buddhist majority towards Rohingya Muslims are most likely to be out of discrimination and intolerance. Under the pretext of quelling the rioting or repulsing a terrorist attack, Myanmar security forces, who are indicted as war criminals, transcended not only international restrictions but also human code of ethics. No mercy is shown to civilians whose lugubrious stories are fraught with pain and anguish.

Indeed, one will recoil with fear and disgust to see the vexatious rehearsals of Buddhist hate-mongers against the Rohingya Muslims, who might have been stereotyped acrimoniously as radicals.

If the enormous havoc in Myanmar does not stop, it will generate manifold challenges in the region.

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