The Functions of a State

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ile living in a state, the people expect and exert rights that they should be provided their basic requirements of life, facilities, freedom and the right to enjoy it. Moreover, they are also entitled to secure their life, protecting the basic rights of the people and providing them the opportunity to lead a better life as considered as the bases of the states. As a matter of fact, the functions of a state, to a large extent, depend on the end it purposed. There was a time when the state performed very limited functions and was primarily concerned with the maintenance of law and order and protection of the country from internal wars and foreign invasions. However, in the modern times the nature of the state has undergone complete transformation. It is no longer merely a police state performing very restricted number of functions. On the other hand the function of state has enormously expanded and it has transformed into a welfare state, which tries to perform maximum functions in the development of the society and the people with the socialistic ideas and increased interdependence of the states of the modern world. However, the functions of state remain as same. But, the functions actually performed by various states differ from each other depending on their ideology and the resourceful situation. There are two very important categories of the functions that the state of world requires to perform – the Compulsory Functions and the Optional Functions. The Compulsory Functions of a state include: (1) Maintenance of law and order. The state must see that each and every person in the state should respect the law and order. In case this state fails to do so, it may result in violent and disorderly situation. (2) Maintenance of the state. Maintenance of the state is a precondition for the state and the government. In the modern concept of nation-states, the state has to have the ability to act in the interest of its citizens. The state is also entitled to use the weapons and force available to it. (3) Maintenance of peace and order. Peace and order are the bases of the state. If there is no order, the state cannot provide its citizens the necessary things. (4) Maintenance of public libraries etc. (5) Raising the moral and social standard of citizens through necessary social reforms. (6) Reformation of the citizens through education and the studies of the state. (7) Raising the moral and social standard of citizens through necessary social reforms. (8) Formulation of laws and maintenance of law courts to settle disputes amongst the citizens and the state. Those who are guilty of violating the law must be brought to book. (9) Protection of the country from outside aggression. For this purpose each state maintains an army. It also has to maintain friendly relations with other countries through exchange of diplomatic services.

The Persisting Security Challenges in the North

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

The intensive anti-insurgency operation in the north is becoming conspicuous. During the last two months, a large scale of security operation was launched in the north. This security operation in the north is tackling the growing insecurity across Afghanistan, intensive fights are unabatingly going on in the northern part of the country. According to the local officials, the Afghan Security Forces (ANSF) have had gains in the fight against Talibans, in the north and the west. The major security operation in the north began in Kunduz, Faryab, Badakhshan and other northern provinces where the Talibans were showing signs of being on the back foot. Despite that the Afghan national army and police forces have performed remarkably well in abdominal group in the north, the anti-insurgency strategy of the government has not been effective in defeating the recent resurgence of the Talibans in the north. The Talibans’ spring offensive has been aimed at making the possible gains of taking grounds in provinces including Kunduz, Faryab, Badakhshan and other northern provinces. The momentary gains for the Talibans have created an uncertain situation in the area. The security situation is becoming very critical. This year is proving a difficult year for ANSF which have taken full security control of Kandahar and Nangarhar because the battle in Afghanistan this year. The north is the year. The north is sliding into insecurity. The security forces in other parts of the country are facing the new threats from militants including the newly emerging group of Islamic State. This is while there is a visible lack of lead- ership and government’s failure in improves the security situation in the area. The government has been unable to efficiently lead the fight against Taliban in the north. The security forces in the north believe this year would be the “year of survival” for Afghanistan, the Afghan security forces in the north and the governments are implementing a preventive transitional security and anti-insurgency strategy for defeating the Taliban offensive launched early this year. More im- portantly, since formation of the National Unity Government, the Afghan army has no minister to efficiently lead the military in fight- ing against the Talibans.

By Hujatullah Zia

The vulnerability of right to freedom is certain in our society.

One’s liberty is curtailed to a large extent and instability is the character of our ‘freedom’ life. There are big changes in Afghanistan’s profile land is a matter of concern. Funda- mental rights of the citizens of Afghanistan are trampled by the state upon our nation. The day-to-day violation of right to life and life makes the natural and informational news. Furthermore, un- sure of the tomorrow, where there is no guarantee of the better future. Freedom has been构筑和 practiced in many ways in our society, which we consider human rights and the concept and interpreted freedom to be a situation free from restrictions. Other side of the picture is that the frame of culture has little to do with moral and moral values. Abraham Lincoln puts it as, “The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep’s throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as his liberator, while the wolf detest the same as its destroyer of liberty. Plainly the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon the definition of a just society, and precisely the same dif- ference prevails today among human creatures.” We have been longing for freedom vocally. Freedom to ex- press our thoughts, to act without restrictions, to walk without boundaries, to do what we want without the mood of being told that we can’t. Freedom is a right gifted by God – he has made it. Freedom is a birthright of every human being. Freedom is the freedom to say one’s race, color, beliefs and so on. We are forced to remain silent in the face of “freedom come responsibility.” Whenever we claim for liberty, we have to shoulder a responsibility of not to offend a single human being, and respect to others’ right to freedom. Freedom also gave us the right to protect innocent from acts of violence against journalists and report- ers demonstrate the same fact. They live a critical life for uncovering an unwary–mainly regarding an influential person. I have no doubt that this is an effective method to bring about changes in a country.

Thomas Jefferson puts it succinctly: “We hold these truths to be self- evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. To secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” Hujatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at hujut@yahoo.com