

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

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Declining Security state, Urges Government's Readiness

The piece of land we inhabit is characterized by bombings, ruthless killings, kidnapping, corruption, bad governance, administrative flaws and mass abduction. The perception, hunger is human avengers is turned deception subsequent to beasts chasing madly innocent humans. The innocent citizens get butchered, killed and dumped without anyone's prime concern. The miseries of ordinary masses do not end with ruthless killing or abduction of some individuals instead multiples provided the bereaved family is left to suffer endlessly.

A couple of days hardly past the bloody week of continuous bloodshed, another blast jolted the ill-fated federal capital, Kabul. It was the rush hour of afternoon, the previous day when explosive laden car detonated its explosives. The explosion went off in Kabul city caused extensive damage to nearby buildings and cars and particularly resulted in losses of human lives. Official's calmed, most of the victims are civilians. According to reliable sources of public health ministry spokesman, the blast claimed lives of at least six people injuring thirty six others including five women. The venue of attack is residential consequently the casualties to include women and children can not be ruled out. The ongoing fight between Taliban and government that mostly hurts the unarmed civilians categorically reflects every boundary of decency and humanity will be crossed to rise to power.

Minutely, going through the clues of attacks, we find Taliban seen behind most if not the attack undertaken, hitherto. With the onset of peace talks between government and Taliban coinciding with news of demise of Mullah Omar and whom to succeed him accompanied with soaring violence underlines Taliban willingness to exert its integrity and fractured unity. Security analysts relate the escalating violence demonstrates Mullah Mansoor's attempt to boost his image among Taliban cadres and drive attention away from internal divisions over his leadership.

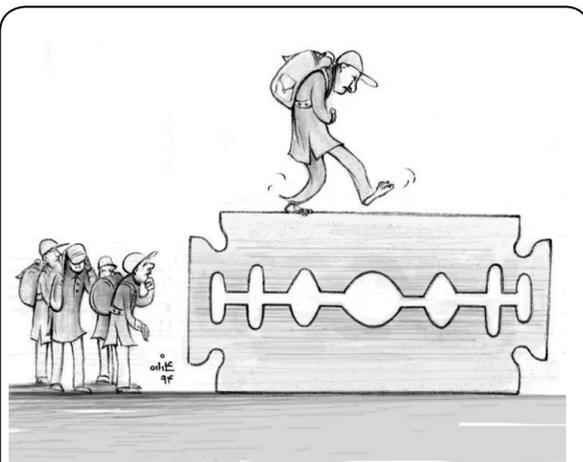
However, seeing at the magnitude of aggression wreaked by violence-mongers, we find barbarism an overriding element of our society. The strength anti-state elements have acquired marks the state of unwillingness to be curtailed. The turn of every seasonal offensive the intensity of violence inclines rendering the foreign diplomats, public officials and civilians prime target of attacks. The growing attacks on foreign and civilians indicates the insurgents are underlining their pretentious presence. The individuals driven by evil motives, fear of losing what they owned, lust of having numerous monetary gains 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.

Out of all the violence unleashed by Taliban amidst the rumors of division among their rank is maddening. Earlier, the series of attack at different venues have left the security officials revisit their plan to track down the militants. It was the earliest continues wave of attacks rocked the Kabul city with loud bangs. Hitherto the death toll reached to 44 following the consecutive attacks that barraged the capital city, Kabul. In the latest attack on a NATO base near Hamid Karzai Kabul International Airport late Friday, at least eight security guards and a Resolute Support (RS) service member were killed.

Formerly, the Afghan Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) report raised concerns about the increased level of violence and the spike in civilian casualties recorded so far this year. On the basis of AIHRC findings, armed oppositions are responsible for more than 70 per cent of civilian casualties, which has increased dramatically, in the country. The Afghan local police standing on the front curbing insurgent's attacks unwittingly retaliate leading to great civilian casualties. It is seen the well trained regiment of army personnel stationed on standby reach to the rescue of trapped police personnel when they have already sought refuge amongst civic population. The Independent Human Rights Commission meanwhile chronicled a 30 percent rise in civilian casualties that is sharp increase in comparison to data in the first six months last year.

In all the worsening security state depicts the insurgents are expanding the range of their operations. The insurgents are operating at will and quite rapidly expanding operations to parts of the country where it previously appeared to have little ability to act. It also seems that the militants are familiar with important installations, and their attacks are meticulously staged. If a wise and coordinated strategy is not pursued then control over eastern and southern Afghanistan might slip into the hands of the Taliban with no apparent ability to foil this, post US pull out. The escalating violence across the country also sparks the concern over how the large strong ANSF manage to tackle security measure left alone to fight on ground.

It is the responsibility of a government and concerned departments within a state to ensure peace and security of its citizens. However, the governments that suffer from administrative incapacities fail to guarantee security must fill this gap. And in such states the weaker strata of the society tend to suffer the most -it must be turned a false assumption. Women, ethnic and religious minorities and the common people as a whole undergo anguish as a result. Afghanistan is also one of the countries where the government has not been able to provide enough security to its people and the common people face different sorts of problems every day.



The Uncertain Future of the Electoral Reforms

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

While the electoral reforms commission is working on proposed reforms to Afghanistan's electoral system, there are deep disbeliefs whether the government is really committed to a genuine reform to the country's electoral system. In a gathering on Afghanistan's electoral reforms, members of Jamiat-e Islami party voiced concerns over the reform process and its possible final outcome. The party alleged that the government does not have political will to bring real reforms to Afghanistan's electors system. Jamiat Islami party called on the electoral reforms commission to do the task independently and revive the confidence of the people of Afghanistan by bringing fundamental reforms to the electoral system. The remarks by Jamiat Islami officials echo previous calls from the election monitoring organizations and various political trends in the country. It shows there are widespread concerns regarding the role of the electoral reforms commission and the reform process itself. The remarks stated by Jamiat Islami officials are shared by broad political and civil society spectrums. Despite the fact that the electoral reforms commission is established, the prospect for reforming the electoral system is uncertain as the leaders of the national unity government do not seem to be fully committed to bringing substantial reforms to the country's electoral system and procedures. The formation of the reforms commission took months while the government's senior leaders disagreed on the reform agenda and the leadership of the reforms commission. However, the commission finally was established with reduced power and authority which was unexpected given the task that is expected from the electoral reforms commission. Many now consider the reforms commission as merely a consultative body authorized to only propose reforms to the government. The fact that the reforms commission would have no weighty say in the reforms process indicates that the commission would not be able to bring substantial changes to the electoral system. However, the members of the electoral reforms commission maintain that its role in the reforms process is not symbolic, and that it will propose remarkable electoral reforms to the electoral system. But the widespread skepticism regarding the role and authority of the reforms commission remains in place. On the other hand, there are still visible disagreements among the leaders of the political trends and stakeholders of the government over the nature and scope of reforms to Afghanistan's electoral system and electoral bodies. There is no consensus among key stakeholders of the Afghan politics and the leaders of the national unity government on a reform agenda for the process. The past differences among the leaders of the national unity government and apparent resistance of some powerful political figures and government leaders to genuine electoral reforms suggests a grim prospect for the electoral reforms. In other words, even the reforms commission manages to bring about remarkable reforms and propose them to the government, there are serious doubts whether the government would implement the proposed reforms. Also, the members of the electoral reforms commission belong to the

major camps that formed the national unity government. This makes the electoral reforms commission particularly vulnerable to working based on politics rather than expert consideration of electoral matters. Many analysts and experts believe while the nature of the task of the electoral reforms commission is highly legal and technical, the make-up of the commission is merely based on political calculations and the members represent major political camps. Such a composition would leave no space for the reforms commission to do the technical task professionally and bring real changes to the electoral system of Afghanistan. Representation of major political camps in the reforms commission would turn the commission into a scene of power struggle for the major political trends aimed at influencing the process and manipulating the final outcome of the reforms process.

The challenges ahead of Afghanistan's political development and the state-building process are abundant. The future state-building processes and the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections would depend on the fate of the current reforms to the country's electoral system. If Afghan political elites manage to create a sound and fair electoral system, the country would avoid another catastrophic fraudulent election. The apparent lack of a political will in the highest level of administration is the biggest challenge against the reforms process. If the leaders of the national unity government provide unanimous political support to the electoral reforms process, the process could sustain other challenges and impediments that exist in the process. However, if the government fails to provide the required political support to the electoral reforms, there would be no real change and the process would turn into a mere political gameplays. Another challenge for the reforms process is compromising demands and political ambitions of various political groups in the final outcome of the electoral reforms. A reformed electoral system in Afghanistan should serve interests of all political forces and the country's ethnic and religious groups. Commitment of the government leaders and the rest of Afghanistan's political leaders to the rules of the game would lead to a real achievement for all parties that would serve interests of all stakeholders of Afghanistan's politics. A flawed reforms process with no substantial changes to the country's electoral system would set the state for further political crises as the forthcoming elections unfold. In this regard, major part of responsibility for a sound fair electoral system lies on shoulders of the leaders of the national unity government and the members of the electoral reforms commission. These two parties need to be accountable to how they lead the reforms process.

The fate of the upcoming parliamentary elections in particular and the fate of Afghanistan's political development in general are directly related to the work of the electoral reforms commission and the leadership of the process by national unity the government. The outcome of the reforms process would be the legacy of President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah. The two leaders should be conscious to what legacy they would leave behind.

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ISIL's Involvement in Moral Corruption

By Hujjatullah Zia

The Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) ushered in sexual slavery on August 03, 2014, when their fighters invaded the villages on the southern flank of Mount Sinjar, a craggy massif of dun-colored rock in northern Iraq. Its valleys and ravines are home to the Yazidis, a tiny religious minority who represent less than 1.5 percent of Iraq's estimated population of 34 million.

The offensive on the mountain came just two months after the fall of Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq. At first, it appeared that the subsequent advance on the mountain was just another attempt to extend the territory controlled by Islamic State fighters.

The fatwa of Jihad-e Nikah, which stems from misogynistic view, was a slap in the face of humanity. Rape and honor killings are committed against women under the aegis of religious ideology. In the militants' radical frames of mind, women are considered no more than a tool for satiating men's carnal desires. In other words, women are doomed as inferior creature and born to serve as men's slave with their eyes closed. To put it succinctly, women's rights and dignity are violated flagrantly by the ISIL group in Iraq and Syria.

The systematic use of sexual violence to terrorize, humiliate and subjugate communities during times of war has a dark history, with an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 women raped in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and 20,000 to 50,000 women raped during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

And ISIL is not the only party in the Syrian civil war to use rape as a weapon - rape is endemic in detention centers run by the secular regime of Bashar al-Assad. But what makes ISIL's use of rape so horrifying is its attempt to justify the practice using ostensibly religious justifications for this war crime.

ISIL believes that Yazidi women could be enslaved under their ideological beliefs that one-fifth of the women should be transferred to the ISIL leadership and the remainder divided among the fighters who participated in the conquest of Mount Sinjar. "Many well-known rulings are observed, including the prohibition of separating a mother from her young children."

Based on its radical ideology, ISIL has gone about systematizing rape, sexual assault and slavery by embedding the buying, selling and gifting of slaves into a system of rewards for its fighters. Of the estimated 3,500 Yazidi women held by ISIL, survivors report being interrogated and in some cases stripped of sorting and categorizing. They have been rated according to desirability, labeled and transported across ISIL-held territory. They have been traded between fighters, and awarded by leadership as prizes.

"Although the Jolie-Hague summit reportedly trained more than 100 military peacekeepers and 700 Kurdish Peshmerga in 'sexual violence

prevention and response', much more needs to be done to deal with the psychologically and medically traumatized Yazidi victims of the sexual slavery." Claims also emerged two weeks earlier that the US hostage Kayla Mueller was repeatedly raped by ISIL leader al-Baghdadi.

The venom ISIL spews forth poisons the minds of naïve young girls around the world. It happened to some callow school girls - in foreign countries - to be lured to its ideology. According to a report, three young school girls fled to Syria from London to cooperate with the militants - through exposing their feminine charm to them. However, the question is that what are the main reasons behind their tendency towards ISIL's attitude?

It is believed that those being lured to the ISIL's radical practices either come from socially or culturally ill backgrounds or suffer from mental pressures in some ways. Presumably, they are humiliated in social or individual life, their natural and physical needs are not met, their mental or spiritual thirst is not quenched in a sound manner, their emotional desires are repressed and the lump in their throats erupts suddenly which diverts them from the normal path of life and they finally succumb to their emotions. In political term, it can be interpreted as a protest against the status quo.

Sharmeena, one of the three girls fled to Syria, is said to suffer emotionally. "She was vulnerable; she had a trauma," said Mr. Akunjee, the lawyer, who does not represent Sharmeena's family but is familiar with her case. "She didn't get a body piercing or a drug-dealer boyfriend. She went to ISIS."

Moreover, the motive behind girls' tendency towards ISIL in West is stated as, "For the girls, joining ISIS is a way to emancipate yourself from your parents and from the Western society that has let you down," Ms. Havlicek said. "For ISIS, it's great for troop morale because fighters want Western wives. And in the battle of ideas they can point to these girls and say: Look, they are choosing the caliphate over the West."

It is believed that a large number of the ISIL militants come from the deprived backgrounds - who failed to take the hands of beautiful girls - rather than real ideologues. They joined not to safeguard their ideology but to express their repressed emotions. The same is the case with the girls who join to support the militants emotionally. Hence, the psychologically and mentally dissatisfied individuals seem highly vulnerable to the ISIL's toxic ideology.

So, those who stoop so low to join the radical militants trample upon ethical codes and religious tenets. Nothing is sacrosanct for them. They outrageously violate human's rights and dignity. They sacrifice their beliefs and conscience to quench their lust for pleasure, power, etc. They succumb to their megalomania and selfishness without a sense of resistance.

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