By Mohammed Gul Sahibzada

Ministry of Interior was attacked on 30 May 2018 around noon time at 1200 hrs, last two days before 27 and 28 May, a high level security delegation of Afghanistan by National Security Advisor Mohammad Hamid Atmar, was in Pakistan and held discussions with Pakistani establishments. Coincidentally, at the same time on 30 May, a high level security delegation from India was holding a series of meetings of Joint Security Commission, with the Afghanistan government established by National Security Advisor Gholam Hamid Atmar. Minister and Deputy Minister in charge for Security were out of Kabul. Also, exactly one year before on 31 May 2017, there was a heavily loaded tanker explosion in Green Zone and after that incident one finds many security measures exist in the vicinity. The attack is on height barriers, checkpoints with sniffer dogs and other routine security measures are in place in Kabul. In the last one year, no explosion took place using heavy vehicle but attacks continued unabated with changing strategies and tactics. Security establishments had been major target and also other places including embassies and government buildings have come under target during this time.

Too many coincidences during this Wednesday attack, if not any specific intelligence input. Ministry of Interior is the apex institution of the police security system and if the insurgents have started targeting it now, then it should be an issue of serious concern that they have become capable enough to target the higher echelons of the government. Inherently, it has been the aim of insurgents and terrorist organizations to gain fame by showing their prowess and ability to target and attack the most important and sensitive offices of the government.

Police and the ministry security gave attackers on Wednesday in full response. Attackers would not have ventured to force their entry into the buildings area. It shows, the ministry security is well prepared in countering and neutralizing them. All seven attackers were killed and three determined themselves. All this takes more than two hours operation and it is praised even by security exp- erts. The ministry accommodates many offices in the same building area and two and four buildings, including offices for international. The security system is deployed at strategic points with courage and in coordination with other units including Special Forces who demonstrated their professionalism. Our police force is capable to counteract severe threats. In this process, the one of policemen sacrificed his life during this operation. Wounded one arrived to the hospital in the bravery, valor and courage of these policemen who put their lives on the line for their country.

But policing system in Kabul city is still fragile. It is hard to comprehend how can a team of ten persons move around in the city and can reach at the inner boundary and then attack a very sensitive target – the highest police office in the country. Ministry of Interior – and after a saga of one and half hour, all of them get killed our brave police officers. But terrorist achieved their purpose by showing to the world that they can strike at any time. They can find different ways to maneuver themselves. We need to develop soft police skills in our police system. Kabul police admits that they don’t check armored vehicles and then purposely lopheoles are left in the security system. Earlier, there was an attack using ambulance. There have been at- tacks using security vehicles. No police system in the world can check all the vehicles thoroughly but even if vehicles are not checked, a system could be developed to regularly check the bags and luggage. It seems, our police force orient- ed to armed response to attacks and threats but these measures have not been supported with government and re- enforcement regulations establishing accountability. All these are state functions and all collectively lead to insecurity in the society.

Human intelligence has to be revamped so that Police gets more information through behavioral analysis and socio economic analysis. Sensitize people to look at the vehicles before that let us try to identify and look for them. Police needs to work for the safety of people and also to take care of their other day to day needs and then it can be trusted by people. Multiple information gathering and intelligence or- ganizations in the country have been set up to coordinate to as- sess and evaluate information. Human intelligence needs to be steered in many attacks. In this attack also, all the vehicles used by terror- ists were checked from policemen at the Ministry of Interior. Earlier in many situations, vehicles are snatched and these could be avoided if policemen are alert and ready. Readiness is the key asset. Internal and external security and it is to be tackled through trainings, deployment of supervision and security personnel against all threats, its tactics, management and accountability so that the police officers always know how to reach in the hands of the insurgents.

Every incident, every murder, every information clone and these may be analyzed to investigate to find sus- port network and attacks modalities. Classical investigation methodologies and need based advance technology are to be adopted. In these types of incidents, artificial intelligence and big data is the future. Crime scene and other locations may lead to iden- tify the attackers and their support details. Every incident should be a lesson so that police person- nel get more professional and preventive measures could be refined. This incident is once again a lesson for the Ministry, to make the ecosystem around the Ministry of Interior.

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By Catherine Dolan

Education is essential for all children, whether boys or girls. Sadly, there has been little progress important to global development than educating girls. Educated women tend to earn more, be healthier, marry at a later age, and have fewer children. They also raise healthier and better-educated children. This why educating girls is also crucial in the fight to eradicate global poverty. Countries that invest in girls’ education typically report faster economic growth, lower and lower rates of poverty, and benefit from positive public health outcomes, such as lower rates of HIV transmis- sion and of infant and maternal mortality.

Yet, despite considerable progress over the past two de- cades, and an investment of over 100 million girls out of school worldwide. The main reason is poverty. For example, in Nigeria, only 4% of girls in the poor North West can read, compared with 49% of girls in the wealthier South East. But many barriers compound obstacles to education such as child marriage, early pregnancy, a girl’s household responsibilities and social restrictions, as well as a lack of schools and a preference for males.

In recent years, another barrier to girls’ education that has gained increased attention is informational con- straints such as lack of latrines, water, and sanitary supplies. McDonough, in particular, was found to influence the rates of school participation among adolescent girls. Data show that less than half of girls in lower income countries have access to basic such as sanitary towels or tampons, soap and wa- ter, or facilities to change, clean, or dispose of hygiene products.

In parts of South-Saharan Africa and South Asia, girls often manage their period in secrecy, using makeshift and unhygienic ways, using mud, leaves, or cloth for sanitary protection, because sanitary products are unaffordable, unavailable, or too shameful for girls to purchase. And schools often lack adequate latrines or sanitary facilities. The government in Afghanistan has been putting efforts into the education sector since 2001. But there are still many challenges.

By Catherine Dolan

The Easy Solution to Help
Keep Girls in School

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