

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



March 04, 2018

## How to Tackle the Taliban

The security situation in our country continues to deteriorate; the insurgency is increasing and the International community and the Afghan government lack a clear direction. The insurgent groups, especially the Taliban, have made significant gains in different parts of the country, including in the North.

Since the Bush Administration, the United States, the International Community and the Afghan Government have tried to put an end to insecurity in the country and defeat the Taliban and other terrorist groups present in the Afghanistan. However, these measures have failed and insecurity has just increased here. In order to have a clear understanding of why the Taliban has survived and continue to pose threats to the national security of Afghanistan and even the United States and its allies, it is necessary to analyze the war strategy of the Taliban realistically. Thus, an analysis of the Taliban War Strategy, show that the main success factors of the group include the following:

The diversity of the insurgency confuses the local and foreign observers; in other words, the Taliban are not the only party who fights against the Afghan government and the International Community. According to the DNS there are more than 20 terrorist groups fighting in Afghanistan. What is clear is that almost all of these terrorist groups are supported by the Afghan neighboring countries and the cross regional powers to ensure their agendas and national interests by these terrorist groups.

The Taliban's structure is resilient: The group has a centralized structure that lay out that main vision and strategy of the group, thus, it is flexible enough that enables the group to adapt to the local contexts of Afghanistan. For example, the Taliban have acted very pragmatically in terms of using criminal gangs and opium resources. Also, they act as the ethnic heroes in the Pashtoon areas and act as Islamic fighters in the other parts of the country where other ethnicities live there rather than the Pashtoon Ethnic. It is one of the opportunities for the Afghan government and the International community, to invest campaigns on it, in order to show the real face of the Taliban as claiming to establish an Islamic government, while they use double standards in practice. The people shall know the Taliban not only are the agents of the other countries waging war in Afghanistan to maintain their national interests by the terrorist groups like the Taliban, but they just misuse the Islamic rhetoric to fool the people in order to ensure their goals.

Local autonomy of the Taliban Commanders, this can be a weakness for an insurgent group, however, they have managed to use it as an opportunity as it is needed due to the nature of guerilla warfare. As a result, they are not confused in terms of who is in charge of a particular task or in charge of a certain area. The autonomy of the Taliban commanders is the weakness of the group and as the experience of the International community show it can exploit competition among them or fuel infighting among the Taliban commanders. As a result, it requires more operative and spy vigilance to use this weakness and change it to a strength point for the Afghan government and the International Community fighting against the Terrorist groups, including the Taliban.

The Taliban has built on the discontent of the Afghans. Perhaps it is one of the most effective strategies that have helped the group survive and even increase its presence in the different parts of the country. The Afghan government and the International Community shall identify the root cause of the discontent of the Afghans and develop an applicable strategy to address them in the different parts of the country indiscriminately.

The Taliban Propaganda has been built on widely perceived corruption in the country. It is a clear cut fact Afghanistan is one of the most corrupt countries in the world and its anti corruption measures have not been much successful. As a result the Afghan government and the International community shall review their anti corruption measures. One of the key factors of anti corruption strategy failure in Afghanistan is lack of political will at the top, medium and low levels. Therefore, the Afghan government has developed several anti corruption strategies and institutions, but the final outcomes have been more or less the same: increase of corruption. Therefore, the Afghan government and its International community allies not only shall develop an applicable anti-corruption strategy but, shall take initiatives to create a holistic vision among all the actors to support the implementation of the Anti-corruption strategy as the back bone of ending insurgency, improving economic development and meeting the basic needs of the Afghan citizens.

The survival of the Taliban is not a magic. The Taliban group has survived thanks to the diversity of insurgency, resilient structure, misusing the Islamic teachings, local autonomy of its commanders, and public discontent and wide spread corruption in the country. The Afghan government and its international community allies must address these shortfalls by developing and implementing an applicable strategy mobilizing all the relevant actors at all levels in a systematic manner and avoiding preferential measures that have proven ineffective in the past, although such measures may ensure the interests of specific groups in the country.



## The Reasons behind a Peaceful Coexistence in China

By Hujjatullah Zia

In the People's Republic of China, all individuals are able to exercise their fundamental rights -i.e. their rights to life, liberty, and property - without barriers. One will not be discriminated on the grounds of their caste, color, or creed and men and women are considered "free and equal in dignity and rights".

Both men and women exercise their rights and freedoms under the liberal democracy of China without social, political, or cultural obstacles. That is to say, there are no cultural barriers to curtail the freedoms of women or hamper their participation in social or political activities. Cultural traditions for restricting women's role in collective life, which hold strong sway in patriarchal systems and traditional societies, are not practiced in China at all. Chinese women play their role actively in all aspects of social and political life. Sexual discrimination has no room in the liberal democracy of China and both genders exercise their human rights freely.

It is believed that China is a civil society, void of discrimination and violence, which safeguards the rights and liberties of all individuals and seeks to strengthen the spirit of brotherhood among all ethnic groups with the intention of having a peaceful and prosperous life. It is further believed that humanism is the lifeblood of the ideology of the Communist Party of China (CPC) which advocates socialism with Chinese characteristics. The state strongly supports the inalienable rights of all members of the society and "promotes social progress and better standard of life in larger freedom".

Meanwhile, individuals exercise religious tolerance and diversity of religion, language, race, etc. are accepted as a principle for the Chinese. In other words, the three D's (development, dynamics, and diversity) have been deeply embedded in Chinese culture. Although 56 ethnic groups live in China, there is no tension or conflicts. If people believe diversity, they will practice tolerance and will show no tendency in violence. Thus, accepting diversity, which promotes the spirit of coexistence, is one of the main reasons behind a violence-free China.

The Chinese live in their utopia free from fear and want and "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". They live a peaceful life and respect the rights and liberty

of one another to a great extent. For example, a woman is able to walk alone late at night without the fear of having her rights or freedoms violated. Hence, the individuals' rights and liberties are respected everywhere in China.

The Chinese respect the law and seek to play their social, cultural, and political role in the frame of law. The public pay due respect to the limitations determined by law and fulfill their responsibilities besides exercising their rights. On the other hand, all individuals; irrespective of their race, color, religion, social and political status; are considered equal in the eye of law and are entitled to equal protection of the law. To view the ongoing violence and bloodshed in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen - to name but a few - lack of religious tolerance, warped mind, negative mindsets, racial and sexual discrimination, religious extremism, and the denial of one's rights and liberties are the main reasons. It is self-explanatory that intolerance and lack of spirit of brotherhood will leave no room for a peaceful coexistence.

Afghanistan is one of the states which has turned into a dystopian society by a number of issues. All the aforementioned issues, i.e.; religious intolerance, racial and sexual discrimination, patriarchal mindsets, etc. prevail in the country and take their toll on people. Life has turned cheap and the inherent rights and dignity of the public are violated on a large scale. Cultural traditions curtail the freedoms of women, who have suffered sexual discrimination during the past regimes. Worst of all, some women are tortured in desert courts which are conducted by tribal councils or the Taliban militants - this practice is against Islamic Sharia and Afghan Constitution.

To form a civil society void of violence and conflicts, Afghan nation will have to promote the spirit of brotherhood and respect the rights and freedoms of all individuals regardless of their racial, religious, and sexual backgrounds. Similar to Chinese nation, Afghans need to accept diversity of caste, color, and creed so as to live a peaceful life. Overall, China will be a true model for Afghanistan in terms of reaching a peaceful life and forming a society where all be able to exercise their rights and freedoms.

Hujjatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at zia\_hujjat@yahoo.com

## Strategic Significance of Chabahar Port for India & Afghanistan International Business Relations

By Fayazuddin Ghiasi

The Iranian port of Chabahar (previously Bandar Beheshti), directly or indirectly, is situated in the path of some of the some strategic corridors and can be considered as one of the most vital transit locations for India, Iran & Afghanistan. It is often referred to as the 'Golden Gate' to the landlocked Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries and Afghanistan. Chabahar is not only strategically located but has immense potential to connect the business growth centers in South Asia (India), the Middle East (Dubai), Central Asia and Afghanistan. It is close to the mainline shipping routes to Asia and Europe, located on the Makran coast of the Sistan Baluchistan province of Iran and facilitates the transit of goods to northern and southern Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics from India. The port distance to Milak on the Afghanistan border is 950 km; it is 1,827km to Sarakhs on the Turkmen border; and it is 120 km from the Pakistan border. India and Iran plans to use this port for transshipment to Afghanistan and Central Asia and maintain the Bandar Abbas port as a major hub for trade with Russia and Europe. The Chabahar port has 2.5 million metric tons (MT) capacity per annum. Its capacity is expected to go up to 6 million MT per year in the first phase, going up to 12 and finally to 20 million MT per annum. Natural gas is carried to this province through 56 pipelines that are expected to reach Chabahar port in about two to three years.

The Chabahar port being one of the India's main strategic deals that gives route access for India to reach Central Asian markets via Afghanistan. But the ensuring Chabahar port meeting its goals depends on peace and stability in Afghanistan. The port will gear for India connectivity with Afghanistan with the devel-

opment of the mining sector, the energy sector, the development of rail way sector. India is committed in principle to construct from Hajigak mine of Afghanistan to Chabahar port in Iran will only come about when Indian investment begin to flow. India constructed the DehramZaranj road and in Afghanistan in 2009 and also invested on 100 million USD to operationalize the Chabahar port.

The Export Import between India & Afghanistan dates back to the ancient period, the Treaty of commerce signed between the Royal kingdom of Afghanistan & Republic of India on 4th April 1950 shows that the two sides treat each other as most favored nation in doing business activities. Also the trade agreement between the government of India & government of Republic of Afghanistan signed on in New Delhi on 3rd September 1975, 1978 that clearly show the close relationship of the two nations. India & Afghanistan had land transit route before separation of Pakistan from India in 1947. During this almost seven decades India Afghanistan trade relations had many ups and downs. The merchants of both countries were not allowed to use Pakistan land and they had to use either air transport or Bandar -E-Abaas port in Iran which is very far and the cost of products will be very high which both side's trader cannot compete with those of the Pakistan and Iranian trader in Afghanistan and Indian or Central Asian markets.

Chabahar Port is a unique opportunity for Afghanistan, India and Iran to boost their business relations and change the equations of the region for the favor of peace and regional partnership. It has the potential to link the South Asia (India), the Middle East (Dubai), Central Asia and Afghanistan to the European and the world markets.

Fayazuddin Ghiasi is an emerging writer and can be reached at fghiasi2008@gmail.com

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Editor: Moh. Sakhi Rezaie

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



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