

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

# Daily Outlook

## AFGHANISTAN

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## Insecurity is Supporting Human Smuggling

As there have been Insecurity, poverty and discriminations in different parts of world, there have been different types of social problems as well. Among them one of the most dominating one erupting from the countries with insecurity, disorder and poverty is Human smuggling.

Human smuggling takes place when the person being smuggled gets into any sort of agreement with the smuggler and gives his consent to be smuggled to the desired country. The agreement is basically decided on a particular amount of money that has to be paid by the customer to the smuggler after reaching to the destination. In most of the cases, however, the customer pays the money in advance as he has no other option. This creates a sort of problem as well, as he cannot get his money back from the smuggler if he is not taken to his destination.

Human smuggling is a complex phenomenon and it involves different individuals and some times groups. The whole process actually includes these individuals and groups as various players at different locations that take the customers to their desired place. The techniques used by different individuals and groups differ from one another and they include both legal and illegal ways of crossing the borders. One of the most disturbing facts about human smuggling is that it includes the risk of life. The illegal ways that are adopted through the process include very risky attempts within which the people can easily lose their lives. The border control police or forces in different countries can even shoot the people who try to cross the border illegally. However, the facts show that people consider this choice much better than the lives they are having in their own countries and happily agree to opt it. Another fact is that the people being smuggled do not always involve young men. They also include children, women and even old people and this makes the process even more pathetic.

Human smuggling is mostly a trend in the countries where the standard of life is not satisfactory and people suffer because of lack of economic facilities or they are threatened by instability that has even jeopardized their lives. Feeling dissatisfied for life or threatened by danger, they agree to give the rights of their lives to someone whom they may not even know and for that they even pay money. What they only have in their minds is the dreams of better lives, which may not be fulfilled at all but may easily fill the pocket of the ones who are involved in this dirty game.

Human smuggling has been happening in different part of the world. With the growth of instability, human smuggling has evolved into a sophisticated service industry. And certain routes and enclaves used by smugglers have practically institutionalized; for instance: from Mexico and Central America to the United States, from West Asia through Greece and Turkey to Western Europe, and within East and Southeast Asia. A combination of interacting factors, like weak legislation and lax border controls to corrupt officials and the influence of organized crime, is responsible for the flourishing business of human smuggling.

Afghanistan is a country that has been the victim of this evil. The dissatisfied, insecure and poverty stricken life has compelled the people to leave their motherland and run towards any country where they can find comfort. The series of civil wars and religious fanaticism have made the life miserable for most of the people and many have migrated out of the country, among them there are many who have opted for being smuggled. Since the downfall of Taliban the circumstances are claimed to have improved but there are serious concerns that are developing after the withdrawal of international forces and return of instability. Taliban have made security a big challenge for the Afghan National Security Forces in different parts of the country. There are certain districts that are now under the control of Taliban. Civilians have been suffering much from this growth of insecurity as they are mainly the victims. At the same time, other threatening militant groups that are multiplying insecurity are also emerging in the country. Daesh is the most dominant one among them and is now threatening people because of its ruthless killings of the poor and innocent people.

People are thinking of securing their lives by leaving the country and the human smugglers have come to the scene to rescue them. The number of human smugglers has risen in Kabul where they are making good money by promising the people 'bright future'. According to certain estimates, they charge people about \$15,000 to take them on the risky way to Europe, Canada or Australia.

Human smuggling is really a serious crime and all the ways that strengthen the process must be checked properly through strong legal measures. At the same time Afghan government must make sure that ordinary people are provided the rudimentary requirements of life and stable political and social circumstances so that they should not go for this option.

## Peace Talks –A Way Out of Decade Long Conflict

By Asmatyari

Amidst the heightening degree of resentment between two neighboring countries over security matters –the exercise of warmth and willingness displayed by Pakistani prime minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif while talking to Afghan delegation led by Finance minister Eklil Hakimi who recently visited Pakistan to attend the 10th session of Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Economic Commission, reported asserting the essence of 'peaceful and prosperous' neighborhood and its readiness to help Afghanistan in its quest for peace and development. Pakistan going through security operation in its troubled tribal areas is said to have pushed enormous militants on the western side of border that have had multiplied Afghan security woes –something Afghan centric issue.

Following the signature of several security agreements with US and NATO states the Afghan government has to pressurize them for their impartial role improving worsening security matters. Earlier, the top American senators JonMcCain, in meeting with Pakistani Chief of Army Staff has sought cooperation from the Pakistan Army to win this war in Afghanistan. On the other hand US Vice-President Joe Biden and Gen. Raheel Sharif called for the early resumption of the stalled peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Nonetheless, after overtake of strategically significant province of Kunduz, Taliban's credibility came to question. Reportedly, Taliban have had executed handsome deal of atrocities and deliberate human rights violation which can not be justified on any moral ground. It was only then many political figures came forth denouncing Taliban outlasting bloodshed whilst ruling out the likelihood of any peace talks but only from position of strength.

On the other hand infighting between Taliban for leadership issue, between Taliban and ISIS over political dominance and gain of legitimacy is no surprise. The difference of opinion led to eruption of clashes between Taliban second rank leaders. Contrary to Taliban infighting, they are also confronting Daesh on several fronts in Nangarhar province at present. The fight continues unless one's dominance is accepted by the other. In the land of atrocities, Taliban were already flexing their muscle for greater share in Afghanistan politics –the space decade long war between coalition forces and Taliban produced is eventually filled by militants of Daesh. Reportedly, Taliban and Daesh are fighting for pressing their opponent. A recent report released by the Pentagon in Washington D.C. states that Daesh is expanding in Afghanistan and preparing to confront the Taliban. According to the report, the Taliban are also monitoring Daesh's activities, and the two groups have already faced off in confrontation on several occasions. For now, however, the battle against Daesh in Afghanistan is predominately taking place on a local, provincial

level. In order to draw greater focus on changing political scenarios, Taliban recently sent a highly-publicized letter to Daesh leaders emphasized that there is no need for a new front in Afghanistan.

Realistically, the infighting earns mere human casualties as long as the blood conflict goes undecided. It depicts Taliban endeavoring to expand the territory of their rule, or exercising power display to make the government submit to their terms when the peace talks gains momentum. More or less prior to winning the heart and mind of masses the territorial gains can not be equated as a major gain. It can be assessed; even if Taliban succeeds securing lion's share in the jumpstarted peace talks, the fair exercise of ballot may not head them to assemblies.

Putting a glance at the political outlook of Afghanistan, chaotic state of delusion is reflected. The incumbent government tries to push for peace talks whilst insurgents resorted to parallel blood-letting must be kept in consideration. It is believed that lasting can only be installed given all factions of the decade long conflict is brought to common terms. The most significant are the demonstration of shift instilled in Taliban's resolve to disband militancy, dissociate Al-Qaida and holistically surrender to constitution of the country. This move practically is achievable indefinitely however Taliban deems to having upper hand in the fight, never surrender to government's demands instead dreams of government surrendering to their demand. Customarily, the government is left to either wipe out or should talk to Taliban –tempting to install outlasting peace in Afghanistan. The U.S. government, for its part, has seemingly taken steps to facilitate negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban by bridging the gap between Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the light of established nexus found between Afghan Taliban and Pakistan, could be persuaded to play vital role in persuading Taliban to reconnect the Murre peace talks. The international community got to find out some pragmatic means of border security issues. For instance the military operation in tribal areas of Pakistan is deemed to have pushed a major series of global terrorist networks is the concern expressed by president Ghani. Obama confirmed by stating the Al-Qaida affiliates are pushed into Afghanistan in the wake of military operation in tribal areas of Pakistan. In order to do away with this very problem Afghanistan should increase its surveillance at the borders areas and movements of individual should be closely checked. The US can help Afghanistan in getting out of the said emerging woes of infiltrating Taliban and ISIS. Both the countries should not let terrorist use its border areas for vested interest of other. In spite of altering relation between the two countries Pakistan's role in reviving the peace talks seems unarguably essential.

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## NATO's Shifting Attitude to the Mission in Afghanistan

By Abdul Ahad Bahrami

The German government has pledged to maintain its military presence in northern Afghanistan in 2016 as part of the Resolute Support Mission. The decision comes while the country's original plan was to drastically reduce number of its forces stationed in Afghanistan. German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen told reporters that the talks among officials of the other 20 countries involved in the operation in northern Afghanistan had yielded "a very good result," with all partner countries committing "to continue to provide the necessary forces and capabilities". She stressed that the contributing countries want "to send a strong signal of reliability to the Afghan people that we are standing by their side". Afghan defense officials have welcomed Germany's decision to bolster the country's military presence in Afghanistan. The decision by Germany and its partner countries to strengthen the Resolute Support mission in northern Afghanistan is signaling a visible shift of attitude among NATO members towards security developments in Afghanistan and the region. With Afghanistan grappling growing insurgency, NATO member countries are realizing the need to reset its exit strategy from Afghanistan and adjust it based on the ground situation in Afghanistan. Led by the US, NATO members initially had plans to drastically decrease number of forces in Afghanistan. However, with the deteriorating security condition, the United States considered a 'pause' to its speedy exit strategy from Afghanistan. In response to the growing insurgency, the United States agreed last year to slow down withdrawal of its troops and keep a larger portion of its forces in Afghanistan.

It is a long time that the facts on the ground in eastern and northern Afghanistan have come as an alarm for the NATO-led alliance. However, there has been a visible lack of action and willingness from NATO members to tackle the emerging threats with speedier and rigorous military action. The Western powers who dominate the international military efforts in Afghanistan are grappling with various crises such as the conflicts in the Middle East. This leaves the international mission in Afghanistan particularly vulnerable to the rising threats which also stems from the regional and global political and security developments. The fall of Kunduz province to the Taliban came as a wake-up call for the NATO members to modify their approaches to the forgotten mission.

The worsening situation in Afghanistan's northern provinces, where German forces were stationed for more than a decade, has convinced the German government to do more to salvage what is seen as the country's legacy. The future security of northern provinces will continue to face serious challenges from the spectrum of the insurgent groups in the upcoming years. Currently various militant groups are actively operating in many different provinces in north, while the Afghan government has been unable to tackle the resurgence of the insurgency. The Afghan government has seen

many setbacks in leading the campaign to cleanse the Northern provinces from the insurgent groups.

There are potential factors for a continued instability in different provinces of Afghanistan including the north. Government's failure to lead an effective military campaign against the various insurgent groups is one of the key factors for a prolonged insurgency in the north. On the other hand, various active militant groups operating in northern provinces will mean that the spectrum of the extremists in the area will turn some remote parts of the North into a safe haven of extremist groups where they can recruit, train and equip fighters to mobilize forces and extend the insurgency in the once secure part of the country.

The Germany's refocus on securing northern Afghanistan is indicating the realization of the potential threats by the NATO members that could result to an even worse security setback in the northern part of Afghanistan. The shift of attitudes among the NATO members particularly the US and Germany is coming as a crucial help for the embattled Afghan government which is struggling to cope with the rising threats from the extremist groups in different parts of the country. The Resolute Support mission and the Germany's role will help prevent further military setbacks and even a complete failure of the anti-insurgency campaign. The German government's decision to bolster NATO Afghan mission is coming as a crucial development for Afghanistan's anti-insurgency campaign in northern part of the country.

The Afghan government has been leading a lackluster campaign against the aggressive insurgency throughout Afghanistan. The Western powers cannot ignore the fact that the Afghan conflict has become their conflict, and that there is no alternative for winning the war against the Taliban. The intensifying operation by Taliban and like minded groups in different parts of the country mean that the country will continue to remain a hotbed of insurgency, and a major concern for the West who has sacrificed immensely in treasure and human lives. The growing activities of the Islamic State and other militant groups are throwing a dark shadow over the future of Afghanistan. Given the ground for increased militancy in Afghanistan and the region, it is highly probable that the security deterioration would continue in the upcoming years. If that happens, and if the Afghan government fails to tackle with the reshaped insurgency, Afghanistan could become a new concern for the Western powers. The growing militancy in the Middle East and the South Asia region seem to be directing Afghanistan into unforeseen crises. This requires particular attention from the international community to change strategy in Afghanistan and help the country's anti-insurgency campaign. The new commitments from Germany and other NATO members are promising but insufficient for resetting the NATO exit strategy from Afghanistan.

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