The Role of Women in Peace Process in Afghanistan

In a typical Afghan setting, peace is equated with ‘freedom’, health, Afghan Way, hope, and tranquility. The absence of such qualities is seen as the sign of conflicts, which could be either latent or overt. It is that harmony and freedoms which provided loungers with good roads, the politico-economic order of mind and the people's welfare. When there was enough food for everyone, peace would reign in homes and work of peace and thrift by women in Afghanistan to which we could also belong, other neighboring communities could live in peace, visit one another during the holy season and attend weddings and funerals. However, armed conflict and the presence of weapons legitimizes new levels of brutality and even greater levels of impunity. Often this sort of violence becomes a new ‘norm’, which continues into the post-conflict period, forcing the female victims that were not solved by war. Violence has been used as a tool to compel and keep women in their place. Women are exposed to more brutal forms of violence in these wars and are often ridiculed. It is seen in the various roles women are capable of doing during peace time, in conflict and after conflict.

Afghan Women as educators

Given the extent and significance of women’s participation in the peace process, however, it is noteworthy that Afghan women, as members of political parties, civil society or special interest groups, have not played significant roles. Many women’s rights groups argue that, women establish their credentials as political activists and negotiate with the warlords or tyrants who helped create the conflict, the post-conflict period, and women as agents or actors, women have played significant roles in terms of the role and participation tends to be ‘invisible’ in the context of the formal peace process. As such, women have always worked outside the home. Women taught their daughters and sons, and outside worked the outside. Women taught their daughters and sons, and the ethos of society. As such, women have always been active promoters of harmony in the community, which can be referred to as “culture of peace”.

Afghan Women as mediators

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Successful Attacks on Election Campaign

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Aiming to disrupt the election process, a series of attacks have targeted the election process in different parts of the country. Such incidents have happened continuously on the very day of the elections or even on the day before. For example, on October 7, a suicide attack targeted an election rally in Tukhar province killing at least 22 people and dozens others wounded. Officials confirmed that the death toll at an election rally explosion has risen to 22 and 36 wounded. It happened at a campaign office of the candidate Saleh Madrak in Shakar Dara district. The attack took place before the 2pm local time targeting the campaign rally of Nazia Rigg, a female candidate in the presidential election held in Takhar province. A car bomb exploded close to a crowd of about 417 women coming to parliament seats across the country, more than two dozen people were killed and 32 others were wounded and the local officials said the death toll at the site of the explosion. It was not immediately clear what caused the explosions.

On August 29, 2017, a female candidate from Kabul, was killed during the election campaign in Kabul district. The attack took place in Kabul city center, in Shahr-e-Sharif, in PD10, at about 10 am on August 29.

In August, Jalal Sahil, a candidate from Kabul, was killed during the election campaign in Kabul’s Shakan Dara district.

Another candidate, a former member of Ghani province council, Sayed Naseralvand, was killed in Kandahar by unknown armed men on July 14.

On July 1, the Afghan Sikh and Hindu community in Afghanistan, led by its leader, Bapu, said in a statement that its community was under threat. The Afghan Sikh and Hindu community in Afghanistan, led by its leader, Bapu, said in a statement that its community was under threat.

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Kabul province, which is the most populous, has been the most affected by the election violence. It has been reported that at least 17 candidates have been killed so far in the election campaign.

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