

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



September 03, 2015

## Retaliation can Make no Peace

History is the witness that human beings have always been in thirst of blood. Today the miracles of science and technology, medicine and astrophysics have led us to a better civilization than before, yet human thirst has not been quenched. They have pursued wars and retaliation and they have forgotten that pursuing revenge, retaliation and war would eliminate human beings from the surface of earth in no time - Again thanks to marvels of science and technology!!

The continuation of the retaliations will lead to a society intellectually paralyzed and mentally camouflaged and a nation of the nervous lions and a civilization of disorder and chaos due to no contributions to the global knowledge. Peace has the capacity to give birth to all creativities and inventions. A peaceful society produces intellectual and healthy minds. Stable and reliable sociopolitical and socioeconomic circumstances are the outcomes of the peace and justice. Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Confucius and many other great thinkers and philosophers lived in the era of the golden age of human civilizations where the human history was turning to the law enforcement, justice and peace. Don't we like such society? Are we barbaric enough to say no to it? Has our superior instinct and emotional preeminence taught us to be violent and indifferent towards human blood? Have our capacity to love each other diminished and all our capacities that could determine us to be human beings disappeared?

The political thinkers believe that justice bears peace and peace in turn pays genius miracles to the society. But is it a wise decision to opt for retaliation? Do we require violating law and order in order to spread peace? Must the revenge be pursued indiscriminately? If so we did, then we get deadly weapons openly available in the commodity markets, just because market forces are liberal, with the unintended negligence of the optimal allocation, efficient distribution and equitable production for the society as a whole. Then there is no need for the schools, business or laboratories, which are the signs of development and modernization because ashes, blood and ammunitions would rule ultimately.

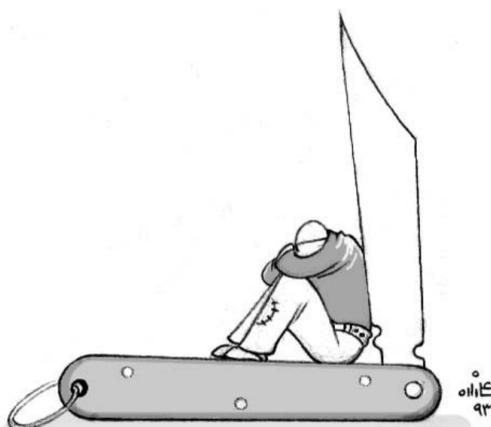
The studies and observations carried out by Darwin on animal species led the intellectuals to the reasons of the extinction and in-danger-of extinction of the carnivores. Thus, the mother of the earth, the nature has a law, which states that, "the savages eat each other till the extinction of their specie." And it falls true for all species, even to humans though they do not directly eat each other's flash. Thus, an eye for an eye will surely leave us all blind.

Some thinkers may question that how justice can be restored, peace be kept and creativity given birth without the law enforcement mechanism that contains enforcement of the different punishments against the different crimes. And they suggest that it is based on the concept of life for life and eye for an eye. They consider the punishment by the courts and prisons as revenge; however, they forget to realize that the system, in fact, discourages a person from further retaliations. It satisfies the victims that the culprits have been punished and makes the culprits realize that they have done something wrong.

Does a proper and modern law and order system ask for hanging up the corrupt leaders and mafia men, target killing the target killers, and loot the thieves and the smugglers? It doesn't because it is not based on the concept of revenge and retaliation; rather it strives to carry out a transformation of criminals into better human beings who learn through their experience in the prison that they were wrong to pursue crime and break law and can have an opportunity to live in a different way in their social lives.

Jenny Han had quoted, "An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth; a burn for a burn; a life for a life; that's how all this got started and that's how it's going to end." Though, retaliation is widely practiced in today's life, it has to end some day and when it ends, unfortunately, it has to end with the end of human civilization and human beings from the face of earth, because it would and can never stop.

It is said wisely that the best way to retaliate is to forgive. Forgiving someone is the best revenge and it also depicts someone's superiority over the other, as it requires bigger heart and better understanding to forgive others. The ones who retaliate have dark hearts and limited thinking. They are not able to see out of the limitations of their anger and narrow-mindedness, while the ones who forgive have the potential to see human beings as superior creature. They, in fact, believe in the natural goodness of human nature. They believe that human beings can be changed and their behavior can be improved; therefore, they forgive and expect the ones who are forgiven to change themselves. They, as a matter of fact, truly respect human beings.



## Political Mistrusts

By Hujatullah Zia

There is a sense of fear and dissatisfaction in the air. Our bleeding nation is attacked heavily by the Taliban insurgents - who made severe inroads into the country in recent months. The current political turmoil and high graph of civilian casualties have embittered the life of the public. There seems no room for democracy. The men's fundamental rights are violated to a large extent. With the disclosure of Mullah Omar's death and appointment of Taliban's new leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, a split emerged among the Taliban officials. Omar's family, including his brother Mullah Abdul Manan and his son Mullah Yaqub, refused to pledge allegiance to Mansoor - saying the process to select him was rushed and biased and deeming him an inappropriate successor. However, Mansoor indicated that peace process was the "enemy propaganda" and waged deadly attacks in Afghanistan, despite the militants' internal conflict, to earn the trust of dissatisfied elements and boost the morale of the Taliban's ragtag militia.

The series of attacks, mainly in capital Kabul, led to tension between Afghan-Pak officials. The Afghan political figures, who glossed over Pakistan's involvement in terrorist acts for a long time, doubted on the cooperation of Islamabad and articulated that the terrorist attacks are arranged from across the border. Following a heavy attack in Kabul, which led to the deaths of dozens and injuries of hundreds, President Ashraf Ghani said that Shah Shaheed bombing in Kabul was unacceptable and that it was a game changer for the country. "Pakistan still remains the venue and ground for gatherings from which mercenaries send us a message of war," Ghani declared. He further stated that at the time Pakistan President Nawaz Sharif said the enemies of Afghanistan are the enemies of Pakistan, "now the time has come for him to prove it."

Addressing a press conference on late Monday, the First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum also reiterated that the Taliban's attacks are systemized from across the border. Surviving the suicide bombers' plot, he had suicide vests and pistols showed on local TVs which were made in Pakistan and urged the international community to pressurize it not to support the militants against the Afghan nation. He further read it a flagrant violation of human rights - since Afghans' rights to life and liberty are violated through terrorist acts.

On the other hand, Pakistan has frequently refused to be embroiled in Afghanistan's turmoil and ostensibly nudged the Taliban officials to sit on the table of negotiation. Pakistani officials have constantly condemned the terrorist attacks that targeted Afghan people stressing that Afghanistan and Pakistan have common enemies. They stressed on resuming peace talks after the Omar's death too.

Recently, Pakistan has denied the sanctuary of Haqqani network in its territory claiming that this network was undermined by Pakistani soldiers. However, the Pentagon reportedly said terrorist safe havens in that country undermined the stability of Afghanistan. "We have expressed our deep concern to the government of Pakistan about terrorist sanctuaries inside its border that continues to undermine Afghanistan stability and US and coalition forces in Afghanistan," the Pentagon spokesman is quoted as saying. Capt. Jeff Davis told reporters at an off-camera news conference the US had urged Pakistan to redouble its commitment on counter-terrorism cooperation with Afghanistan against all groups that posed a threat to long-term security of both nations.

It is believed that the blaming game going on between Kabul and Islamabad will be proved counterproductive. Ghani has rightly pointed out that "now the time has come ... to prove it." The political rhetoric released by Pakistani officials has to be put into action. The seminars should be emptied from the armed men and the sanctuaries of the terrorist networks must be ruined. Both the countries have to bury the differences in such a sensitive situation and develop mutual interests. There is no doubt that Afghanistan and Pakistan are in the same boat - wrestling with terrorism for many years. The tension between the two countries will pave the way for IS group - which is a potential threat for both. It is hoped that the relation will be normalized between Kabul and Islamabad in near future.

Security is the very urgent need of Afghan nation and government is responsible to secure peace for the citizens. Constitutionally, the government will have to "strengthen national unity, safeguard independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country; establish an order based on the peoples' will and democracy; form a civil society void of oppression, atrocity, discrimination as well as violence, based on rule of law, social justice, protecting integrity and human rights, and attaining peoples' freedoms and fundamental rights; strengthen political, social, economic as well as defense institutions; attain a prosperous life and sound living environment for all inhabitants of this land...."

Seemingly, insecurity and civilian casualties are a matter of concern for the government. As a result, reports say that President Ashraf Ghani has issued fresh combat orders to government officials, particularly the security forces, in an effort to curb civilian casualties in the ongoing war. During a special meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) on Friday, he asked Afghan defense and security institutions to work jointly with the United Nations (UN) in Kabul and probe the civilian death toll in the country. Prayerfully, the new military mechanism for battling the militants will help to decrease the civilian casualties.

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## Widespread Despondency Serves Migration

By Asmatyari

The love of motherland is timeless and immortal. Its warmth is deeply realized when a person is expatriated temporarily or compellingly. The decade long bloody conflict has shaken the once sound foundation of peace and stability of this piece of land. Peace was one of the critical element, Afghans have been in the search of over a lengthened period of time. However, the phenomenon of terrorism and insurgency are pressing hard the common populace of Afghanistan and Middle East to flee in the search for safe sanctuary.

The unstable political and security condition in Afghanistan and Middle East have coerced large number of people flee their homeland and seek refuge in one of the European country choosing precarious routes via sea or barren lands. Mostly it's witnessed significant number of migrants lose their lives due to unsafe and life claiming journeys. Formerly, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicated that 3,573 migrants have lost their lives while attempting to reach Italy, Greece and Spain since last August. Representing just fewer than 10 fatalities per day over the last 365 days, statistics show that the flow of migrants seeking to reach European shores is continuing to rise, with as many as 267,121 maritime migrant arrivals being reported so far in 2015. The United Nations' refugee agency said Friday that more than 300,000 people have tried to flee across the Mediterranean so far this year, far surpassing the 219,000 who sought to cross during all of 2014. At least 2,500 have died this year; but as was the case with the migrants who drowned Thursday night, the true toll may never be known.

A significant number of refugees constitute Afghan population. Earlier a goods transporting truck carried over 70 fatless migrants across the Austria to Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Unluckily the breathing difficulty suffocated all those migrants in the truck that was parked on roadside. The incidents send a shock wave over the spine of humanitarian organizations and the host countries. "Traffickers and smugglers are criminals. They have no interest in the welfare of refugees. This tragedy is concern for all of us." This talks was made by Austria's interior minister, Johanna Mikl-Leitner, in attention to earlier notorious "truck incidence" in Austria. It was indeed dreadful when a driverless truck caught the sight of Austrian police, parked on a motorway carrying the decomposing bodies of 71 misfortunate migrants, inside instead of carrying the advertised goods. There were 71 dead bodies including 59 men, eight women and four children in the truck. The victims are thought to be refugees from Middle East or possibly Afghanistan, part of a huge wave of migrants pushing through Europe via unsafe routes. Following the sorry occurrence around 20,000 people took to the streets of Vienna to demonstrate against ill-treatment of migrants. The protesters marched in the streets at the city's Westbahnhof holding up large banners reading "Refugees welcome" and "I don't want Europe to be a mass grave".

Unlike the greater insecurity and fragile political circumstances in Middle East, Afghanistan owes a legitimate government. It was anticipated an Afghan official to come forth investigating those hapless Afghans

who endangered their lives in the search for peace, security and other amenities of life. Could not the Afghan government call a remembrance day to pay tribute to those fatless souls and accept their sacrifice? It was the height of display of responsibility when the government of foreign land regretted and the masses demonstrated the tragic incident. Unfortunately, no committee was set to investigate the number of Afghan departed bodies; even the government did not resort to simple condemnation. The accusation can not be labeled to Afghan government only but lack of consciousness on the part of ordinary masses is also worth praising. It was awaited the civil society to play their part remembering the abandoned souls. Unfortunately, nothing came out of complicit silence.

Insecurity is not the only reason that forces them flee the country. The populace of Afghanistan also suffers economic discrepancy, social disparity, domestic violence, unemployment and other elementary issues worst affecting masses that are left with a option to search for livelihood in countries abroad. The escalating rebellion and terrorism supplemented with ill-administration, corruption and bad governance have alleviated the probability of betterment at present. The dreary picture, post US withdrawal and following presidential election portrays is not substantive to build up enough confidence persuading Afghans participate in building measure of Afghanistan in substitute for quitting the country. Consequently, large number of Afghans has in pursuit of peace, ecstasy and priceless material gain leave for foreign countries.

During the 1980s and 1990s, roughly six million Afghans fled the country and took refuge in Pakistan and Iran. However, estimates put around five million returning to Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime. With the exception to momentary peace no substantial outcome the repatriation could brings to the illegal emigrants. The sufferings of migrants abroad do not end here; realistically it brings endless tail of multifaceted inexplicable miseries.

As many of the young Afghan men and women who are migrating to other countries in search of a better life are doing so illegally, they are unable to live well when they reach their destinations. According to MoLSAMD officials, the other major cause of the plight of female Afghans abroad is the rise in violence against women. Fleeing abuse at home, many Afghan women seek safety and a new life abroad. Last month the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) reported a rise in violence against women in 2013, saying that it registered over 2,500 cases in the first four months of the year alone. The dominant gender based discrimination must end and women should be given greater share in every walk of life.

The government must pay greater attention improving the living condition of ordinary Afghan. This can be done by putting a greater amount leadership quality in practice. Afghanistan is resourceful country, bringing a little intelligence into use these resources can be transformed into opportunity. Corruption, embezzlement, bribery, nepotism and weakened rule of law murdering our social conscience must be discouraged. Having taken these bold measures the despondency can be removed and emigration declined.

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