

The negative effect of Terrorism on the Enjoyment of All human Rights in Afghanistan

Comment from: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

Terrorism indeed overshadows every aspects of economic, social, cultural and political life. While it bring instability and disrupts peace and coexistence environment, it directly endangers the lives of people and brings every types of violence in the society.

We have very bad experience of the direct effect and impact of terrorism in Afghanistan since 1978. Today Afghan bring the heavy cost of terrorism. Every day Afghan including the security and defense personnel and civilians lost their lives. The official data of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), as a result of military operation between the Anti-government Element (AGE) and the government army, indicates that in 2015, the total number of civilian casualties has been 9431 persons, including 3129 dead and 6302 injured. Out of 9431 persons dead or injured, there were 4642 men, 775 women, 1116 children and the gender of 2898 persons couldn't be identified. They have lost their lives as a result of suicide bombing (34.7%), land shelling (20.7%), assassination (15.6%), landmine cultivation (14.38%), missile shelling (12.98%) and air attack (1.98%). The percentage of civilian casualties by the source of attack has been 72 % by AGA, 9% by the government troops, 19 % by unidentified source and 2% by international security forces.

Another negative affect of terrorism in the countries at armed violence is the reduction of government presence and poor rule of law. In 2015, 90 persons were abducted by AGA in Afghanistan that 22 of them killed. On 7 of November 2015, civilian travelers were dropped off of a public bus by DAISH (ISIS) men on the way from Kabul to Hirat province that after few days the beheaded bodies of 4 men, 2 women and one 9-years girl found on the high way.

Terrorism has worsens the condition for humanitarian efforts. On 10 April 2015, ISIS men arrested 5 workers of the Save the Children (NGO) and killed them. Similarly, ICRC, Medical Sons Frontier, medical staff of NGOs, and landmine cleaners of NGOs have lost their lives as a result of assassination or roadside landmines.

Terrorism restricts the environment for the people to enjoy of their fundamental rights and freedoms. On 25 October 2015, as a result of landmine two human rights defenders of the AIHRC lost their lives and 6 staff members injured. On 19 January 2016, the staff bus of a private TV (TULO TV) in Kabul was attacked by a suicide driver of a truck (Taliban publicly took the responsibility of the attack) that 8 persons, including 3 women, killed and 30 persons injured. The Organization for Supporting Journalist in Afghanistan has recorded 679 cases of violation against journalist in Afghanistan, including 40 cases of murder, 46 cases of injury, 22 cases of beating, 29 cases of abduction, 84 cases of detaining, and 238 cases of harassment during 2002-2015. Most cases of abduction, murdering and injuring committed by Anti Government Elements and the rest of cases more or less committed by government agents because this is the indirect impact of terrorism that weakens the rule of law and encourage anarchism.

Education in Afghanistan is being threatened by terrorism (Taliban and ISIS insurgents). The number children going to schools has been increased since 2002. Presently around 9 million children attend schools over all the country. Taliban either close or burn schools. Out of 545 children schools in Hilmand province, 105 of them closed by Taliban in 2015, and among 242 schools in Zabul province, 140 of them

were closed by Taliban. UN statistics shows that 25 school teachers or student killed by Anti Government Element in Afghanistan in 2015.

Terrorism has negatively effect on national economy. The government's income from tax collection is reduced particularly in in-secured areas. In insecure areas investors cannot invest because of threat to their life and assets. That is why rich investor in Afghanistan cannot move without armed bodyguards. Terrorists destroy economic infrastructures. One of the example is that Taliban cut off the power line extended from Uzbekistan to Kabul and as result there was no power for half of the chilly winter time of 2015 in Kabul.

Terrorism increase the cost of making public infrastructures. Let's to say that about 40 percent cost of making infrastructure is due to security reason because it increase the cost of procurement, transportation and man power recruitment. And restriction on trade and business increase the living cost that majority of the population can't afford it.

Terrorism in Afghanistan undermines the rule of law and justice. The Anti Government Elements restrict people access to justice, and they apply their own justice system which deprives people from access to justice. Lashing, stoning, extra judicial killing and summary execution are widely exercised in the areas under ruling by Taliban. The attack on the office of prosecutors in Mazar-i-Sharif and on the staff buses of Attorney General Office in Kabul in 2015 indicates the hostility of Taliban to the State's modern justice system.

Increase in IDP population is the direct consequence of terrorism particularly that today's anti-government elements, in Africa, the Middle East, and south Asian countries, who are severely radicalized with conservative ideology, in addition of conducting military operation, put pressure on local inhabitants to obey their very rude rules. The examples are Boko Haram, Al-Shubab, Al-Qaida, ISIS and Talibans that millions of people are internally displaced or inevitably, despite of high risk, migrate the Western countries. Now millions of IDPs and migrants experience varieties of deprivation of their human rights.

In Afghanistan the population of IDPs are about 1 million. They have moved and still are moving from areas under control of Taliban because insecurity, lack of education facilities for children, poor economy and absence of government services. International statistics show that in 2015 several hundred thousand of Afghan have moved to Europe.

As of our experience in Afghanistan, majorities of casualties among civilians and military personnel become disable during ant-terrorism campaign, landmines cultivation, land and air shelling, suicide bombing and assassination. And very tragedy that Afghan government is not capable enough to provide the people with disabilities with all necessary assistance.

Unrest situation disturb the development of investment which makes the majority of population poor. As a result of anti-terrorism campaign in Afghanistan, the national economy has decreased. The official announcement in this month (August 2015) say the export as a whole has dropped down by 40% in Afghanistan. The consequence of this is the increase in poverty. Terrorism activity has caused that the Government infrastructure project faced obstacle in one hand, and on the other hand, the cost of project construction, due to increase in construction material/equipment and security protection, is

being increased. Another side effect of terroristic activities is the weakening the rule of law and extension of corruption, which in turn it damage the trust between people and Government.

Due to anti-terrorism campaign in Afghanistan and poor presence of the Government at local level, decentralization of power happens and local warlords have re-emerged. Therefore, the Government is not capable to administer justice at local level particularly in areas under control of Taliban. And this is why people's access to justice has decreased and victims of human rights violation cannot benefited of justice.

In countries under conflict, democracy always faces problems. As experience of Afghanistan, during the last three presidential and parliamentary elections many voters couldn't vote because of insecure situation in their living area that no polling center was opened there on the election day, and on the other hand, the insurgents warned people not to vote for any person and particularly women even in semi-secure areas were not dared to vote. Conducting free and fair election at conflict or semi-conflict situation is always questioned because due to security issues monitoring in the polling centers is very difficult, and this is why fraud happened during the last three elections process in Afghanistan.

Let's to finally comment that terrorism badly affects all arenas of economic, social, cultural and political life in a country at violence.