

In the Name of God the Merciful the Compassionate

National Discourse on Afghanistan Perspective

6.02.2023

With the collapse of the Afghan government on August 15, 2021, the questionable handing over of power to the Taliban, and the development of events and its unpredictable consequences, the world is witnessing the revival of a new round of fundamentalism in Afghanistan. If the Afghan intelligentsia and enlightened thinkers of the countries involved in Afghanistan's affairs do not pay attention and act responsibly in carrying out their moral duty, the people of Afghanistan will face even more harmful risks as well as the region and the world community at large.

Although by establishing a strong central government, the Taliban have the means to ensure stability in the country, eliminate the islands of power, minimize rampant corruption in the country, prevent drug cultivation and trafficking, end land usurpation, the theft of public property, robbery, eliminate coercion, extortion, and aggression, ensure the security of citizens and improve the country's economic situation by mobilizing capacities and attracting investments. But despite of some successes, as it can be seen, eleven months after seizing power by the Taliban, the hope for civil society in Afghanistan based on the rule of law is declining ever more rapidly every day. For the Taliban, the implementation of Sharia law is considered the basic principle of their administration. This being said, they have not introduced any constitution for the country so far. As such, it is very unlikely that political activity will be allowed or the role of the people in determining the political destiny and administration of their country will be permitted. Right now, women as half of the country's population are excluded from society and gender apartheid is practically established in the country. Girls and women are deprived of secondary education and if this situation continues, after a few years there will certainly be no girls or women in the country's higher educational system.

We believe that the Taliban government should provide a favorable environment for the development of high-level education for Afghan boys and girls. Because the young generation of Afghanistan has an urgent need to use the essence of social and natural sciences in the best way, which is one of the demands of the present age. Unfortunately, the policies adopted by the Taliban not only damage the country's development capacities to an irreparable level but also prevents Afghanistan from reaching the level of a prosperous country, with economic independence and freedom from dependence on international aid.

In this regard, the United Nations also warns against the inevitability of disasters in various fields in Afghanistan, considering the devastation caused by the long war, the chaotic economic situation, and the spread of poverty in the country, which has caused growing dissatisfaction among the people and concern in the international community.

While we categorically reject and condemn all kinds of war-mongering ideas exported from abroad, we clearly state that domestic unrest is on the rise. The continuation of this situation has created serious obstacles in the efforts of Afghans who attempt to end violence and ensure lasting peace in the country, but the prevalent circumstances push our people, who are trying to get rid of the monster of war, to bloodshed and endless wars.

The main concern is that the continuation of the present situation in Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban leads to authoritarianism. It is clear that the present status quo ignored

the demands of our time. Therefore, in order to escape from this impasse, effective practical measures should be taken to secure the rights of the people of Afghanistan based on the norms of the political order in Islam and the accepted principles adhered to by the majority of Islamic states. We hope that the world, in accordance with the previous decisions of the United Nations Security Council, will support the establishment of a political system to the satisfaction of the majority of the Afghan people.

Of course, the thrust of our effort in the current situation is to convince the Taliban to respond to the legitimate demands of concerned Afghans, experts, and the international community in establishing a framework for an "honest national and collective discourse" in response to the suffering of the Afghan nation due to poverty, bleak prospects, and the absence of law in the country.

In view of the concerns delineated above and as the international community is looking for ways to engage with the Taliban, it is the duty of all Afghans, particularly intellectuals, at home and abroad, to prevent the further bloodshed of the people and resort to peaceful means to interact with the Taliban. That is to say, all capacities available in the Taliban administration should be directed towards the improvement of the general situation in Afghanistan and they should be guided in the direction of reforming governance by every means possible.

For this purpose, all methods and forms of civil actions, including education, encouragement, advice, and proposals should be employed to draw their attention while at the same time criticizing the acts and practices of the administration that run counter to the national and human values, putting pressure through the media and launching peaceful civil protests should be used to bring change. In this regard, the efforts of the international community can be fruitful when it aligns all the levers of political, economic, and diplomatic pressures with the efforts of experienced, knowledgeable, and patriotic Afghans at home and abroad. The comprehensive support of the world community can undoubtedly help the people of Afghanistan to get out of this impasse.

We need to act now. We can't, afford to wait. According to the stated goals, it is necessary for intellectuals, and political and civil activists inside and outside of Afghanistan to unite around these measured and effective goals, within the framework of this national discourse and civil action plan that will affect the current situation in Afghanistan.

The Fundamental Principles of the "National Discourse" are as following;

- Afghanistan shall be an Islamic and united country based on democratic principles. The sovereignty shall belong to the people and would be exercised by their representatives, elected through free, national election across the nation;
- Preservation of the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence of Afghanistan are fundamental obligation of the state and national duty of each citizen;
- The constitution shall be affirmed by the people through customary means and shall guarantee the rights of all citizens;
- Afghanistan is a multiethnic, multi languages nation. It's national identity shall reflect the social and cultural characteristic of the citizens of the country;
- The constitution shall be guarantor of national unity, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of citizens, in accordance to the human rights international covenants. It shall guarantee the rights of education and work for women, separation of power, and facilitate the participation of various strata of people in the governance through devolution of power to local governments and elected councils;

- The law of the country shall provide suitable condition for establishment of national economic system based on principles of balanced development and growth of the country, improving living standard of the people, better employment opportunity and working conditions, eradication of poverty and provision of housing;
- The foreign policy of the country shall be based on the principles of the active non-alignment, mutual respect and friendly relations, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, particularly in the affairs of neighboring countries;
- The state shall adhere to and respect all commitment vis-a-vie the United Nations (UN) and establish amicable relations with the UN, Organization of Islamic Cooperation(OIC) and other international and regional organizations:

In conclusion, the vision and view of the Afghanistan intellectuals is establishment of a law-abiding state, equality of all citizens men and women, before the law, social justice, respect for the dignity of citizens, adherence to human rights, national unity based on the citizenry, establishing a prosperous society, improving people's living standard, balanced development of all regions of the country through an economic system that ensure national interest.

The Plan of Action for the Realization of the Vision of the National Discourse

- Establishing a Coordination Council (CC) to secure a broad coalition of political, social and cultural organizations as well as independent personalities;
- Draft plans and strategies and take practical steps for realization of the ideas reflected in the "National Discourse" document, such as civil movement and publicity at the national and international levels;
- Cooperate with those movements that share our vision;
- Registering CC with the related public agencies, within and outside of Afghanistan

And from God is success