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**Part- 7**

## **A Glance at the cause of failure of two Decades US Occupation of Afghanistan**

**Taliban desperately trying to be recognised despite serious violation of human rights and suppression of women:**

Reliable reports from various sources indicate that the Taliban administration, after five and a half months of its illegitimate presence in Kabul, not only failed to establish a universal inclusive system for all Afghans but also carried out mysterious killings, despite announcing a general amnesty. They have been threatening, interrogating and terrorising the people of Afghanistan cruelly, since their being in power. The Taliban are intimidating, especially those who worked in the former regime in various sectors, including the army, security, women's affairs, youth, news outlets, cultural and academic institutions.

People live in fear, hunger, poverty and misery. Armed Taliban militias enter people's homes in the north and other cities during night time, taking young women and girls with them away and raping them. They force families to provide them with food while the families suffer from hardship and poverty. According to impartial evidence, Taliban members and their leaders, whose wives and families are in Pakistan, forcibly married to two or three other women without the consent of the women and their families. Families are threatened with death while raiding their homes at night, committing rape, murder and crimes against humanity.

Analysts and observers of the Afghan political and security situation, primarily, place the reason of all insecurity, coercion and tyranny of the Taliban on the shoulders of the United States and Britain, and the indifference and silence of the international community and the UN Security Council. To achieve its strategic goals and rivalries with Russia and China, the United States has plunged a country

into the abyss of systematic destruction with its 20-year presence under the title of Counter-Terrorism. They are indifferent to all the unrestrained Pakistan and its destructive interventions in Afghanistan. The ISI has been actively involved in destroying, training, equipping and sending terrorists and in charge of terrorist's field management in Pakistan. Without the connivance and consent of the United States, Britain, and other NATO allies, the Pakistani government alone cannot dare to provide terrorist training centres, train the Taliban, and other terrorist groups with their families on its soil. Pakistan receives millions of dollars from the United States annually. Bin Laden, the leader of the Al-Qaeda terrorist organisation was not living near the headquarter of the ISI for ten years? Were the US embassy and the CIA unaware? Do the countries involved in Afghanistan think that Afghans are unaware of this shameless game of the United States, the United Nations and other countries in their affairs? Why did the US support Karzai and Ashraf Ghani, the two ethnocentric, corrupt men who behind the scene assisting and strengthening the Taliban terror groups? Who did spend billions of dollars for twenty years for a corrupt administration? If the United States wants to, will not be able to force Pakistan not to intervene in Afghanistan anymore? They are the main questions the educated and intellectual circles inside and outside Afghanistan have, expressing their hatred against the dirty policy of the USA for so many years in Afghanistan. According to Hamdullah Mohib, Khalilzad the US special envoy for peace in Afghanistan after three years of so-called peace negotiation in Doha Qatar, in collusion with Pakistan took the hands of the Taliban and put them in power. Khalilzad was telling us that do not to attack the Taliban militia, Mohib added.

### **Has the Taliban's behaviour changed?**

Contrary to the claim of certain agencies and countries who are proponents and lobbyists for the Taliban, the Taliban has not changed they are as fundamentalist as they were in 1996. But they have become more hypocrite, cannier and manipulative how to pretend that they respect freedom within the Islamic law. But they have not changed at all, it is a false claim as they have been involved in ethnic cleansing operations, more hostile to the accepted culture and language of the majority of population in Afghanistan. Taliban are terror groups, same as Daesh (ISIS), Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (emerged after the group became part of ISIL.) Taliban are proxies of Pakistan and for that has received billions of dollars working as a broker between the USA and the USSR in the past. Now Pakistan is playing a new diabolical game between Russia, Iran and China on one side of the equation and with the USA, UK and NATO members on the other.

In this satanic game, Pakistan will one day be trapped and not able to save itself from disintegration.

The USA's shadow presence in the region is creating a headache for Russia and China. The situation in Ukraine and Qazaqistan stand as evidence. But Russia will act decisively and the danger of a conflict seems imminent if the countries involved do not act cautiously and responsibly. A new power block seems in my view about to be merged around Russia in a form similar to the era of the USSR but in a new format in the name of "Collective Security Treaty Organization" or (CSTO). Therefore, the US cannot act as the only superpower because Russia, China and Iran will be United as an impeding force against the USA probable conflict in the region. Of course, the prediction is being expressed in view of the context of the situation which is developing now in the region.

Taliban has been elevated to grab the power given the game which the USA is orchestrating in this region. The US abrupt withdrawal of its troops and the Installation of the Taliban are for the realisation of its policy in the region. No matter who will be in power and irrespective of how many people of Afghanistan fall victim to this dirty game.

### **Response of the Russian delegation to the announcement of the US Delegation to the United Nations:**

According to Sputnik, the Russian Permanent Mission to the United Nations commented on the announcements made by the US Mission to the United Nations on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January this year, which contained "facts" about the return of leadership in the first year of Joe Biden's presidency. "The US government's efforts to present its policy in Afghanistan as a successful one seems too hypocritical," Garde added. The result of the 20-year presence of American forces and their NATO allies can hardly be considered a victory. This presence is completely contrary to the statements made by the United States. The Americans entered Afghanistan on a special mission, the fight against terrorism. But in reality, their arrival only helped to strengthen the country's position as a centre of terrorism and narcotics. Over the years, the US presence in Afghanistan, along with al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups in Afghanistan, has given rise to the Islamic State (an organization banned in Russia) and greatly strengthened its influence. "Besides, the growth of drug production has reached unprecedented levels."

At the same time, the country's socio-economic situation remains miserable, according to the Russian diplomatic corps at the United Nations.

"Billions of dollars in injected money went into the pockets of corrupt American puppets. As a result, Afghanistan became a country dependent on international aid without any prospect of independent development," said Russian diplomats.

The long-term US presence in Afghanistan has resulted in the loss of thousands of civilian Afghans and US troops and cost billions of dollars.

#### **According to the Russian delegation to the United Nations:**

"The result of separate US talks with the Taliban, in the absence of Afghans, support for Ashraf Ghani's rotten regime and the rise of the Taliban, the irresponsible withdrawal of US troops. "Afghans flew from American Boeing wings around the world."

"In this regard, the actions of the United States to transfer responsibility for the current crisis in Afghanistan, as well as statements about other countries' assistance in rebuilding that country after 20 years of NATO presence there, are very distasteful," the Russian delegation said.

In addition, the Russian Permanent Mission focuses on US military action "in conducting disorderly airstrikes, killing civilians, including women and children, without trial or investigation." Russia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations recently stressed: "The actions of American private companies operating in Afghanistan should not be forgotten. "It was sanctioned, threatened and suppressed by the United States."

The Taliban are claiming that they are Muslim. It is a false claim they are acting contrarily to the instruction of the Quran and Islam. Their action and behaviour are inhumane, irrespective of Islam or any other religion. Contrarily to their false claim of being Muslim, there are many verses in Quran that condemns their action severely.

#### **The outcome of Norwegian Invitation of Taliban- Negotiation Humanitarian or Softening the Way for Recognition?**

Reports say that the government of Norway was in touch with the Taliban before they entered Kabul. The Norwegian government has welcomed the Taliban terror groups, who have no legitimacy, under the name for humanitarian talks. The image of a private jet on which Taliban representatives were standing and waiting to travel to Norway angered millions of Afghans around the world, expressing their disgust widely covered by social media and cyberspace. A group of high-ranking members of the Taliban flew to Oslo at the invitation of Norway on a plane reserved for them to discuss women's rights with Europeans. Meanwhile, a team of Norwegian interior ministry greeted the Taliban high ranking members at the airport. During the visit, senior Taliban officials met with Tom West, US Special Representative for Afghanistan, representatives of some European countries and Afghan civil society in Oslo. The head of the Taliban team was

Amir Khan Mottaqi. Before the recent events, he was a negotiator with the Taliban in Qatar. Before the Taliban arrived in Oslo, the Americans had said that the formation of a representative political system would address humanitarian and economic crises, security concerns and the fight against terrorism and human rights, especially the education of girls and women in Afghanistan. The same demagogue which has been iterated since the start of the so-called peace talk with the Taliban in Doha Qatar.

At the time of the trip, some reports indicated that most Afghan women's rights activists and civil society activists were still hiding in the country from Taliban forces. Even two days before the trip, two women had been violently arrested in their homes for participating in anti-Taliban protests.

Before the arrival of the Taliban to Norway, Oslo had stressed that these invitations and meetings did not legitimize or recognize the Taliban. The European Union (EU) has acknowledged the minimal presence of its staff in Afghanistan but has said it does not mean recognizing the Taliban government.

The Norwegians demands of the Taliban include providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, access to education, health care, and respect for human rights, especially for women and minorities. Norway's relationship with the Taliban dates back many years, in the name of a peace mediator. The Norwegian government has repeatedly tried to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table with Afghanistan's former government. Afghanistan's former ambassador to Norway says Oslo had previously invited the Taliban to Norway and they had secretly travelled there in the past.

The Taliban have not shown a desire to establish such an inclusive government in which all people and ethnic groups including youths, women, political parties and activist can see themselves. An inclusive government in the true since of its meaning can only be possible to materialise in a federal democratic system or any other structure in which people in the provinces can select their representatives through free election or to change the structure of the government as the people of Afghanistan demand. In the current situation Taliban although has repeatedly asked for help from other countries, has only included high-ranking Taliban members in its cabinet. They do not pay any attention to the demands for the creation of an inclusive government.

### What happened in Oslo?

After the first meeting between Taliban and Norwegian officials, a joint statement was issued stating that today "the audience listened patiently to each other and exchanged views on the current situation in the country. The presence of Anas

Haqqani, a prominent member of the network. Haqqani, who was responsible for terrorist attacks in Afghanistan and was rewarded by the Americans, has been widely criticized by human rights activists, but the Norwegian prime minister has responded to Anas Haqqani's invitation in response. Haqqani appears to have entered Oslo undercover and under a different identity, and no one has previously had a picture of the dangerous man, which could be the cause of the incident. The Taliban has participated in Taliban delegation talks with US and European officials, including the real name of Qahar Balkhi, the Taliban's foreign ministry spokesman, Hassan Baath.

The Taliban are pushing for the release of \$ 10 billion of Afghanistan's money in Western countries, especially the United States. The international community, however, does not trust them. At the same time in Norway, Afghan citizens protested against the Taliban presence in the country. They see the group's presence and the Europeans' softness towards them as a kind of recognition of the Taliban. Criticizing Oslo's call for a summit, some opposition groups, including the right-wing Norwegian opposition Progressive Party, have said that any cooperation with the Taliban will only strengthen the group's position.

The Taliban are driving 55 per cent of Afghanistan's population into poverty and hunger, but have virtually no economic plan to improve the situation and are only waiting for humanitarian aid. They have even banned foreign currency from entering the country to close the remaining gates.

"We have made clear demands and now we have to wait and see if the Taliban will live up to what they say," said Norwegian Foreign Minister, Anniken Huitfeldt, one of the key principles underpinning Norway's peace and reconciliation efforts is the willingness to talk to all parties. "Face to face, in a safe place, the Taliban received a clear message that 'legitimacy must come from the Afghans themselves, and that requires reconciliation and a more inclusive form of government,'" Huitfeldt said.

In recent days, groups of Afghan refugees in various Western countries have held protest rallies against the meeting. It was stressed that just a few days of talks will not change the situation in Afghanistan. Reconciling between Afghans and creating a framework for The Norwegian foreign minister told women activists at the Oslo meeting that the women were "facing the Taliban for the first time since the Taliban came to power. They share their views on their rights that "Women and girls have the right to talk about the future of their country."

"But the talks will be effective in a wave ... The Taliban are being reminded that inclusiveness is essential to building a stable Afghanistan," he added.

On Sunday, a meeting was held between the Taliban delegation and several Afghans with backgrounds. But the women were from the Pashtun ethnicity inclined to the Taliban. They could not represent the women of Afghanistan to protect the human rights and address humanitarian issues.

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We are proud of the brave and militant women of Afghanistan who stand face to face with the cruel oppressors of the Taliban regime and fight for their human rights.

**I am sharing the text (English translation version) of Mrs Huda Khammash, the representative of the Afghan protesters at the Oslo meeting, using the Hasht-e Sobh paper.**

**A woman who has come alive from the shadow of whips and bullets speaks.**

“In the name of God, freedom and equality

I'm silent. A woman among the millions of Afghan women who do not represent any other political group or faction, with first-hand experience of living five months and eight days under direct Taliban rule, I have come unintentionally at the invitation of the Norwegian government to send a message to women protesters in the streets to deliver the anti-repression and terror that the world is to blame for. A woman who has come here alive from the shadow of whips and bullets.

What I am saying here is the words of millions of citizens who are stuck during disaster and destruction. Millions of women are currently being subjected to gender apartheid by the Taliban. Women are systematically eliminated, denied, insulted, and humiliated daily.

By capturing Kabul, the Taliban have created a uniform factional regime by assassination, coercion, marginalization and mass elimination of thousands of Afghan population around the country. Over the past five months, the Taliban

have denied the basic rights of citizens, housed women, deprived them of education, suppressed, killed and tortured their opponents and former soldiers, perpetuated systematic discrimination against non-ruling ethnic groups and nationalities, and the inquisition has created ideas and behaviours in the name of **enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil**.

I now turn my attention to a few small but specific cases from the long list of assassinations and crimes that have taken place over the last five months.

Photographer Murtaza Samadi was arrested and tortured by the Taliban on September 7, 2021, during a civil protest in Herat.

1. Alieh Azizi, the former head of the Herat Women's Prison, has been missing for more than five months.
2. Taghi Daryabi and Nematullah Naqdi, reporters for the daily Al-Itteha Rooz, were arrested and severely tortured by the Taliban while covering the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 protests in Kabul.
3. Dozens of young people demonstrated in Balkh on September the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to demand their rights and freedoms. The Taliban arrested 70 protesters, including 40 girls, and transferred them to an unknown location. They were tortured and raped. One week later, the bodies of eight detainees were found on the streets of the city. Several detained women were assassinated after their release from prison. But the fate of the nine detained girls is unknown and they are still missing.
4. Last Wednesday, five of my friends each wished Zaryab Paryani, along with his three sisters Zarmina, Shafiqa and Karima, and another civil activist, Parvaneh Ibrahim Khel, who were protesting Taliban policies, in the dark of night, after breaking down the gate of their house. They took an unknown person whose fate is unknown.

I feel their pain from miles away with my bones and hear their cries under Taliban torture. The question is, why are the Taliban imprisoning us in Kabul and sitting at the negotiating table with us in Oslo? What is the international community doing in the face of all this torture and repression? This repression and assassination take place in front of your eyes. By remaining silent or tolerating the Taliban, you are responsible for part of the crimes and repression committed against Afghan men and women. I'm going back to Afghanistan, but I do not know what awaits us. I ask the Norwegian Foreign Minister how the international law and invited people to your country who were blacklisted. Isn't this in the sense of indirect recognition?

On behalf of the women protesters, I propose four things to return to normalcy and restore civil order in Afghanistan:

1- Mr Amir Khan Mottaqi! He should pick up his phone now, call Kabul and order Temana Zaryab Pariani and her three sisters (Zarminah, Shafiqa and Karima) to immediately release Parvaneh Ebrahimkhel and Alieh Azizi and open the gates of the schools unconditionally.

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, every human being has the right to take part in peaceful assembly, while observing violation of human rights and people's fundamental freedoms. We, the protesting women, only demanded our rights with the slogan "bread, work and freedom"; But the Taliban arrested, tortured, humiliated and insulted us because of this.

2. Afghan women want equal rights. Until a new constitution is created, the second chapter of the previous constitution must be restored and observed to restore and recognize the fundamental rights of citizens. The Taliban and no other group have the authority to restrict our fundamental rights. Any kind of redefinition of rights and freedoms must be done through great national dialogue and collective agreement.

3. A competent and independent council shall be established by the United Nations consisting of the families of the victims, victims' representatives, and independent international human rights bodies to monitor and investigate the conduct and policies of the Taliban. The council will review Taliban prisoners and release prisoners of conscience, politics and gender immediately. Next, the council will address all the war crimes committed in the last twenty years.

To restore political order and stability, Afghanistan needs a legitimate system based on the consent of all citizens. We need the re-agreement of all political factions and different segments of the people on a roadmap for a political and democratic solution to the Afghan problem. Traditional solutions, such as holding a Loya Jirga, cannot replace democratic ways of establishing political legitimacy.

The new chapter of our struggle for Afghanistan, which respects the rights and equality of all citizens, especially women, began five months and eight days ago, and we have a long way to go. The international community should not close its eyes to us. In the hope of freedom and equality.

To be continued .....