



Fateh Sami

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Part- 5

By Daoud Malikyar (DM).

Translated into English by Fateh Sami

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How were Daoud, the former President of Afghanistan and his family killed?

A witness from inside the presidential Palace (Arg /citadel) reveals significant mysteries.

It's noteworthy to highlight the incident by listening to Daoud Ghazi's further recounting."

Daoud Ghazi said several times during the conversation that he was by Baba Daoud's side that night, but when he was asked about the moment Daoud Khan was killed, both in my answer and in the interview with Bahar TV, he said that when, the coup plotters came he was killed. I was in the other room, while in his conversation with me, he said: "Yes, I was in the same room with others."

Maybe Daoud Ghazi's talk is true, or maybe he does not want to repeat the sight he told Ghausuddin Faiq in prison, and maybe he does not want to break this family taboo due to the advice and request of family members. In any case, his position is understandable.

It is also noteworthy to remember that Dr Hassan Sharq, Daoud Khan's deputy, confidant, and right-hand man, in the book "Zhanda Poshan-e-Berhane Pa" or

“Ragged Bare Feet” and in his recorded conversation with me, the writer in 1998, made the following remark:

"Daoud Khan gave me his pistol at midnight on the 26th of Saratan 1352 (17th July 1973) who was still not sure of the success of the coup, and said that if the coup fails, kill me with this pistol so that I will not be captured alive by the government and Sardar Abdul Wali, my cousin. "

Therefore, by understanding this mindset and Daoud Khan’s decision on the night of the 26th of Saratan coup, that his enemy was not the communists, but Sardar Abdul Wali (his cousin), Daoud was not willing to surrender to the cruel communists in any way. He was not prepared to be captured by the cruel communists. He could not take this chance to be wounded by the enemy's fire and be executed after the hospital, with a fate full of suffering and humiliation.

Based on the above reasons and what Daoud Ghazi pointed out and considering the statement of Daoud Ghazi, the grandson of Daoud Khan, which was quoted in the book of Ghausuddin Faiq, and in addition, according to the news published in Iran's intelligence newspaper, Daoud Khan committed suicide. It is more likely and believable in the last hours; he ended his life with the fire of his pistol.

Fazel Rahman Tajyar the deputy of Republican Guard: Shedding Light on President Daoud's Demise - An Insightful Perspective Confirming Suicide

Here we encounter another reliable witness who recounts the events of that fateful day both outside the Delkusha Palace and within the ranks of the Republic Guard. Colonel Fazulrahman, currently residing in California, who at that time was a captain and the commander of the Guard's operations, as well as the deputy commander of the Republican Guard, expressed his views during several phone conversations with me (the writer) between 2000 and 2003:

"We were prepared the night before the coup. The next morning, at eight o'clock, there was sporadic gunfire, later revealed to be from a Parchami (a faction of PDPA) named Aziz Hassas, the commander of the ceremonial section. Perhaps this gunfire signalled to their party members, the author speculated.

There were two battalions in the guard, totalling 1000 soldiers. The guard's arsenal included armoured vehicles, rocket launchers, and machine guns. Initially, a protective company arrived from Balaesar military fort. Unsure if they were

friend or foe, we detained the entire group. The unit's commander was named Lahl Mohammad.

I encountered Daoud Khan closely three times throughout the night, briefing him each time. Around evening, Sahib Jan, the guard commander, instructed me to bring some weapons inside. I tasked Fazil Ahmad, commander of the guard administration block responsible for weapon storage, to bring a few Kalashnikovs automatic rifles inside. He complied, delivering three or four weapons into the greenhouse palace.

Early in the night, Daoud Khan informed everyone that he had ordered Kandahar to send planes and the 8th Military Division to dispatch tanks. However, after midnight, he revealed that the planes lacked fuel and the tanks had no batteries. On the morning of the first day, Abdul Aq Ulumi, the guard detection commander, pledged to defend Daoud Khan to the last drop of blood but later joined the coup plotters. Aqa Mohammad Khalqi (a member of the PDPA Khaliq faction was called Khalqi)) an officer in the Guard, worked against us, crippling communication. Loyalty to Daoud Khan appeared diminished across the board. Our final visit to Daoud Khan occurred an hour before dawn. He instructed Sahib Jan, the guard commander, "I have made my decision. I do not want you young men to die. Surrender." Tearfully, I protested, vowing to fight to the end. Sahib Jan insisted, "This is the leader's order. It must be obeyed."

An hour later, as the call to prayer echoed from the Pulikheshti mosque, we gathered, still numbering several hundred soldiers. Jack Torn (captain) Aqa Mohammad Kandhari, commander of communications, raised the white flag under Lahl's guidance, formerly commander of the protection unit under our control. He took charge, leading guard officers with hands raised toward the dry fountains in front of the Ministry of Finance.

We remained there until noon when coup plotters from Pulicharkhi assumed control, relocating us to Ariana Cinema. They separated Sahib Jan from the group and escorted him away. At that point, Abdulhaq Ulumi, Aziz Hassas, and Rahim Shadan parted ways with us, joining the communists.

One of the coup plotters, Noorullah, insulted and accused me of being a murderer of (Omar Shahid). Omar in Doud Khan's coup was, one of the Parchami officers, had his armoured car destroyed by the Republic Guard's rocket launcher during the initial hours of the citadel attack, the author noted.

On the evening of the 28th of April 1978, the Millie (national) buses arrived and transported everyone to Quwai 4 Zeredar (Four Armoured Forces Unit -FAF) in Plutarchy. In that tank military unit FAF, the new guard commander, Tawfiq Azizi, arrived. He accused me of murder, slapped me several times, and denied me even the basic human necessity of using the restroom. From that day forward, my life spiralled into a relentless cycle of imprisonment, misery, and suffering.

Conclusion:

During the bloody coup of 7 Saur coup (27-28 April 1978), numerous family members of the president made the ill-fated decision to gather and remain confined within the walls of Gul Khan Palace. Tragically, they fell victim to the merciless onslaught of the coup plotters, both from outside and within, resulting in senseless loss of innocent lives.

The Republican Guard, stationed within the citadel with 1,000 soldiers, found themselves overwhelmed and scattered by the attack of approximately 300 assailants and Parchami coup plotters. Thus, the initial coup d'état was swiftly replaced by another, characterized by even greater audacity and cruelty. The nation plummeted into an abyss of crisis, claiming the lives of millions of innocent citizens.

As previously mentioned, this writer briefly touched upon this matter a few years ago, only to be met with curses and outrage from some of our compatriots. They vehemently insisted that this narrative remain suppressed, and the false rumour implicating Imammudin (Khalqi officer) in the killings persist, lest the culpability of the PDPA (Khaliq & Parcham) be questioned.

These compatriots prioritize personal agendas and expediency over truth, disregarding honest, credible eyewitness accounts. However, the pursuit and revelation of truth should transcend individual interests, transcending even allegiance to a ruler. Let us not forget the irreversible damage inflicted upon Afghanistan by Daoud Khan and his cohorts, both revolutionary and nonrevolutionary, prior to the emergence of the Parchami group. Even his eldest son, Osman, foresaw the inevitable outcome of the 26 Saratan coup and warned him repeatedly.

On another note, well-informed compatriots recall Daoud Khan's ruthless act of ordering tank fire upon Sardar Walil's house on the night of 26 Saratan, aiming to eliminate the final obstacle. Despite the risk to Sardar Abdul Walil's wife and young daughter, he callously commanded the tank positioned near Wali's

residence to open fire, resulting in a shell striking his bedroom and compelling his surrender.

Unfortunately, the turmoil did not cease with mere flames; once again, our oppressed populace bore witness to the downfall of a regime that had seized power through the might of guns and tanks, only to be toppled by the roar of tanks and planes, accompanied by the shedding of countless lives. The dire aftermath has scorched both the innocent and the guilty, engulfing the entire nation indiscriminately over the past forty-five years.

Recent dissenters opposing the dissemination of this document, uttered by eyewitnesses within and beyond the citadel, must understand that Khalqi and Parchami will never escape judgment. They shall forever be branded as criminals and murderers of millions of our innocent countrymen. Furthermore, disregarding and neglecting the testimony and words of the late Gulalai is an injustice and a disfavour to her role as an honest eyewitness, enduring suffering for so long.

Above all, Gulalai, having endured the loss of two young daughters, a youthful husband, and bearing seven bullets in her body, emerges as the most oppressed and suffering victim of the coup. She rightfully deserves to be acknowledged as a primary source of authenticity regarding the events of the coup night within the citadel. It is imperative that the "self-interested" do not dismiss her perpetual agony, and our fellow countrymen must continue to reckon with the plight of the numerous oppressed innocents from her family, who became casualties in the power struggles and political gambles.

May the souls of all martyrs find solace, and may their memory be honoured.

If speaker voices the truth, no matter whether accepted or not.

And in a realm where righteousness prevails, no matter whether it be Jabalqa or Jabalsa, (here or there).

(Sanaei Gaznavi)

Daoud Malikyar's Short biography.

With a BSc in Agri-economics and extension from Kabul University, he has pursued diverse short-term courses, including Agri-statistics in Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Afghanistan. Also bookkeeping, Persian-English interpretation, public communications, and marketing in California, USA. His research spans social and historical inquiries:

- Authored a report after 32 years on the unveiling of the secret burial of former Prime Minister Hashem Maiwand Wal, who was assassinated in jail for allegedly attempting to stage a coup against President Daoud's regime.
- Produced multimedia programs exposing interrogations, torture, and executions under President Daoud's regime.
- Authored "Jafa-e-Buzurg" ("The Great Injustice") in 2020, investigating an alleged coup d'état.
- Documented events within the Republic's citadel during the 27 and 28 April 1978, highlighting the demise of Daoud Khan and his family.
- Explored the circumstances surrounding the death of Afghanistan, Ahmad Zahir artist, musician, and singer, in 2023.