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Preface

Face to face meeting between the representatives of Taliban and the Afghan government in Islamabad that took place in the last month, increased the hopes for succeeding the peace talks; however, the second round of this process suspended due to the announcement of Mullah Mohammad Omar's death. Taliban, since past several years, have considered the Qatar Office as the only address for the peace talks, and the Qatar Office heading by Tayyib Agha has a lot of achievements in the political ground for the Taliban; but, Tayyib Agha resigned after the announcement of Mullah Mohammad Omar's death. For now, the question is that what would be the fate of peace talks after the leadership of Taliban changed.

You are going to read about day to day increasing criminal cases on the country's level in the second part of this weekly analysis. Tens of criminal cases occur only in large cities of the country every day and considering the present researches, this number is rising; however, fruitful steps toward preventing these incidents are yet to be taken in past several years. In the past Wednesday, the Kabul police chief said that 205 individuals related to 117 cases are arrested in Kabul in last two weeks only. These incidents took place in the areas that are under control of the security forces, and the incidents took place in remote areas and the cases that the police cannot register them, are more than that.

These are the issues which will be discussed in details in this issue of weekly analysis.

Peace Process: In verge of Suspension or Procrastination?



After the death of Mullah Mohammad Omar, leader of the Taliban, concerns over future of the peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban increased. The question is that can we be optimistic for the future of these negotiations in the post-Mullah Omar death or not?

Previously the preliminary negotiations in China's Urumqi and then in Pakistan's Murree had brought optimism that these meetings would unweave the problem of Afghanistan and would become a window towards peace, however, news of Mullah Mohammad Omar's death, which came after two years, delayed the second round of negotiations that were going to be held in Islamabad to uncertain time, in the case, officials from the Afghan government had announced that the issue of "ceasefire" would be at the top of agenda in the next round's negotiations.

Taliban's new leadership and Peace Process

Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, who is called as the new leader of the Taliban, was appointed as a second person of the Taliban movement in 2010 after Mullah Biradar's arrest. On the other word, from the last five years, he, in practice, was paymaster of entire affairs of the Taliban from military operations to political activities.

If we compare the last five years with the past when Mullah Biradar was responsible for executive affairs of Taliban, we realize that the vision of the Taliban toward peace and negotiations and at all toward the world has changed in these 5 years. Before that, every kind of tendency to peace was considered as infidelity in the ranks of Taliban and if someone from the ranks of the Taliban was talking about necessity of understating and peace with America or the government of Afghanistan, he was putting himself in a big danger.

This kind of view had caused war in Afghanistan, from the perspective of the Taliban, to be not only a war for the independence of Afghanistan but, also, for getting revenge from the United States for what they have done in the Islamic world. On the other hand, this view of Taliban had made the International Community to consider the Taliban as an ally of Al Qaeda which is an extremist group that follows the agenda of international jihad (armed conflict).

War on Afghanistan, up to that era, could be considered as (war against the unknown). It means that unlike the entire wars in history, America war against the Taliban, where one side (the Taliban) was completely absent and didn't have the address in order to be contacted, however, their presence was felt in the battle-grounds only, and they were not accessible and visible in other places, either.

After Mullah Biradar's arrest and Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour's appointment as his successor; for the first time, the topic of negotiations with foreigners was included on the agenda of Taliban's leadership. Perhaps, the change in the Taliban's perspective might have occurred due to the declaration of withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, and this could be a subterfuge for Mullah Mansour to discuss necessity of negotiations with foreigners.

Negotiations between Tayyib Agha and American officials eventually resulted inaugurating an address for the Taliban in Qatar. The reason after these negotiations did not face serious opposition is, all of them thought that this work was done as a result of Mullah Mohammad Omar's orders; otherwise, from the very beginning, the senior commanders of Taliban were against it and they believed that negotiations for peace would weaken morale of the warriors.

Peace in Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour's speech

Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, in his speech in a meeting held for taking allegiance to him, dismissed talks about peace as 'enemies' propaganda', and this word of his was considered as his repugnance toward the peace process, but, the atmosphere this speech was given in should be taken care, also.

A crowd of the Taliban that is practically present in the battle field participated in that gathering, so Mansour couldn't discuss peace and support for peace process in their presence, however, his hints on that every decision in the movement would be made in accordance to Sharia (Islamic Law) and his allusion to the political commission (TPC) inside the administrative mechanism of the Taliban could be considered as a kind of upholding means other than fighting in order to achieve their goal.

Resignation of Tayyib Agha and Position of Qatar's Office

After the news on death of Mullah Mohammad Omar and allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour was broadcasted, some of the Taliban members became opposed to him. This opposition does not mean disregarding the peace process and negotiations because these defiant were personally participated in the peace negotiations in Urumqi and Islamabad; therefore, it can be said that the opposite side of Mansour is not against the peace process, either.

However, the important news regarding this issue is the resignation of Tayyib Agha from the presidency of the Taliban's political office (TPC) in Qatar. Tayyib Agha was one of the most reliable men of Mullah Mohammad Omar and we can say that his appointment on this post by Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour in 2010 was to assure Mullah Mohammad Omar that TPC will not do anything against the orders of Taliban's leader.

Tayyib Agha in his resignation expressed the reasons behind it. His first objection was that why the death of Mullah Mohammad Omar was kept secret from him?

Tayyib Agha as the president of TPC has plenty of contacts with different countries in the past several years; he, in those meetings, had assured them that Mullah Mohammad Omar is alive. Now, he surmises that he, following the news on the death of Mullah Mohammad Omar, which came out two years after he died, would not have the previous prestige as a representative of the Taliban in negotiations with foreigners.

Need to mention that the news of Tayyib Agha's resignation was even heard two years ago, however, it had been rejected later. It looks like he previously was feeling a kind of turbulence in the decrees received by him and the appointments made in the Qatar Office by the Taliban Leading Council (TLC).

But the important issue he mentioned in his letter of resignation is appointment of the new leader of Taliban inside Pakistan. He was always assuring the diplomats of other countries that the Taliban are not under the influence of Pakistan, but now, after this way of electing the leader, he could not justify that why the appointment of the new leader took place outside the country.

Tayyib Agha in his resignation said that every kind of appointment of leader outside the country had unpleasant consequences for Afghanistan. He mentions the appointments of Communist leaders abroad, Mujahedeen's government in Peshawar and eventually the appointment of the leaders of present government of Afghanistan in Bonn, and he concludes that the leaders elected/appointed outside of Afghanistan would never be successful leaders for Afghanistan.

He does not tell that he is against the new leadership, but, he opted the position of Mullah Mohammad Omar's family, meaning he wouldn't pledge his allegiance to no one, however, he would remain as individual beside the Taliban.

Following the resignation of Tayyib Agha, Shir Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, the deputy of the Qatar Office and the entire members of the Qatar Office declared their support to Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour and according to the reports, Shir Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai is appointed as president of TPC, also.

Future of the Peace Negotiations

The peace negotiations took place as a result of Pakistan's intercession; do not include the Qatar Office. Those, who on behalf of the Taliban, which had participated in these negotiations, are against the new leader of Taliban; therefore, negotiations on peace is not the friction point between the new leader and his opponents and it shows that Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour and his opponents have concurrence in that peace is a necessity.

However, the disagreement is on succession that may continue for a while. If the opponents of Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour could make at least some of the commanders in battle field to join them, in this case, the ramification in the Taliban ranks would become possible.

Opponents of Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour have not said anything about their alternative for Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour. It is commonly said that they insist on succession of Mullah Mohammad Omar's son. Considering that the Taliban is hardly a political group compared to a religious group; the issue of appointing the son as a successor of the father and that whether Emirate (leadership) is hereditary or not, could raise a religious discussion rather than a political argument among them.

Considering these disagreements, it can be expected that the peace process will be suspended to an uncertain time, therefore, participation in the peace process in circumstances of friction can weaken the position of the party participated in the negotiations especially among the armed Taliban.

The rise in Criminal Cases: Causes and Remedies



According to the definition given by governmental organs, apart from incidents cause by anti-government armed opposition, violence, murder, theft, human kidnapping, rape and other crimes, are criminal cases, and since last three years these cases has increased and is increasing day by day.

Quoting a governmental source, fifty criminal cases are being occurred on a daily bases in Kabul and according to the Kabul police chief, 205 individuals related to 117 criminal cases were arrested in Kabul in the last two weeks.

Considering the background of criminal cases in the past years, why these incidents are increasing day by day? What are their main factors? In this paper, we have discussed these topics.

Level of registered criminal cases

Since last seven years, the graph of criminal cases increases in the country. In 2008, totally 6786 criminal cases were registered and these numbers increased to 2010; however, the graph of criminal cases somewhat decreased from 2010 to 2011. But, criminal cases began to increase at that start of 2012 and the number of registered criminal cases reached to 15593. This number increased in 2013 and the total number of registered criminal cases reached to 27122 in that year.

According to the seasonal statistical indexes of the Central Bureau of Statistics, 15050 cases are registered in 2014; however, these statistics are related to the first three quarters of the year and the statistics for the last (fourth) quarter are not included because they are yet published in the reports. (See, Figure 1)

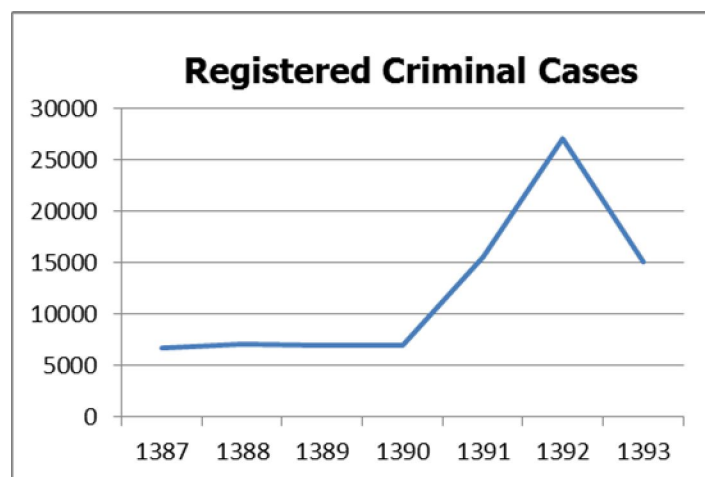
Considering the quarterly statistics of 2014, it appears that the total number (15050) of first three quarters is higher compare to the first three quarters of previous year (2013); the reason is that almost 14556 criminal cases were registered in first three quarters of 2013.

The statistics of criminal cases presented above, are registered cases only and unregistered cases are not included.

Figure 1: Statistics of crimes in different year

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Crimes	6786	7164	7010	6929	15593	27122	15050*

Source: Afghanistan's statistics annual report (2013) and seasonal statistical indexes (2013)



* Statistics for the last (fourth) quarter are not included.

Unregistered Criminal Cases

Considering corruption in judicial organs, not arresting criminals or releasing them, lack of governmental authority in remote areas and influence of Mafia on politicians in the country, the real numbers of criminal cases are high than above-mentioned statistics, then.

According to a survey, considering above-mentioned factors, a lot of victims of criminal cases do not report to the governmental security organs. A man who had faced an armed robbery said: “We did not report the police because they do not arrest criminals. Even if we believed that the criminals would be arrested, we were not going to let ourselves to be bothered by long procedures of judicial organs and corruption.”

The above example enlighten that lack of trust in the police, not arresting the powerful criminals, hidden political hands and Mafia behind the criminals, corruption in judicial organs and lack of governmental sovereignty in remote areas are the factors that cause criminal cases to stay unregistered.

Factors behind the rise in criminal cases

Criminal cases do not have specific factors, however, the factors of every criminal case are different from each other; anyway, we can name economic, social, judicial and political factors as factors for increase in criminal cases:

1. Corruption

Corruption is considered as an important factor for increase in the level of criminal cases. According to the annual report of Transparency International, 2014, Afghanistan is globally the 4th country with high corruption and according to the survey conducted by Afghanistan’s Integrity Watch in 2014, judicial organs and police are the most corrupt governmental organs in Afghanistan. As judicial organs and police are involved in corruption more than others, it spontaneously provides opportunities to criminals to release themselves in exchange for bribes and to conduct crimes with more surety and confidence; that is why a lot of arrested criminals have criminal background. However criminals believe that they are going to be released in exchange for bribes that much the amount of crimes increases in the country. On the other hand, unprofessionalism of the

security forces has caused them to become failed in preventing crimes, and in some cases to establish a cooperation/coordination with criminals.

2. Powerful men and Politicians

The other factor of increase in criminal cases is powerful men in Capital Kabul and several other areas in the country, in order to achieve their virulent goals, support criminal groups and defend them against the law. As some politicians cooperate with criminals and some Mafia groups, so arresting them by police seems to be impossible.

A lot of cases among the registered cases in the past years are as this; people were being kidnapped in the daylight from secure areas of large cities using blacked-glasses vehicles, however, neither the criminals are arrested and nor they are punished.

3. Cultural invasion

Considering the latest statistics of criminal cases, it shows that cases related to rape¹, gambling², murder³ and beating⁴ are on the rise. For example, robbery and gang-rape incident of Kabul's Paghman that took place in September, 2014 and other gang-rape incidents are worth mentioning. Uncensored media and cultural invasion of other countries in the last 14 years is considered as a main factor behind the mentioned unpleasant incidents. Unmoral TV serials and films, which are broadcasted by famous TV stations are sponsored by different donors that are against our religious values and culture, and meanwhile, their message is not positive, either. However, it causes moral disorder in our society, also.

Our religious values are continuously insulted by these channels; they try to promote moral corruption in the society instead. In the case, preventing corrupt programs from being broadcasted and broadcasting useful programs and programs that increase public awareness causes criminal cases to become decreased.

¹ Considering Afghanistan's statistics annual report (2013), rape crimes increased from 281 in 2011 to 996 in 2013, P. 94

² Considering Afghanistan's statistics annual report (2013), gambling crimes increased from 20 in 2011 to 291 in 2013, P. 94

³ Considering Afghanistan's statistics annual report (2013), murder crimes increased from 1231 in 2011 to 2941 in 2013, P. 94

⁴ Considering Afghanistan's statistics annual report (2013), the total number of beating crimes from 2011 to 2013 were 4819, P. 94

4. Illegal weapons and irresponsible armed individuals

Meanwhile, some security officials think that smuggling of illegal weapons from neighboring countries into Afghanistan, which are being sold with lower prices and are then used in criminal cases, is one of the main factors behind criminal cases.

Besides that, in most of the areas, regional powerful men and irresponsible armed individuals that usually has link with high-level governmental officials play a lot of role in committing these crimes. For example, some days ago, 22 people were killed as a result of armed conflict between two armed groups that were carrying weapons without any concern in Baghlan.

5. Poverty and Unemployment

Basically, unemployment is the main reason behind some crimes especially armed robbery. A lot of scientist conducted researches and generated theories that show a link between crimes and unemployment and/or fewer privileges. Whenever unemployment increases, earning money through legal means becomes limited, and instead of that, earning money through illegal means (crimes) increase.

For now, that rate of unemployment is increased in the country more than ever. This is the reason why a lot of people are involved in theft, kidnapping, robbery and other crimes. Besides that, family violence, in most situations, have link to economic problems.

Remedies and Recommendations

In order to decrease the rise of criminal records the following recommendations and remedies must be considered:

- Influential policies on preventing corruption should be made and applied in security and judicial organs; because both of the organs are corrupt more than any other organ in the country.
- Anti-criminal organs should be empowered and the salaries of their employees besides the training should be increased in order their level of engagement in corruption become decrease.

- Efforts for providing work opportunities should be made; in order the youth shouldn't become involved in unpleasant criminal cases due to unemployment and poverty.
- The government's judicial organs should punish the criminals accordingly, in order to discourage others for committing crimes.
- The Statistics of criminal cases in the country should be gathered and the factors of criminal cases should be bolded through statistics, surveys and researches and struggle on eliminating these factors should be done accordingly; because criminal cases pervasively affects the community negatively.

The End

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