Effects of war on Afghans

By Khatima Emami

The three decades of wars in Afghanistan have created an enormous humanitarian and human rights catastrophe. The fight between the Afghan government, insurgents, have been aggravating the situation day by day. On daily basis, Afghans are paying a huge price as there is bomb blasts, a street crime, for instance, these wars have caused millions of casualties both killing and making people disabled for life and stealing people's money in which leads to a very insecure situation. All these insecurities are causing a huge number of children to to lose their lives and become orphan.

As per the recent figures from Brown University's costs of war in Afghanistan resulted the estimation of 241,000 people to die through direct result of war meanwhile US invaded Afghanistan which caused to collaps the Taliban on 11-September-2001. simarly, hundreds of thousands more than that millions of civilians have died due to hunger, disease and injury which is caused by the devastating war and natural disasters.

Afghanistan is the second most deadliest country in the world to be a child.

Thus, the UN assiatance Mission (UNMA) has recorded bare minimum around 7,792 children killed as well as 18,662 injured. In this case many of the wounded children have lost limbs to improvished roadside bombs and air attacks.

"Women in Afghanistan have paid a heavy price too, with more than 3,000 deaths due to the war and 7,000 injuries since 2010. Last year has been the deadliest for women and children in the past decade, with 390 deaths recorded".

(Afghan refugee children in Kabul, Afghanistna, septermber 2, 2015.

(REUTERS/Ahmad Masood)Afghan refugee children in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sep

It is the utmost responsibility of any government to protect the lives and honors of its citizens from all threats and dangers. But unfortunately, it is very sorrowful that bomb explosions and violence have become a normal part of Afghan daily life.

As a result, most of the families have been losing their beloved ones. Common Afghans fear for their lives because the Government has successively failed to protect its people

As an active humanitarian representative I have observed that these challenging circumstances and on going war is effecting many families. Through my humanitarian work I met some of the affected families and which they shared their traumatic experience they faced due to the war. During my meetings with these unfortunate families, I have heard the most heartbreaking stories from them.

Some families even state that living in Afghanistan amid numerous threats and dangers is almost impossible and extremely frustrating. They have lost their hopes of living in their ancestral land. Just like these families. As an Afghan, I share and reflect the pains and sufferings of my compatriots inflicted upon them by an unjust war.

To explore my observation I have met another family who lost their family member by a suicide bomb blast which was also taken place in Kabul.

"One day my husband was going to his office on foot and he was about to reach at his office just out of sudden bomb explosion and got killed on the spot" she was depicting to me. In her family, there are two daughters and two sons who all are school-going students but for not having family income they are having a very abysmal situation.

Through these stories, we can say that even being in your own home you are not feeling secure.

In our country Afghanistan, many humanitarian organizations are continuously helping the affected people who have lost their families, relatives, and friends by war.

Regardless of saying that some of the families shared their views that we have been aided by humanitarian agencies for a time being but it is a matter of fact this thing will not bring our family back.

Because the real scenarios of Afghanistan are those families who are losing their beloved ones, they have been suffering from insecurity to survive in their lives. If one member is affected by war the rest of the family members would also be affected by seeing its family situation.

In the last three decades, given what Afghanistan went through the significant increase in security over this period is not unexpected. Given the security conditions in Afghanistan, people are still living in their beloved motherland with a ray of hope and they have been cherished a dream that one day Afghanistan would be the most secure place to live in where peace and tranquility will be the finest form but I hope all our people's dream come true.

These are the people we owe in Afghanistan

I think President Joe Biden's decision to fully withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan is a mistake. It's mistaken on strategic and moral grounds. I hope I'm wrong. But when even administration officials, and experts who favor the decision, concede that our pullout — of a very small contingent of troops — could result in a Taliban takeover it seems a safe bet that it will happen.

But that decision has been made and there's no point arguing about it anymore. But there's still one thing the United States can do — and morally must do: Get the people who signed up to work and fight, with us out of there.

Over the last 20 years thousands of Afghans worked with U.S. and NATO forces as interpreters, cultural advisers, etc. They chose to do so knowing that they put their lives and the lives of their families at risk.

The Taliban knows who most of them are, and will find out about the rest soon enough. Scores have been assassinated over the years. The Taliban has lists of people it plans to kill. Interpreters are at the top of the list, but so are countless others who worked with Western organizations and governments to stand up a (sadly corrupt) democratic government, as well as schools and other civil society projects.

Even if you're not compelled by the moral argument, telegraphing to the world that it's not worth working with Americans is a strategic blunder of monumental proportions. And an utterly foreseeable one.

America told these interpreters that we'd get their back. We created a Special Immigrant Visa program in 2008 to expedite asylum for these people, many of whom have saved American lives on the battlefield. And the program has been an unmitigated bureaucratic catastrophe.

In 2009 there were 1,500 slots created for asylum-seekers.

Three were granted. Today there are 18,000 people waiting for an SIV, not including families. The vetting process is supposed to take nine months. It always took longer. But under the Trump administration the average wait time was three years.

There are understandable reasons for the backlog. Vetting translators is difficult. The Taliban has in the past embedded sleepers in such positions so as to attack Americans or provide intelligence. No one wants to import a terrorist to America. It's also a complicated and expensive task to resettle whole families and our resettlement agencies have been taxed for a very long time.

But even people who have literally killed Taliban on the battlefield have been denied visas or been stuck in limbo. American officers who have served side-by-side with these allies have offered to take them into their homes. If they're willing to vouch for them, that's good enough for me.

More importantly, there's no one of any importance out there arguing that we shouldn't prevent the slaughter. Republicans and Democrats alike agree that we need to do this.

The British understand this, which is why they've just announced an all-out effort to rescue as many of their interpreters as possible before the images of allied Afghans clinging to helicopters get beamed to the world.

There's a bipartisan effort to do something similar here, but it's been slow to start and time is running out.

The White House told CBS News that there is an "intensive policy process to improve and surge resources, including adding capacity to process applications at Embassy Kabul, while continuing to ensure the integrity of the program and safeguard national security."

That sounds great and I hope this "process" produces something more concrete than more than years of bipartisan failure.

But the fact that the White House seems to have been surprised that this might be a problem doesn't inspire confidence. In neither the administration's briefing of Biden's decision to withdraw nor in his address to the nation, did Biden mention that we would help those seeking asylum. This is probably because to acknowledge that this might be necessary in the first place is to acknowledge that our withdrawal could be very bad for Afghanistan.

But it could also be because the administration didn't think this through as it sought to check a political box for domestic consumption.

Regardless, the decision to admit defeat in Afghanistan is a done deal. Hopefully it's the right decision. But betraying these people would be the wrong decision, and a stain on our national honor, no matter how it works out for us or Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

China urges closer Afghanistan ties as US withdrawal looms

BEIJING:China is urging closer security and economic cooperation with Afghanistan in an apparent effort to bolster its influence in the region as the U.S. and its allies prepare to withdraw their forces from the country.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that foreign ministers from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan met via video conference on Thursday and agreed that the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan should be carried out in a responsible and orderly manner to prevent the deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan and the return of "terrorist forces."

It quoted Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi as saying the three countries "needed to to strengthen communication and cooperation" for the sake of Afghanistan's interests and those of neighboring countries.

"The security and stability of Afghanistan and the region are facing new challenges, with foreign troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan accelerated, the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan impacted, and armed conflicts and terrorist activities becoming more frequent," Wang was quoted as saying. China has long resented the presence of U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, but is equally wary of the country becoming a haven for insurgents that could threaten security in its Xinjiang region that shares a narrow border with Afghanistan. Xinhua said Wang, Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanef Atmar and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi "stressed the need to ... forbid any terrorist organizations or individuals from using their territories to engage in criminal activities against other countries." China has sought to invest in Afghan resources, particularly copper, but constant fighting between the government, the Taliban and other groups has largely held back such projects. China has also sought to boost already close ties with Pakistan through its Belt and Road initiative, but the country's economic weakness and security problems have blunted the success of that drive. The United States is preparing to wrap up its longest war by withdrawing the last of its 2,500-3,500 troops along with 7,000 allied NATO forces by Sept. 11 at the latest, generating fears of increased chaos in a country already deeply insecure.

Monitoring Desk

Women in Afghanistan: Do not forget us

With the start of the Doha talks last year between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban aimed at ending 19 years of bloodshed, there were great expectations among Afghan women. Yet there were only four female representatives among the 21-member team at the Qatar talks and the role of women in the peace process has proved insignificant.

While peace talks are ongoing, targeted killings are still carried out in Afghan cities and deadly fighting continues in the countryside. Afghanistan has become the country of widows – a legacy of war.

Rahmat Gula is a housewife who lives in the southern province of Kandahar, birthplace of Taliban. 'My husband was killed in the war. I don't have money to educate my children. I spent my whole life in poverty. There has been no change in my life in these 20 years,' she says.

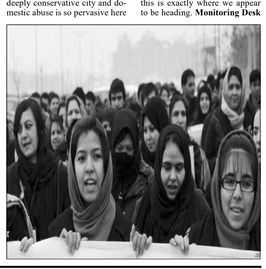
The history of Afghan women in modern times has been one of hope and hopelessness. In the early 20th century King Amanullah's rapid reforms to free Afghan women from the shackles of conservatism met with a backlash that forced him into exile. Then in 1979, the Soviet invasion was accompanied by a cry for women's empowerment, promising a new dawn of equality. After a decade-long opposition, the Islamic Mujahideen forces eventually drove the Soviets away, and Afghanistan returned to strict conservatism.

Under the Taliban, girls were banned from going to school, and women could not leave their homes unless accompanied by a male family member. Women who dared to speak out in public could expect a lashing or a bullet in the back of the head in the football stadium.

Bearing these stories in mind, young women today fear the return of darker times. The captain of the women's national football team, 21-year-old Nilab Ahmadi, was 16 when she started playing soccer. For the past five years, her team has held its matches in the Ghazi Stadium, once the site of Taliban executions.

'Afghan women want peace. We are tired of war. The Taliban are our brothers. If their thinking has changed, we will accept them. But if their ideology is the same, I am not willing to sacrifice my rights,' said Nilab.

This sentiment transcends generations. Based in Herat, the Afghanistan girls' robotics team are survivors in a male-dominated place. During the Covid pandemic the team developed a prototype ventilator, and their leader was chosen as one of the BBC's 100 most inspiring and influential women of the year. But Herat is a deeply conservative city and domestic abuse is so pervasive here that its main hospital has a ward for female survivors of self-immolation. I remember the youngest member of this robotics team, a bright 16-year-old, telling me that she had big goals to achieve and did not want to witness the return of Taliban's rule.

Early this year, three female employees of the local TV channel were shot dead in eastern Nangarhar province on their way home from work. 'Why should women pay the price for peace and war? We women are also humans and have the right to live as humans,' said Rahima, a student in eastern Nangarhar.

As the impending withdrawal of American and Nato-led troops nears, the cry for the rights, protection and freedoms of Afghan women is louder and clearer than ever. Afghan women hope that the world will not abandon and forget them again. Unbelievable, it seems, this is exactly where we appear to be heading. **Monitoring Desk**