

How bad politicians abusing Asylum/ Refugee system

On World Refugee Day - Syed Naeem Uddin

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June 20th marked as the World Refugee Day. Pakistan is the world's largest host of refugees. By the end of 2013, Pakistan continued to host the largest number of refugees in the world (1.6 million), nearly all from Afghanistan, according to a report released by United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). In the wake of the Armed Forces Operation 'Zarb-e-Azb,' internally displaced persons (IDPs) could reach to 600,000 as quoted by the Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Abdul Qadri Baloch. Conversely, minorities and commoners in Pakistan are looking for the safe refuge in the countries where they could feel protected and raise, save their families from death and infamous blasphemy law.

The ramification of 9/11 and compressed global economy has resulted in tightening of Asylum laws leaving hundreds and thousands of people to watch and wait helplessly either for a bullet or miracle. Two recent events unfolded in Pakistan made people wary of the situation of how fake Asylum seekers brazenly orchestrating violence, extortion and damaging the economy of this penurious country. People are surprised that after the reality as clear as crystal that Altaf Hussain and Tahirul Qadri are well protected in Pakistan by their armed gangs, being part of the government for more than a decade (Altaf Hussain), why their citizenships obtained through fake Asylum are not revoked? Both individuals using foreign lands for collecting extortion money in Pakistan, no employment history, their strike calls stripped this poor country of almost \$600 million a day combined with multiple dead bodies. People of Pakistan expect from both Canada and the UK not to let their countries be used for the people who spark violence, murders and strikes in their home countries. How come they are protected when one of their calls can turn the big cities into the ghost towns?

Tahir Qadri, in his brief hijacking stunt, refused to trust the representatives of the elected government and choose to end the drama with the other party's governor, as both parties leadership have faked asylum, now joined by situation. How could they be faithful to the new countries if they are not faithful to their homelands?

The unfortunate fact is that the minorities in Pakistan are begging for the protection in different countries including Europe, Australia, America and Canada. Hazara, Ahmadiya, Shiite and Hindu minorities living in Pakistan are faced with mass murders, arson and forced conversions. In Pakistan, 66 per cent people see religious extremism as a serious threat to their country, says a new survey released by a US think-tank.

According to The South Asia Terrorism Portal, Sectarian Violence in Pakistan has claimed 656 lives in 2013 and 2014; as this year has yet to be finished. 82 percent people think the government is a failure to curb sectarian violence.

A large number of Pakistanis including Journalists, Women, Children and Minorities living a life full of fear and abuse; And have no place to go, but to wait for the death. The dangers they face are not hidden under the rug, but as clear as a sunny day. The whole world know that Taliban, Religious Affiliations (Minorities), Honour Killings, Freedom of Expression, scarcity of basic

needs, extreme Poverty and Draconian Laws like Blasphemy and the recent passed Protection of Pakistan Ordinance (PPO), which allows a law-enforcement agency official or police officer of grade-15 or above to order to shoot a person on suspicion are strong enough for people to look for the safe refuge around the world.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has long been voicing concern over the Extra Judicial Killings, Police Encounters and Missing Persons in Pakistan. Now PPO has all what rampant Police need in Pakistan. People will have to choose between Bribe and Bullet.

Recently arrested 142 Pakistanis-Minorities in Sri Lanka is a shameful reminder for Pakistan that a war torn and economically stressed country is far better than Pakistan. Human Right Watch –HRW has asked Sri Lanka to withheld the deportations temporarily.

Instead of PPO, the Parliament was supposed to be passing a bill to designate area for civilised protest like Hyde Park, stiffer penalties for disrupting public peace at the Highways, Airports and Public Places, creating riot police.

We appeal to the UNHCR and the civilised world to soften the policies towards refugees and asylum seekers; and hardened the policies against those who use foreign land to support and plan violence, anarchy and criminalities in the countries they seek refuge from. Two self-exiled leaders from Pakistan are the recent example to that and if a witness protection program had been in place in Pakistan, these leaders would have been penalised long ago.

Real refugees play a vital role in diversity, economy and emerge as Civilian-Ambassadors. Giving a cold shoulder and closing the doors to the people in need, would result in more violence indeed. Another DAWN Survey also finds out enormous public support for Operation Zarb-e-Azb. 87.86% people support to this operation is a loud clamour that Pakistanis are peace loving citizens hijacked by some fanatics; Pakistanis all over the world contributing immensely in Economy, Politics, Charities and Communities and it's time for the civilised world to look at 88% peace loving Pakistanis and give them a chance if they really need protection and not politicians.