بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Division Was Never the Solution

News:

It seems the regime has decided to push ahead with a referendum on the creation of new provinces, setting aside the intense controversy over the matter. The minister for parliamentary affairs had earlier declared that a referendum on the issue “will happen”; the defence minister now says the process is likely to move forward early next year. (Dawn)

Comment:

The demand for the creation of new provinces in Pakistan has been raised from time to time, driven by various factors, including ethnic identities, unequal distribution of resources, and the socio-economic backwardness of certain regions. Previously, the demand for new provinces was largely perceived as a reaction from neglected regions against the injustices they faced. It served as a means of pressuring the government and drawing attention to the grievances of historically overlooked areas. However, the recent demand initiated by Mohsin Naqvi has been received differently by political parties, giving the debate a new political dimension. On 12th of November Mohsin Naqvi proposed holding a referendum to let the people decide whether Pakistan needs new provinces or a different administrative structure and In doing so, he brought public opinion into the debate, effectively turning the people into a pawn in a larger political contest.

The actual motive behind the move is greed and revolve around power consolidation, control over natural resources, political engineering, and bureaucratic expansion and this is the reason that it annoys the major political parties and has received open criticism from them. We have seen Sindh being destroyed under the blind power of Pakistan People's Party and the reason that we see Bilawal protesting so fiercely against these provinces and this proposed referendum is the possible loss of control that he under the shade of his father and allies have been practicing for years. PMLN leadership is quiet or giving mixed responses, knowing that the idea is supported by the Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. Politicians and the ones who rule over the provinces know it very well that dividing Pakistan into 12 or more smaller provinces could weaken their ability to challenge federal authority, undermining the devolution of power. Smaller and politically weaker provinces would be less able to resist federal control and foreign interests, making it easier for them to access and manage local resources with little opposition from strong regional governments. The motives behind involving the public appear far from genuine; rather, they seem aimed at pressuring political opponents, reducing the people’s role to one of being used and discarded when no longer needed.

The people of Pakistan have failed to reap the benefits of having four provinces and are unlikely to fare any better with fifteen unless the deeply rooted corrupt system is dismantled and replaced by the Khilafah, which offers historical examples of successfully governing vast territories.

The real issue, therefore, is not the number of provinces but the corrupt system that has repeatedly failed to serve the people. No amount of administrative restructuring can lead to prosperity while power and resources remain in the hands of a self-serving elite. For centuries Muslims administered vast territories and diverse populations. We demonstrated the capacity of an islamic governance model in maintaining political unity, ensuring effective administration and safeguarding public welfare. The Khilafah, therefore, offers a historically established model of governance. Rather than endlessly dividing the land to accommodate the failures of the current system, Pakistan, along with the rest of the Muslim Ummah, needs a system rooted in shariah.

Muslims must look to resolve all their affairs according to the orders of Allah (swt). Allah (swt) says: ﴿وَمَا ٱخۡتَلَفۡتُمۡ فِيهِ مِن شَيۡءٖ فَحُكۡمُهُۥٓ إِلَى ٱللَّهِۚ ذَٰلِكُمُ ٱللَّهُ رَبِّي عَلَيۡهِ تَوَكَّلۡتُ وَإِلَيۡهِ أُنِيبُ﴾ ***“And in anything over which you disagree – its ruling [hukum] is [to be referred] to Allah. [Say], 'That is Allah, my Lord; upon Him I have relied, and to Him I turn back.'”***

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

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