



Issue 36 - Jamada I 1441 AH / January 2020 CE

The Rohingya Muslims enter the New Year with fear

Are African Countries Ideological Countries?

Secular Governments Turns Natural Disasters into Crisis

Islamic Revival Will be Delivered by the Khilafah Alone

Empty Promises to the Afghan Women

**Q&A:
Popular Movements in Iraq, Lebanon and Iran**



The Islamic Position on the BBI Report

The Islamic Position on the BBI Report



On Wednesday, 27 November 2019 Kenyans witnessed the official launch of the BBI report by President Uhuru Kenyatta at Bomas of Kenya in Nairobi. The event was a culmination of the 9 March 2018 handshake between President Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga at Harambee House. Before the handshake, Kenya was embroiled in acrimonious electoral mayhems pitting the opposition coalition National Super Alliance (NASA) led by Raila Odinga and Jubilee Party led by Uhuru Kenyatta. Despite the fact that the presidential elections that were held on 8 August 2017 were invalidated and ordered afresh by the Supreme Court of Kenya on 1 September 2017. NASA refused to participate and boycotted the repeat elections that were held on 17 October 2017 in which Jubilee Party participated and declared the winner. NASA's main reason for boycotting the election was that the problems cited as the reasons for the presidential election invalidation were yet to be solved and they included electoral malpractices that required the overhaul of the IEBC and withdrawal of electoral amendment bills introduced by the ruling Jubilee administration.

What followed after the repeat presidential elections on Tuesday, 17 October 2017 was weekly chaos and insecurity that was further escalated by swearing of Raila Odinga as the peoples' president on 30 January 2018, the country was almost ungovernable and tensions were high especially in the capital Nairobi while investors fearing for their lives and investments! Therefore, like what happened in the 2007/8 the protagonists met at Harambee House and shook hands and from that

moment tensions disappeared, Raila loyalists were appointed to government parastatals amongst other positions! Furthermore, in May 2018, a BBI taskforce was gazetted and official tasked with soliciting opinions on the best way forward on how to address challenges facing Kenyans and present its report to President Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga. In addition, peace and security returned while investors and their investments felt secured under the new political development to an extent we witnessed a rare visit by the former British Prime Minister, Theresa May on Thursday, 30 August 2018 in 30 years since her predecessor Margaret Thatcher visited Kenya. Once again the visiting former Prime Minister, congratulated Raila and Uhuru for putting the nation first and guaranteeing its security.

Currently the country is facing another round of acrimony with others wanting the BBI report to be taken to parliament for further polishing and implemented. On the other hand, we have others who want to have a referendum to have the report approved and implemented. It is at this junction that Muslims are finding themselves at crossroads either to adopt the report and take the parliamentary or referendum route irrespective of whether they have read the report or not.

After thorough scrutiny of the above series of events it is beyond doubt that the BBI report is a man-made document whose origin is the limited mind and NOT revelation. In addition, it is a document that is skewed to hoodwink and pacify the masses into slumber especially during at this moment when Kenyans are languishing in

Cont... page 3

deplorable living conditions! Kenya is a colonial secular state whose creed (aqeedah) is secularism (separating religion from life and state) and its capitalist ideology emanates from its priority on freedom of ownership (economy) hence measures human actions based on interests and benefits. Furthermore, Kenya to-date is a colonial farm whose leaders (farm managers) have sold their souls to their Western colonial masters and hence their priority is to be sub-servient to them and so policies and laws that they formulate are only for purposes of entrenching themselves and their interests at the expense of the ordinary citizens!

As Muslims we are slaves of Allah (swt) and our success lies in pleasing Allah (swt) only through submitting ourselves to His (swt) commandments and prohibitions based on the measuring criterion of halal and haram. Our creed is: “لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله” **“There is no god but God. Muhammad is the messenger of God”** Based on our creed we must stick and adhere to the Qur’an and Sunnah only. Allah (swt) says: “يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا، أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ” **“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger” [An-Nisa: 59]**, “إِنَّا نَحْكُمُ” **“Legislation is not but for Allah” [Yusuf: 40]**, “وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ حُكْمًا” **“But who is better than Allah in judgement” [Al-Maidah; 50]** and “فَإِن تَنَزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ” **“And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger” [An-Nisa: 59]**. So BBI report is as a result of a political conflict due to elections that go against Islam. Kenya like any secular capitalist regime it prides itself to be a democratic state i.e. citizens make, amend and repeal any laws to govern their lives in other words sovereignty belongs to the people and people are the source of authority in other words they can choose a woman or man as their ruler/leader and can remove her or him anytime when they feel their interests or benefits are not met! This is **CONTRARY** to Islam where sovereignty belongs to Allah (swt) only via His Shari’ah (Qur’an and Sunnah) and the authority is for the people (Ummah) but once the Khalifah/ruler/man is chosen then he cannot be removed unless he commits/display open *Kufr*.

According to the above it is clear that Muslims have nothing to do with the BBI report. Since its foundation is secular capitalist ideology from which its poisonous systems emanate such as democracy, social liberalism, oppressive economic system, foreign policy based on colonialism etc. On the hand, Muslims must revisit their Islam ideologically since it has all the solutions to the problems bedeviling humanity across the world and caused by the invalid secular capitalist ideology and its systems. Their revisit must commence from the moment the Prophet (saw) became the prophet in 610 CE and his life and that of his companions (ra) was miserable and full of challenges like what we are currently facing here in Kenya and across the world. But everything changed in 622 CE when he (saw) and his companions (ra) migrated to Madinah from Makkah and he arrived there as a

ruler and founder of the first Islamic State in the world, when he (saw) died in 632 CE he was succeeded by the first Khalifah (Caliph) Abu Bakr (ra) until the last (102) Khalifah Abdulmajid II in 1924 CE. Throughout the period of almost thirteen centuries under the reign of the Islamic State ruling by the Shari’ah; Muslims and non-Muslims and humanity in general witnessed tranquility, peace and prosperity never witnessed in the face of this earth.

Since the destruction of the Khilafah (Caliphate) in 3 March 1924 CE, Muslims became orphans whose blood and property is being spilled mercilessly and plundered gluttonously respectively by the enemies of Islam and Muslims who are today led by America and her allies across the world. Muslims’ Khilafah that was once a united state under one ruler ruling by the Shari’ah was divided into 50+ statelets and dished out to foolish (ruwaibidha) rulers who have sold their souls to Western colonial masters for their betrayal in destroying the Khilafah. So the **primary issue for the Muslims** today to be engaged in, is to work for the resumption of the Islamic way of life through the reestablishment of the Islamic State of Khilafah on the method of Prophethood. It is only through the Khilafah that Muslims and humanity in general will realize genuine tranquility, peace and prosperity that is being promised by the evil cosmetic BBI report whose real intentions is to retain the invalid secular capitalist ideology and its stinking systems that are the root cause of humanity’s sufferings in Kenya and across the world.

Consequently, Muslims must desist from unconstructive BBI report debates and instead join their brothers and sisters in Hizb ut Tahrir to work tirelessly in calling for the Khilafah and at the same time held constructive debates that aim at tackling the root cause of humanity’s suffering that include how to replace the invalid secular capitalist ideology and its corrupt systems with Islam and its noble systems emanating from the Creator (swt). Indeed, the call for Khilafah is the only call for genuine and radical change that everyone from the East to the West is clamoring for.

“وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَقْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ” **“And that day the believers will rejoice” [Ar-Rum: 4].**

Ali Nassoro Ali

NEWS & COMMENTS

The Rohingya Muslims enter the New Year with fear without the Khilafah

News:

The BBC reported on the escalation of the Rohingya crisis with a number of potential prosecutions to be made against the Myanmar government lodged in international courts by Venezuela and Gambia. The news story dated 19th of November 2019 tells the story of an 11-year-old boy named Omar who lives without any family in the refugee camp of Cox Bazaar in Bangladesh. His mother and father were brutally murdered by the Myanmar forces and he wakes up crying daily in memory of his lost loving parents. Three of his brothers and two sisters were also killed in the course of ethnic cleansing.

Comment:

In September 2018, UN inspectors concluded that Myanmar generals should stand trial for their actions against the Muslims of Rakhine State where more than 700,000 Rohingya displaced into Bangladesh. However to date not one official has been referred to the ICC (International Criminal Court). The excuses made for the complete lack of justice is explained by Laetitia van den Assum who is a member of an independent commission into Rakhine state led by the late former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The quote regarding the lack of pursuance is as follows; "It's true progress may be slow, If you are in a central position of power you are protected, no-one will send you to the Hague." The other matter of contention is that Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi is using the shield of no responsibility in that she constitutionally has no control of the military. The daily murders of innocent men women and children will continue into the new year unstopped by any authority as this international criminal courts exist only to account selected individuals that serve the western agenda to further their goals. The fact that Western governments allow their businesses to trade with Myanmar and make their billions in profit proves the complete lack of will to aid the Muslims of Myanmar. The presence of a true Islamic leader in the form of the Khilafah will be the only entity that will never accept the Rohingya to wander the globe, or be imprisoned in camps like animals. Whilst the Muslim leaders of the globe choose to forget the immense suffering of the Ummah, Allah (swt) will not forget the great sacrifices made due to Iman. We pray for the martyrs and those to come for victory in the Next Life, and to those entering the new year under duress we remember the Ayat in Quran regarding patience in times of trial.

يَوْمَ يَأْتِ لَا تَكَلِّمُ نَفْسٌ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ فَمِنْهُمْ شَقِيٌّ وَسَعِيدٌ

“And be steadfast in patience, for verily Allah will not suffer the reward of the righteous to perish.” [11:115]

How many more innocent orphans are to be made like Omar, how many exist undocumented and exploited from Syria, Iraq, Palestine Afghanistan, Yemen and beyond? We call all Muslims globally to use the means you have to support and work for the obligation of living under the Islamic Political System and seek your place amongst the successful in the Next Life.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

Imrana Mohammad

Are African Countries Ideological Countries?

It is openly clear that all countries in Africa in their respective constitutions allege that they are countries that are implementing the secular (ilmaniya) creed (aqeedah) i.e capitalist way of life. The quoting of the capitalist ideology in their constitutions is it enough to allege that they are ideological countries?

In order to have an answer, it is inevitable to understand the following points:

First, an ideology according to Sheikh Taqiuddin Nabahani in his book System of Islam states that an ideology is, "An intellectual creed that from it systems emanate..." While creed means solutions on problems facing human being and systems means the way to implement, secure and propagate the said solutions. As for an ideology it will remain alive as long as its followers believe in and implement it willingly without any force exert on them from the government. Hence, as per the above meaning we realize that there are two ideologies in existence today that are Capitalist and Islamic ideologies.

Second, a country is recognized as an ideological if it has the following characteristics:

a) it is founded upon a belief without any force exerted on it to implement a specific creed, from which systems emanate and is the basis for comprehensive thought on caring for citizens' affairs.

b) the creed to be the basis for its domestic and foreign policy (politics). As for the structure of the various institutions of state, they must be built from the said creed. In addition, the creed must be the reference in terms of how to implement policies.

c) its foreign policy objectives must be for propagation of the creed and securing its interests.

Based on the above points, it is clear that African countries are not meeting the threshold to be recognized as ideological despite the fact that they quote the capitalist ideology in their constitutions.

Indeed, if the citizens from African countries were to be left free and not subjected to force to choose the secular capitalist ideology, most of them will cast it aside. History shows that this secular creed is forced upon people violently. Its ideological proponents i.e the western countries in reality they had no intention of making African countries ideological instead they drew plans to ensure that they remain in service to them as ideological state. Meaning that African countries' policies both domestic and foreign are dependent on the colonialist states that are in origin ideological.

Consequently, African countries are not ideological and instead are colonies to ideological states. They will remain to be colonial farms and sub-servants to Western colonialists until when there will be a reestablishment of an ideological Islamic state that will liberate the African continent from the clutches of the secular capitalists and give its people dignity and enjoy their wealth that they were blessed with by Allah (swt) and ultimately do away with the horror of colonialism!

Khamisi Mwangemi (Abu Leila)

NEWS & COMMENTS

Secular Governments Turns Natural Disasters into Crisis

News:

For the past few weeks heavy rains have pounded the country in which the media outlets have been reporting cases of devastation and deaths across the country — including the Central, Coastal and Northeastern regions — with experts warning of possible worse occurrences. The most recent deadly tragedy is the death of more than 50 people in West Pokot from raging floods that destroyed homes and caused landslides that buried residents was the worst natural tragedy in recent years.

Comment:

The rains have once again exposed inability of Secular Governments to manage crisis. The deaths in West Pokot could have been minimized with proper disaster preparedness. It is troubling that several days after the calamity hit, many people cannot be accounted for, presumably as they may have perished. More painful top government officials, led by Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, could not reach the village where dozens of people met their cruel death. The situation could have not reached this point if the government was responsible as it would have taken early measures.

Due to lack of proper state housing policies and land grabbing from state officials; numerous poor families have limited access to safe land hence risking their lives by living in flood-prone areas. Poor road networks where most roads especially in remote areas were not built to last due to the rampant corruption making only 32 per cent of its population living in two kilometers of all-season roads, this worsens the situation where floods victims stare helplessly.

The catastrophe has clearly how capitalist regimes turn natural disasters into humanitarian crisis. Often when such calamities occur, they reveal the true nature of capitalism and its ruling systems of not giving priority to the public interests. In the battle for power, secular capitalist politicians roam the country in helicopters seeking votes but in during floods they stare at televisions as the public drowns! This is the true depiction of capitalism and their leaders who only value their lives and disregard the lives of the poor.

Even if it is true that humankind cannot naturally prevent such disasters, however Allah (swt) has commanded the same humankind to take precautionary measures by instituting special procedures as a way to mitigate such disasters when they occur. As a full package system, Islam defines the responsibility of taking care of the public affairs as primarily upon the government and not individuals. The Noble Prophet (saw) said: «الإِمَامُ رَاعٍ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ» **“The leader of people is a shepherd and is responsible for his citizens.”**

The Islamic state, al-Khilafah (Caliphate) is mandated to secure the lives of its citizens all time. As for tragedies like floods and landslides the Khilafah utilizes funds from the treasury (Baitul Mal) to tend to the affected people and this is its responsibility to the public and not a favor. If it happens there are no funds in its treasury, then the Khalifah (Caliph) will be forced to levy the rich a specific amount to compensate for such a situation. This is how the Khilafah is expected to protect the precious lives of its citizen's bi idhni Allah Taala.

Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by

**Shabani Mwalimu
Media Representative of Hizb ut Tahrir in Kenya**

Islamic Revival Will be Delivered by the Khilafah Alone, So Let the People of Power Come Forward with their Nussrah for the Khilafah (Caliphate) on the Method of Prophethood

Press Release

Debate has erupted in Pakistan's social media over a 7 December 2019 tweet of a video of the serving naval chief calling for Islamic global dominance. Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi declared that Pakistan can be the starting point for the return of global Islamic glory, adding that Muslims dominated the world through Islam, whilst Europeans established dominance through the rejection of religion. Indeed, the call for the dominance of the Deen of Truth is now the popular demand of Muslims, including those in the armed forces. However, the current rulers must not be allowed to misdirect Islamic sentiments to give a new lease of life to the rejected Democracy, by calling for yet another form of it, whether parliamentary, presidential or otherwise. Allah (swt) warned,

(وَلَا تَلْبِسُوا الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتَكْتُمُوا الْحَقَّ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ)

“And do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know [it].” [Surah al-Baqarah 2:42]

O Officers of Pakistan's Armed Forces! The material strength, that Allah (swt) has granted you, makes you capable to make Pakistan the starting point for the resumption of Islam as a way of life. Bury the stinking corpse of Democracy by granting Nussrah to Hizb ut Tahrir for the re-establishment of the Khilafah (Caliphate) on the Method of Prophethood. Use your strength to deliver a state with a constitution whose every article has evidences from the Quran and Sunnah. Deliver a state that works to unify the Muslim Lands as one state, rather than dividing and weakening them upon Westphalian nation state lines. Grant your Nussrah for an Islamic leadership that meets military aggression with military force, rather than table talks, tweets and negotiations. Secure by your blood, fire and steel a state that mobilizes the economic resources of Muslims to secure the prosperity for all citizens of the State, rather than surrendering these economic resources to exploitation by the colonialists.

Certainly, the Khilafah is not a mere option amongst options, it is an obligation upon us all, the neglect of which is tied to the worst of all deaths, dying upon other than Islam. RasulAllah (saaw) said,

«مَنْ مَاتَ وَلَيْسَ فِي عُنُقِهِ بَيْعَةُ مَاتَ مِيتَةَ جَاهِلِيَّةٍ» “Whosoever dies without the bay'ah on his neck dies the death of Jahilliyah.” (Muslim). And the Khilafah is an obligation upon us in every age about which the Final Prophet (saaw) said

«وَأِنَّهُ لَا نَبِيَّ بَعْدِي وَسَتَكُونُ خُلَفَاءُ فَتَكْتُمُونَ» قَالُوا: فَمَا تَأْمُرُنَا؟ قَالَ: «فُوا بِبَيْعَةِ الْأَوَّلِ فَأَلَّوْا وَأَعْطَوْهُمْ حَقَّهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَأَلَهُمْ عَمَّا اسْتَرْعَاهُمْ»

“There is no Prophet after me, but there will be Khulaf'aa. They asked, “What do you order us to do?” He replied, “Give them bay'ah one after another, for Allah will ask them about what He entrusted them with.” (Bukhari) So, usher in a new age of Islam's global dominance through your Nussrah, earning the good pleasure of Allah (swt).

Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir in Wilayah Pakistan

Empty Promises to the Afghan Women



The Afghan Mission to the United Nation (UN) has formed a “Group of Friends”, co-chaired by the United Kingdom and comprised of women representatives to the UN and senior UN officials. The group is created to support the role of women in all aspects of life.

The UN’s mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a press release on Monday the 18th of November 2019 that this Group will highlight the importance of protecting and enhancing women’s rights and the role that women can play across society and government, including in peace efforts. The aim of the “Group of Friends” is to empower and recognize the central role of women in the future of Afghanistan. Their objective is also to support the commitment of the Afghan government and their international partners, in the effective implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security”. Adela Raz, Afghanistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN, said at a ceremony inaugurating the Group: *“During the last 18 years, Afghan women have risen as leaders of change and have started to shift the narrative from victims to partners. They are part of our success story, part of the new Afghanistan, where we all collaborate to ensure no woman is stoned to death; that she is not prohibited from getting an education, and she is not forced to stay at home. It is an important time in our political history where our gains matter more than ever, and our investment in Afghan women must continue to be strengthened.”*

By founding such arrangements, the UN and its co-workers are trying to lead the Afghan women to believe in a glorious future in a new Afghanistan. The true cruel reality of women is blurred and it is portrayed as if they were on their way to further advancement. Can it be said that there is a true rise just because the government symbolically provides to some women seats in parliament or gives some others access to the world of the capitalist labor market or classifies some of them in women’s rights organizations; is all of this to show the world that the Afghan women become now emancipated and join freedom?

*What about the numerous deaths (from 1 January to 30 June 2019, the armed conflict caused 430 women casualties (144 deaths and 286 injured), a decrease of 22 percent as compared to the same period in 2018 UNAMA), the famine (an estimated 5 million Afghans have little or no access to food, **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**), the economic insecurity and the poverty rate (54 percent of the population lives in poverty, mostly women and children, **Afghanistan’s Central Statistics Organization**), the thousands of uneducated women (84 percent of Afghan women are illiterate and only two percent of the women have access to higher education, **Central Statistics Organization**), the workplace harassment (87 percent had experienced harassment in their workplaces and*

Cont... page 9

91 percent in educational institutions, **Women and Children's Legal Research Foundation**), the widows (the number of widows in Afghanistan is estimated to be from 600,000 to two million, one of the highest in the world, **Afghanistan's Ministry of Social Affairs**), the women forced into prostitution and the drug addicts (there are 1 million drug addicted women in Afghanistan **Ministry of Public Health**), the displacing women (Over 1,5 million Afghani's are currently displaced by violence and conflict, mostly women and children **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre**), the women who had lack of access to essential services (**more than 50 percent of pregnant women in Afghanistan do not have access to essential health services, Ministry of Public Health**) and the thousands of women which would flee the country if they had the opportunity (nearly 50 percent of all Afghan women would leave their war-torn country if they could **info Migrants**).

So the points which are mentioned in the speech of Adela Raz, Afghanistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, are inconsistent with the current reality of Afghan women. The Afghan women are not leaders of change and no partners, rather victims of the corrupt plans of the US and the Afghan government. They are today not stoned to death, but they are mass murdered by the ruling war. Access to education is not forbidden to them, but the government does not care to grant them this opportunity. They are not forced to stay at home today, rather thousands of Afghan women must go outside and have to beg to earn their daily bread. Is that the role of women in a new Afghanistan?

Further as part of the international community, Afghanistan subscribes to UN declarations, conventions and resolutions, including those that address women's rights and human rights. Among these are the United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The "Group of Friends" wants to support the implementation of such an arrangements, which are another crime against the Afghan women, because these arrangements are based on secularist worldviews and are incompatible with the nature of Islam. All this arrangements represent it theoretically that they stand behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on increasing women's leadership and participation, ending violence against women, engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes, enhancing women's economic empowerment and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting etc... But in practice, these points are associated with many implementation difficulties and therefore to date, no real success results can be seen in any country and that's way the women are still struggling for Inequality in Working Hours, Inequality in Employment and Earnings, Ownership Inequality, Gender Bias in the Distribution of Education and Health, Gender Inequality in Freedom

Expression, Gender Inequality in Respect of Violence and Victimization etc.

UNSCR 1325, CEDAW and similar arrangements spread a poison that transforms the women of society into the slaves of consumption and secular, capitalist governments. They are in a constant, stressful fight with the men that they do not suppress their rights and they also have a vision that the man must always obtain the satisfaction of the woman so that he fits into the modern image of the democratic enlightened man.

So in summary, is in these arrangements any sign of protection, freedom and security for the Afghan women that the new "Group of Friends" want to support the government in the implementation of them? Certainly not!!! All these are just empty promises that have been repeatedly presented over the past 18 years with a new cover!

The Ummah has received a huge blessing from Allah (swt), in which Allah (swt) has given them the solution to all their problems. Instead of putting the energy in the failed democratic associations and fighting for the unrealizable rights of women, Muslim women should opt for the already assembled Islamic solution package. Islam has given to the women the right of political participation, the right of managing the economic affairs, the right of working, the right to be involved in social activities, the right of higher level of education and most of all. Islam provides to the women honor, dignity and safety as a human being! All these rights can only be guaranteed if the Shariah of Allah (swt) is ruling. Therefore, Muslim women should invest all their energy in the support of the establishing the Khilafah (Caliphate) upon the Method of the Prophethood. A State which gives them and all the women around the world their real rights and finally heals them of the poisons of democracy.

[فَأَحْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ عَمَّا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ]

"And rule between them by that which Allah revealed to you, and do not follow their vain desires away from the truth which came to you." [al-Ma'idah, verse 48]

**Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir
by**

Amanah Abed

Q&A

Popular Movements in Iraq, Lebanon and Iran

Question:

We know that popular movements in Iraq, Lebanon and Iran began spontaneously as outlined on 5/11/2019; are they still so? Are there any European roles in these three countries where America is influential? Will the situation in these three countries remain the same, or is America in the process of changing these agents or some of them by a normal change or through the military as it did in Egypt and Sudan? May Allah reward you.

Answer:

In order to clarify the answer to the above questions, we will review to some extent the following:

First: The causes and motives of the protests:

Yes, the protests started spontaneously in the three countries, and their motives were briefly as follows:

1- Protests in Iraq: Protests broke out in Iraq in early October 2019 in the form of demonstrations and sit-ins that developed into the closure of bridges in Baghdad and other major roads in protest against the deterioration of the economic situation of the country, the spread of administrative and financial corruption in government agencies and against the widespread unemployment. And the protests started spontaneously after they became too distressing and the people's livelihoods were confined. The regime was unable to solve the electricity issue through the 16 years of the regime's span, nor provide job opportunities for young people and graduates, nor satisfy people's hunger despite the huge oil resources. The protests then exploded with nearly 350 people killed, in addition to thousands wounded and detained. The offices of pro-Iranian government parties were burnt, then setting fire to the vicinity of the Iranian consulate in Karbala on 4/11/2019, throwing stones at them, demanding their removal from the city, and burning of the Iranian consulate in Najaf on 27/11/2019. What made the Iraqi government more shaky and stunned is that these protests have pervaded the cities of Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Karbala, Najaf and other cities of the south; those areas which were considered by the regime as areas of popular weight. Its impact were so severe that Abdul Mahdi was unable to continue to cling to the rule, thus he resigned on 30/11/2019 and the parliament approved the resignation on 1/12/2019.

2- Lebanon's Protests: The economic situation in Lebanon has reached the brink of complete collapse or almost did! "Lebanon's public debt at the beginning

of 2019 was 85.32 billion dollars" (Al-Arabi Al-Jadeed, 15/3/2019), and this is a large debt that the usury on it consumes about half of the state revenues in Lebanon. "The country's debt-to-GDP ratio is 1.52 percent, and the interest on debt uses almost half of the state's revenues" (BBC 28/10/2019), and these capital crimes have left "a high rate of unemployment in Lebanon estimated at 37 percent for those under 35 years old..." (BBC 26/11/2019). In the face of this economic devastation brought on to the people by the political class, the spark of a WhatsApp Tax on 17/10/2019 ignited the streets in Lebanon, set fire to the offices of deputies especially in southern Lebanon and enraged Beirut, Nabatieh and Tyre, so massive demonstrations came out. And then it quickly turned to demanding the resignation of the government, and even the change of the entire political elite in Lebanon. And with the security mentality from which the state and its followers in Lebanon draw, the supporters of the Iran Party tried to intimidate the demonstrators on 24 and 25/10/2019 by storming the squares, and then repeated by the supporters of the Iran Party and the Amal Movement in Beirut!

3- The Iranian Protests: The Iranian regime was no better than its pivotal states - Iraq, Lebanon and Syria before them- as it lacks a pastoral view of governing the country, which has led the Revolutionary Guard to control large sectors of the Iranian economy and marginalize the non-Persian regions on the periphery, creating a belt of cities of misery on the outskirts of the state, and an economic situation on the verge of explosion in the center and the peripheries alike, and it was shameful for the regime that boasts of the nuclear program and missiles that popular protests explode due to lack of gasoline! This shortage is due to the lack of refineries, an uncomplicated industry for countries that take care of their people properly. Then, despite the nearly 40% increase in gasoline consumption in Iran since 2017 and the failure to operate a refinery in Hormuzjan province, much of the gasoline is smuggled abroad because of the price difference by gangs that are not difficult for the state to know, which is another manifestation of the state's failure to manage one of the most vital resources "oil"! The state then raised the price of gasoline by 300%, and the protests broke out on 15/11/2019 in Tehran and dozens of other Iranian cities. The protests intensified, where banks were set on fire, Iranian estates, security and government offices were attacked, and the government cut off the Internet to prevent the communication among the protesters. The regime resorted to the highest level of violence in dealing with this protest movement and suppressing it with iron and fire. "As the Iranian security forces continue

Cont... page 11

their crackdowns on protesters, the Iranian opposition, on 23rd November that the death toll of the protests exceeded 300 people, it documented the names of 99 of them, and that more than 4,000 people were injured, and more than 10,000 people were detained, and it indicated that the Revolutionary Guards pulled dead bodies from hospitals to an unknown destination” (Arabic Independent 24/11/2019).

Second: Are the protests still spontaneous without European intervention?

Europe has tried to take advantage of the protests, but it has not been effective or influential in penetrating American influence in the three countries. The clarification is the following:

1- Europe’s attempts in Iraq: As we mentioned earlier, protests in Iraq, especially the southern regions, were escalating, concentrated in the Shiite regions, and it is not excluded that Europe, especially Britain, has tried to exploit these protests, and although there has been no credible evidence of British interference in the protests, Iran was cautious about this matter, and is even obsessed with it to the extent that Tehran’s Friday preacher, Muhammad Ali Mouhadi Karma, said during the sermon, describing the Iraqi demonstrators as “English Shiites”, adding “Some deviant groups that we describe as Shiites of the English crept into the ranks of the Iraqi people...” (Iran International 11/11/2019). His statement was that Iranian officials feared that Britain would take advantage of people’s movements, in addition to Iran trying to threaten protesters by accusing them of being agents for the British, especially since Britain’s position was almost explicit in supporting the protests “the British embassy said on its official Twitter page, that “Peaceful demonstrations are a right of the Iraqi people.” He added: “Violence against demonstrators is unacceptable” ... “Our prayers for the wounded and the families of those who lost their lives in the demonstrations.” (Russian agency Sputnik 5/11/2019), which is the same position that had been expressed by British Secretary of State Andrew Morrison as quoted by Al Ain News website on 10/27/2019.

2- Europe’s attempts in Lebanon: It is known that the followers of America and Europe roam and wander about in Lebanon, and it is also known that America’s followers, whether directly like Aoun and Berri or indirectly like Hezbollah through Iran, these are physically the stronger party... As for the followers of Europe “Britain and France” they are the weaker party, such as Geagea and Jumblatt... As for Hariri, he is the most vulnerable because he puts a foot in Europe and another in the pro-American Saudi Arabia, and these followers cannot resolve the decision, but rather do things that confuse the other side. For example, the ministers of the four Lebanese forces on 19/10/2019 resigned from the government which the protesters

demand to bring it down, and Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced on 18/10/2019 a deadline of 72 hours to deal with the crisis, then he submitted his resignation on 29/10/2019 against the wishes of the head of the state and the wishes of Iran’s security-dominant party in Lebanon. Then France sent its envoy to Lebanon the director of The Middle East and North Africa Department at the French Foreign Ministry, Christophe Farno, “to whom – to President Aoun - he conveyed a message from the French President, Emmanuel Macron, and the French government confirming France’s interest in the situation in Lebanon and its willingness to assist Lebanon in the current circumstances” (Al-Arabia 11/11/2019). The envoy’s visit was not accepted by the followers of America, as the National Agency for Official Information quoted Foreign Minister Basil that he told the French envoy: “No external party should enter the line of the Lebanese crisis and exploit it”... Britain also sent its envoy, Richard Moore, who met with Aoun and said: “The United Kingdom has always been an important partner and supporter for Lebanon for a long time, for example, investing \$200 million last year to support Lebanon’s security, stability, prosperity, and sovereignty.” He continued, “It is important to continue to respect the right to peaceful protest, and any repression of the protest movement by violence or intimidation by anyone is totally unacceptable.” (Arabic Independent 25/11/2019).

3- European attempts in Iran: The Iranian regime, as usual, was claiming that it was responding to external conspiracies and threats. “Today, the head of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards threatened to destroy America, Israel, Britain, and Saudi Arabia, should they cross the “red lines” in dealing with his country. Salami said, in a speech given to pro-government demonstrators in Tehran and broadcast by Iranian television: “I say to America, Israel, the Saud family and Britain you have experienced our power in the battlefield and you could not respond; the world has come to observe some of our slaps.” He continued: “We say to you: Do not cross our lines, but if you cross the red lines, we will destroy you” (RT 25/11/2019). The regime wants to give the impression that external forces are behind the protests and are not from the people who tasted the bitterness. Note that all indications show that people’s protests are from their hearts and blood! But it seems that the tone of external interference persists in the Iranian regime to the extent that Tehran’s Friday preacher, as we mentioned earlier, accused the Shiites protesting in Iraq of being English Shiites! The protests in Iran are not the first, nor will they be the last, and they are probably spontaneous, and there are no signs that indicate international hands. The protests in Iran, like Syria, are a people fighting against the tyrant rulers whose policies has not known the taste of success in taking care of the affairs of the Ummah.

Third: As for America changing its agents in the three countries, the matter is as follows:

1- The actual influence in these three countries is the American influence, while Europe (Britain and France) has not succeed in sharing this influence with America.

2- Until the Ummah rises up to a correct uprising on the basis of Islam and then the correct change takes place, until that happens, the rulers of these three countries will continue to be subject to American policy to change or keep them.

3- The colonial Kaffir states want the agent to serve their interests. If the people revolted and there was turmoil in his reign, then they will give him a specified period; if he cannot arrange his order in the ruling, then he becomes unable to serve his master, so he changes him. The tool for this is the lie of the so-called democracy by bringing a new agent with a less black face than the expelled agent; that is, if the crisis is not intractable, otherwise the tool is the “military” as it has done in Egypt 2011 or Sudan 2019.

Fourth: Reviewing the expected change in the three countries in the light of current realities, the following is evident:

1- **With regard to Iran:** America declares openly that it does not want to change the regime in Iran; that is, no matter how much the killing in the protests, America believes that this regime serves its interests! At a time when the blood of Muslims in Iran was shed by the regime, American officials were insisting on maintaining order “a senior official at the White House said Sunday that his country does not want to change the regime in Iran...” (Al Arabiya Net Sunday, 11/17/2019);

therefore, no change is expected in the Iranian regime due to the protests of 11/2019 just as there was no change due to last year’s protests.

2- **With regard to Lebanon:** As we mentioned, Lebanon has America’s followers and Europe’s followers, and the first team is the strongest and this facilitates the concession of the weakest according to the method of compromise, and the two sides are different over a techno-political government or technocrat government! After all, it is expected that America will change the balance of government in Lebanon, so that the weight will be for America’s followers and engage with them followers of Europe but to a certain extent, then engage the street to calm it down.

3- **With regard to Iraq:** America governs Iraq almost directly from behind a curtain. Its embassy in Baghdad has 16,000 employees, who follow the work of all Iraqi ministries, especially the oil and security sector, and it is the largest embassy for America in the world. It has many military bases in Iraq, the most famous of which is the Ain al-Assad base in Anbar. In the last week of last

month, America intensified its delegations, so the sudden visit of US Vice President Pence on 23/11/2019 to the base of Ain al-Assad, and before a week passed the visit of the U.S. Vice President to Iraq, America sent the commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Army Mark Milley to Baghdad on 27/11/2019. This is evidence of the relentless American follow-up, especially that Iraq is a sensitive case to America; it occupied it and claimed that it takes its hand to progress but it took it to turmoil and rupture, and now it is in successive crises and it is to be expected that if the conditions do not calm soon America will bring about change through “the military” and engage the street with them in governing as it did in Egypt or Sudan. It has been observed that the Anti-Terrorist apparatus in Iraq, which is a large military force formed by the Americans and equipped with the best military equipment; this apparatus is far from the policy of repression of the protests, and it appears that the protesters in Tahrir Square view this force as their savior from the corrupt politicians, as they raise a big picture of General Abdel-Wahab Al-Saadi, one of the leaders of the agency after his dismissal by Abdel-Mahdi, as if this force is acceptable to the demonstrators to have a role in arranging the solution. This is on the one hand, while on the other hand, the military meetings held by America in Baghdad, and the dispatch of its envoys for that in addition to the activity of its large embassy in Baghdad, all of this are arrangements that America prepares when necessary.

This is not affected by the resignation of Abdel-Mahdi and the appointment of a new president, as this does not solve the problem, but rather is temporary, meaning that the wound remains open until it heals!

However, the mass movement in the three countries has points counted for it and other points against it. As for what counts for it is that its movement is spontaneous, and it is still mostly so. As for what counts against it is that it has not yet taken a sincere leadership to Allah Subhanahu, and sincere to His Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him and his family, to enlighten his path to the rule of Islam, the true Khilafah Rashidah (rightly guided Caliphate). And if the movement continues without sincere leadership and thus proceeds without guidance, then its efforts and sacrifices will be lost in vain, and the movement will then be like the one who untwisted her spun thread after it was strong! Allah is the guide to the sound way.

**7th Rabii’ II 1441 AH
04/12/2019 CE**