

Narcotics The Hidden Terrorism

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Abstract:

This article begins with definition of term Terrorism Later on relation between narcotics trade and terrorism is highlighted production and trade of narcotics as guaranteeing financial source for terrorism is examined and the reasons of the international community's failure against these two phenomena are mentioned In the end it is concluded that despite of relation between terrorism and financial resources collected through narcotics "curse of narcotics itself is a type of terrorism which can be pronounced as the "Hidden Terrorism". Where as considering close relationship among these both we can say Narcotics is in the service of terrorism and terrorism is in the service of narcotics

Keywords:

Terrorism Narcotics Trade International Community Terrorist Groups Securing Financial Sources

Introduction

Surely several times you had heard this phrase from anti narcotics authorities and experts that – Terrorism and narcotics are two sides of a coin

One of the goals of this research is to review the reasons for which such idea are schemed Lets start here whenever cultivation and production of narcotics and its causes i.e political economic social etc are discussed a curious mind is perplexed with this question that for what reason human being had not come to a solution for this obstacle which was created by his own hands?

Perhaps we would say the solution to this problem is very simple? If we go through ideas of anti narcotics experts from the international community we can conclude a practical solution after gaining global consensus It may be enough to hold a UN session attended by experts from all over the world and through exchange of ideas they could sum up a feasible solution and send it for execution

Reviewing previous history of cultivating and producing narcotics it comes to our knowledge that from beginning imperial states inflicted this curse on others to gain economic and political benefits and used it as a strategy to reach their goals Historically speaking British East India Company was most active in promoting cultivation production and transfer of narcotics in sub continent as compared to other countries

In Iran during the Safawi era traces of Britain's influence in promoting and publicizing narcotics is evident. The cultivation and production of narcotics in Iran continued till end of Pahlavi era in 1978. After the success of great Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, annihilation of opium forms and complete halt to opium cultivation was a big step taken towards countering narcotics.

In this context Imam Khomeini (R.A.) the great leader of Islamic Revolution in Iran had said: "Entry and distribution of narcotics is a plot of global imperialists." Perhaps most of people at that time did not take it seriously nor had delved its depth; they just merely took it as a slogan. Whereas in last decade most of the incidents specially relating to some government and political persons who call themselves "Mafia" came to our knowledge. We accept them as a reality when ever we talk about Mafia the first thing which come to our mind is a rude terrorist group which can commit any sinister act to get their benefits and goals. Today it have become clear for everybody that these mafia and terrorist groups are nurtured by opportunist countries and with their aid, support and guidance they were formed and are spreading their activities.

Al Qaeda is one of such terrorist organization. My opinion will specially focus on the financial sources of such terrorist groups and how some of the countries get benefits from them. In last decade we observed that the terrorist activities and narcotics trade has flourished astonishingly. No doubt close relation exists between them. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had many times highlighted this issue that there are proofs that money generated through narcotics is used to finance organized crimes i.e. it is used for terrorism. He is of the view that war against drug smuggling is equivalent to war against terrorism.

Relation between terrorism and narcotics perhaps is not a new issue. Whereas after knowing the definition of the terrorism we must analyze different aspects and angles of its relation with narcotics.

Literal Root of Word Terrorism

Literal root of word "terrorism" is from Greek and Latin languages. The word "terror" means fear and tremor and in English it means to cause fear and fright. In Oxford's Advanced Dictionary terrorism is defined as a behavior which is meant to achieve political goals through extremism or threat.

Meaning of Terrorism

Terrorism is any kind of organized crime committed by force or threat against people and their property in order to threaten or to induce citizens or governments

to achieve certain socio political goals Whereas we can say that till now no consensus over definition of terrorism have been achieved world wide The proposed definitions are based upon some certain conditions and methods It is possible that a person be taken as a terrorist by some and the same may be a freedom fighter in view of other because of this till now defining terrorism is an unresolved issue

Noam Chomski while defining terrorism writes Terrorism is an impulsive tool to attack civilians in order to gain political religious or similar goals Some of experts in internal rights define terrorism as Criminal acts against a country to create chaos among its people classes and certain groups or all inhabitants of a country

According to others Terrorism can be defined as an act of genocide threat and frightening people to reach political goals to overthrow the governments to take control of official matters or to submit them to some one else

Types of Terrorism

As time passes types of terrorism are diversifying and many of its types have been formulated which contains examples in different spaces Types of terrorism known to us are psychological terrorism revolutionary terrorism nationalist terrorism suicidal terrorism religious terrorism state terrorism international terrorism cyber terrorism global terrorism and criminal terrorism Hereby looking at criminal terrorism as a categorical research topic we precisely define Criminal terrorism as is evident from its name a type of terrorism in which groups of robbers armed bandits and arm traders etc function to gain worldly and personnel benefits Every type of criminal means like extortion kidnapping organized murder attempts killing and murder are customary in this type of terrorism

Narco Terrorism

(Narco terrorism) Narcotics terrorism is type of terrorism in which people directly or indirectly are involved in cultivation production transfer or distribution of drugs

According to this definition narco terrorist groups conduct and guarantee their terrorist activities through narcotics trade On the basis of given definition for the term terror as manifest of fear and threat this type of terrorism consists of crimes which are conducted by narcotics smugglers and can be considered as terrorist activities i.e. murdering innocent people kidnapping capturing and killing government officials etc

Terrorism and Narcotics

Today at national and international level every one has formulated plans to counter terrorism We can say that in last decade and after September

terrorist act, and presence of Western troops in Afghanistan to fight terrorism, has made terrorism the most important issue of world at all the levels of the present society.

Today many countries have given priority to the war against terrorism in their policies and willingly or unwillingly are showing negligence over narcotics propagation.

Till now after eight years, Western troops had scored limited success in establishing long lasting peace in Afghanistan, against armed and terrorist groups. This defeat tells failure story of coalition forces in extending and executing common and coordinated plan in Afghanistan to control unrest and terrorism and moreover to establish peace and to start rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in this country.

According to statistics of UNODC in year 2008, the number of addicts has reached a total of 200 million and statistics of AIDS and hepatitis patients, rapidly increases using common syringes. Is it not the proper time that international community may see into this matter technically and to take practical steps in this regard.

During the peak of cold war, narcotic drugs were used as a political tool and source of revenue. Afghanistan was turned into epicenter of narcotics cultivation. Undoubtedly appearance of Taliban was accompanied by political and imperialist mafia and narcotics terrorism. During Taliban era in Afghanistan, cultivation and production of opium were openly allowed and Taliban was share holder in the opium trade and to generate more money they imposed more taxes on opium cultivators and smugglers. In fact Taliban era in Afghanistan can be termed as era of blooming of opium cultivation. Before year 1992, opium production in Afghanistan was less than 2000 tons per year. Whereas in first year of Taliban rule it reached 3400 tons per year and in year 1999 it increased up to 4600 tons.

Flourishing cultivation and production of opium in Afghanistan have close relation with strengthening and spreading of terrorism in this country. Taliban by encouraging farmers to cultivate poppy and by issuing permits to transport narcotics products in Afghanistan and out of country and by taking taxes for these activities collected enormous benefits, through which they kept their military machines running smoothly.

The few examples quoted here about Taliban's control over drugs cultivation and productions are closer to reality. But the Taliban's leader later by issuing prohibition order (ban) to cultivate poppy, comparatively reduced poppy cultivation in Afghanistan.

Official statistics of UN also support these reports and elaborate that at the end of Taliban rule in Afghanistan opium production reached 185 tons. Whereas eye witnesses present in Afghanistan claimed more than the declared production of UN (185 ton).

In fact reduction in cultivation and production was endorsed by them. Here a question arises that if we believe that narcotics are the real channel for the financial means of the terrorist groups including Taliban, then why they reduced the production of opium up to 185 tons?

International Will to Fight Drugs and Terrorism

September 11, 2001 incident in US became a turning point which gave international community the direction to take comprehensive steps to counter the phenomenon of terrorism. Immediately after these incidents foreign troops, under US banner, entered Afghanistan to encounter terrorism and to establish consistency and order in the country.

Before this incident, anti terrorism conventions were not welcomed by the governments and the UN's efforts in this context were not effective as needed.

Seventeen days after September 11, 2001 incident the Security Council passed two important resolutions.

In the resolution No. 1368, which was passed on September 12, 2001, Security Council while extending its sympathies to the families of those killed in terrorist attacks to the US government, condemned terrorism as a threat to global peace and security and emphasized on inherited right of individual and collective defense on part of victimized government and demonstrated its commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms.

Later on in the resolution No. 1373, which was passed after 17 days of this incident, detailed measures consisting of more legal issues, were chalked out for the governments of world to fight against terrorism.

Security Council in this resolution collected all the agreements in this context till the date, in a new form as a resolution. This global liability resulted from the resolutions of UN conventions to fight against terrorism. They converted these liabilities into organizational duties which were to be obeyed by all the governments without any objection.

From year 1909 till now many international and regional documents have been written and approved regarding war against narcotics, which still lack international community's commitment for its enforcement.

War Against Financial Resources of Terrorist Groups

Financial resources of terrorist groups consist of presentation and collection of money, in any way, direct or indirect, illegally with intention or specifically to utilize in terrorist activities. War against financial resources of terrorist groups demand greater commitment and desire from the governments. It is necessary for governments to approve laws and suitable regulations, and to keep eye on implementation of these laws to pave way for this task. More international coordination among countries is required, so that effective tools can be used to prevent provision of financial resources of terrorism and through pursuance and applying penalties to their assets, their activities could be eliminated.

Anti money laundering law is one of these laws. In absence of proper law structure, preventing the financial resources to reach terrorist groups becomes very difficult. Whereas in absence of a transparent and single strategy, the international community falls in this category. According to UNODC's report, in 2009 opium was cultivated in the five provinces of Southern Afghanistan, and these provinces are under Taliban's influence. Antonio Maria Costa Executive Director of UNODC says: "Especially in these provinces poppy cultivation must be curbed. This action is necessary to fight against Taliban. This group earns 10% of its revenue from taxes imposed on poppy grower, Taliban strengthens poppy growers and smugglers and in return they strengthen Taliban. Taliban collects millions of dollars revenue from cultivation of narcotics and this revenue is spent to buy weapons and conduct terrorist activities."

Conclusion

While discussing types of terrorism, we discussed criminal terrorism, according to its definition it was said that the terrorist groups which commit any criminal act i.e. murder, killings and, kidnapping to gain material and personal benefits fall under this classification of terrorism.

Likewise the word (Narco-Terrorism) Narcotics Terrorism stands for the terrorist activities regarding direct or indirect cultivation, production, transfer or distribution of drugs. According to this definition the narco- terrorist groups ensure their terrorist activities through trade of drugs.

Despite of the financial relation between terrorism and drugs, it is necessary to clear this hypothesis that narcotics itself is a type of terrorism and we must name it as "Hidden terrorism".

The players of this game behind the screen in politics and economy have literally caused death to millions of innocent people.

In this game the poor Afghan farmer, for livelihood and maintaining his family, is forced to grow and has become the target.

So with presence of Western coalition forces in Afghanistan, we all were expecting that solid steps be taken in order to eliminate the cultivation of poppy and smuggling of narcotics. But till now, No significant success have been achieved against drugs and terrorism.

By examining meanings and definitions of terrorism in detail we can claim that those human beings who have lost their lives in drugs including those who sacrificed to fight against narcotics, and those who were killed during smuggling and by using drugs are all the victims of the "Hidden Terrorism."

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