

Full text of interview with Mullah Agha Jan Mutassim, Head of Political Commission, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, regarding the current situation of Afghanistan.

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Q-1: Please tell me when the Political commission, IEA was instituted, and what was the objective behind its establishment? Similarly, please touch on responsibilities it is carrying out now as a part of its work.

A: In the name of Allah, The Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate and praise be to Allah, the Almighty (SwT) and peace be upon the holy prophet and his companions and those who follow him.

Having said that, I would like to say that the Political Commission, IEA was established five years ago on the instruction of the leader of the Islamic Emirate. The aim was to bring about a complete coordination in all affairs including the military affairs. The need for establishment of the political commission was felt when some countries showed willingness to acknowledge the Islamic Emirate as an entity, following IEA achievements in the battlefield.

So far, we have spectacular achievements in the political field including initiation of contacts and ties with a number of countries who feel being victims of American expansionism. Similarly, we have maintained contacts with main opposition parties inside the country, aimed at resolving the Afghan issue. These efforts have been fruitful so far.

Q-2: The military achievements of IEA are overweighing its political achievements. What do you plan to do in the political field to abridge this gap?

A: Considering the current situation, one could say military achievements pave the way for political achievements. As you know, in the first place, it was the enemy that opted for a military approach vis-à-vis the Islamic Emirate. This necessitated our resorting to the same military approach to confront the enemy. We have spectacular gains in the military field. But

Political approach should go in parallel with military achievements.

Q-3: After the IEA resistance in the past 7 years, the regional countries and the world totally acknowledge that the Islamic Emirate is an effective force. What is the Islamic Emirate response to these developments?

A: It is a fact that the invading American forces attacked our country in contravention to all recognized norms and laws, interstate and moral obligations, putting to death thousands of innocent Afghans both men, women, children and old men. We feel that we have the right to raise our voice about our victimizations, Suffocation and suppression by USA and to explain our position to the world, urging them to fulfill their moral responsibilities about the oppressed Afghan people. In this context, we are willing to talk to every and any circle in order to obtain our legitimate rights.

Q-4: Does Islamic Emirate follow its former policy regarding all issues surrounding Afghanistan and other relevant affairs?

A: As a principle, The Islamic Emirate is based on Islamic system, protecting all Islamic, political and national interests. However, the prevailing situation then was not a normal one. There were some shortcomings and some unpalatable measures which we are now trying to rectify. To achieve that, we are ready for bilateral understanding to be reached in this regard. Furthermore, a future strategy should be worked out on the basis of intra-Afghan consultation, taking into account all the new developments and requirements in order to bring about positive changes in the policy in line with the Islamic rules. But

simultaneously, we should take every care that we should not violate the current policy of The Islamic Emirate which is focusing on military approach in the country.

Q-5: The Afghan issue enjoyed global support during the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, whereas we are seeing that the same support is not being extended to the Islamic Emirate currently?

A: Even then, the global support for Mujahideen had a gradual trend, growing with the passage of time until the world came to believe that the Mujahideen were a force to reckon with. The case is the same with the current resistance. At the time of the American invasion of Afghanistan, no one was ready to acknowledge that the empty-handed Afghans would ever stand up to the Americans who are armed to the teeth with cutting-edge technology. But now many believe that the Afghans are a force which is able to hurl stumbling blocks on the way of American expansion in the whole region. The American defeat will surely usher in an atmosphere of relief for all freedom-loving people. The Afghans are again in the field to help liberate nations from the clutches of colonialism as yesterday they did liberate countries from the clutches of communism. This fact has now dawned on all concerned parties that the Afghans are a liberating force for the whole region.

Q-6: To what extent, The Islamic Emirate can maintain its political and military presence despite the opposition to its very existence at world level?

A: The Afghans have a common tradition. They close their ranks against a common enemy in despite of being at daggers head with each other before aggression of enemy. It is now an open secret that the Islamic Emirate's support has grown among the Afghan masses in comparison with the time before the American invasion of Afghanistan. It is a fact that we were then confronting a force which was originally comprised of the Afghans. But now we are facing a foreign force. Even then it was an Islamic and national responsibility which the Islamic Emirate was fulfilling. The country was facing the danger of disintegrations and many armed factions were involved in unscrupulous activities that had resulted in to despondence, anarchy and bleak life for the masses.

Today the Afghans believe that the Islamic Emirate is a bulwark against the invading Americans. They have come to the conclusion that the strengthening of IEA outpost is one of the main duties of Muslims according to the Sharia laws.

You mentioned that the entire world is against the Islamic Emirate. I disagree with you. Only a limited number of countries, who are allied with America, are against us. But there are many countries who support our struggle, though tacitly, for liberation from the shackles of colonialism.

Q-7: on the one hand, the Islamic Emirate emphasizes on a full and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, and on the other hand, the foreign forces insist that the Islamic Emirate should lay down its arms and participate in the peace process. Do you see any possibility of resolving this issue notwithstanding these contradictory posturing of the two sides?

A: Americans and their allies some time give assertions which are not practicable but are against the ground realities. By resorting to such posturing, the Americans do not seem to have appetite for a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue, nor they are ready to see the Afghans lead a prosperous life under the shade of an Islamic regime which will certainly usher in progress, stability and peace in the country.

As a workable solution, they should pull out of Afghanistan; should close down their prisons, and cells inside or outside the country where Mujahideen are being tortured. They should stop the campaign of maligning which is now being carried out against the Mujahideen to spoil their good name. Similarly, they should declare as null and void all the black lists of Mujahideen which are imposing restrictions on Mujahideen or proposing punishment for them. These are the conditions, which will facilitate a pragmatic solution of the Afghan issue. The current stand of USA that the Islamic Emirate forces should lay down their arms is not a realistic approach. It is tantamount to leading Taliban to perdition. No one will ever want to cut off the branch on which he is sitting. The Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran "Don't plunge yourselves into perditions with your own hands." So this

solution is out of question. The Islamic Emirate at the beginning of the current struggle, when the Islamic Emirate forces were stranded and weak, did not accept this proposal. Presently, the Islamic Emirate forces have great achievements both in military field as well as in the political field, how could we accept such unrealistic and extremist approach on the part of USA? Our aim is liberation of the country and establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan as a panacea for all the problems that the Afghan masses are grappling with.

Q-8: How do you evaluate the role of the Islamic conference or some other Islamic countries in the solution of the Afghan issue?

A: We welcome all peaceful efforts for the solution of this problem but all concerned parties should avoid imposing a solution on the Afghans which is against the collective will of the Islamic Emirate and the Afghan masses. We would like to say the presence of the foreign forces in Afghanistan is part of the problem. The Afghan issue could not find a solution if withdrawal of the foreign forces are not considered or is not part of the solution. The Afghans have the potential to maintain security of the country in a previously work-out set-up after the withdrawal of the foreign forces. The Afghans have already proved their viability as a military Jihadic resistance force against the British and Russian invasions. Currently, they have been fulfilling their due role as their forefathers did play against invaders.

The United Nations and the Islamic conference as august bodies should not turn a blind eye to the atrocities that are being perpetrated by the invaders in Afghanistan. Ironically, in this early dawn of the 21st century, the most abhorrent form of atrocities and genocide are being committed in my country. Every free conscience should oppose these anti-human activities. I think, the Americans should also obey the UN rules which call for peaceful co-existence of people and states. It is the responsibility of the United Nations to implement these rules without discrimination. Currently, only the oppressed nations have to obey the said rules and principles while the arrogant powers are exempted from obeying them. They are considered as entities above the law.

Existence of peace and stability during the reign of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan is an irrefutable fact. The USA and the world acknowledge this reality.

The atrocities and torture of innocent people; pogroms and bloodbath in Afghanistan by Americans is clearly a crime. Today when the world is calling for justice, the war criminals should be brought to book. Bush has committed war crimes. Even Americans are convinced to believe that. There are sundry evidences, proving our claims. I think, this is the moral duty of UNO to take steps as regards the trials of W. Bush as a war criminal at the international tribunal.

Q-9: Recently, we have been hearing news about the mediation of Saudi Arabia to resolve the Afghan issue? How do you view Saudi's role in this connection?

A: No doubt Saudi Arabia enjoys special status among the Islamic countries because of its location. The Holy prophet (peace be upon him) laid the first foundation stone of the first Islamic State in Saudi Arabia. The Holy Kaaba and the mosque of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) are located there.

We are grateful for the Saudi Arab's assistance with the Afghan people during the Russian invasion of Afghanistan but we also expect them to perform their moral obligation in the current popular resistance both materially and political. Not only that. We urge the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah, to play his positive role both materially, financially and politically in the solution of the issues of Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine. I am of the opinion that it is King Abdullah's obligation to include the advocacy and protection of oppressed Muslim nations in his policy agenda as a part of his political role in the Ummah.

Q-10: with Obama's assumption of presidency at the White House, it is believed that he will be willing to turn a new page as regards all global issues including Afghanistan. As a first step, he closed down Guantanamo Bay Prison. By this, he gave a green signal to the parties concerned. What is IEA response to this step of the Administration?

A: Viewing this step in a full circle, one can conclude that it is not enough. We are seeing thousands of innocent prisoners festering in Bagram, Kandahar and Pull Charkhi prisons.

It would have been more effective and pragmatic if the prisoners had been released to join their grieved and bereaved families. But ironically, we are witnessing that they are being shifted from one cell of torture to another. What will cure these shifting as to the pains of the prisoners or their families? Obama is also speaking of sending more troops to Afghanistan. These bellicose steps portray his strategy of military approach. However, these war-mongering would entangle the American troops in a blind alley of war in Afghanistan which will certainly accompany material and soul losses for Pentagon.

Q-11: NATO member countries have been urging Taliban to join the peace process, what is the position of the Islamic Emirate? Is participation in the dialogue to the benefit of IEA?

A: I think, it is now up to NATO member countries to consider the proposals of the Islamic Emirate if these counties really believe or have reached a conclusion that the Islamic Emirate is an entity that could not be wished away. We believe, the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan is illegitimate. They are part of the problem. They are brutally killing and bombarding our people and villages which have strained the life of our people.

Q-12: All parties to the Afghan issue both inside and outside the country believe, military approach to the problem of Afghanistan is not workable. What could be a realistic approach to this issue?

A: We were telling the American that aggression was not solution of issues. But they were intoxicated by their arrogance and violated all international laws. They are still insisting on war mania and military approach. To confront such intransigent position on the part of USA, we have resorted to self-same approach of Jihad aimed at liberating our country and establishing an Islamic system. Upon the withdrawal of foreign troops, the Islamic Emirate will carry out consultation with all important circles of the Afghan issue to reach an understanding about a mechanism of political system in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, the Islamic Emirate's Political Commission has been continuing its efforts to reach an understanding with all concerned circles about the issue of Afghanistan. We are also campaigning to win over to our ranks those who have been deceived by the poisonous propaganda of the enemy.

Q-13: Considering all disputed issues, we can conclude neither of these issues have been solved through military means, i.e. Palestine, Kashmir issue etc.? What approach is preferable?

A: A military aggression could only be confronted with military means. In this context, military approach is the most effective one. We read in the Holy Quran: "Those who make aggression against you react with self-same means. Fear Allah and know that Allah is only with the pious (people)."

But we also do not reject political approach. We are willing to talk with the United Nations and the Islamic conference and other effective circles. The Afghans have not entered into the homes of others but it is others (foreigners) who have brought the flames of war to our country by occupying our land. We have been forced to resort to arms for the liberation of our country.

Q-14: Historically, military approaches have had the upper hand in solution of issues. Currently, it is the most effective approach for Muslims to protect their sovereignty and sacred places. Even it is a tested method for the liberation of occupied lands. As such, is it not preferable to diplomatic solution?

A: It is an irrefutable fact that the Islamic sovereignty has been maintained as a result of great sacrifices. It is a preferable and quick solution for the liberation of the occupied lands. It is due to this hard fact that the Islamic Emirate has constantly focused on the military confrontation with the enemy but at the same time, we could not rule out political channels. We debunk the reports that the Islamic Emirate only knows the trigger to achieve its goals. We call on all those who are related to the Afghan issue, that our doors are open for dialogue and negotiation. We believe, negotiation can play positive role in bringing

issues to a peaceful and satisfactory end.

Q-15: Muslims have often won the battle field in various part of the world but they have lost their achievements on the political field. What do you say about this?

A: The Almighty Allah (SwT) enjoins Jihad on Muslims against aggression and they are usually gains the upper hands in these confrontations but, at the same time, the Almighty Allah (SwT) instructs the Muslims in the Holy Quran to maintain unity among them. The Holy Quran says:” Hold on fast to the rope (religion) of Allah all together and do not divide into sects.” It is very vital for the Muslims to implement the injunctions of the Holy Quran, if they really want to succeed. Our failure in political field is a by-product of our differences and discords. The enemy always wants to fan lingual, political, geographical and racial differences among Muslims. This is the very mean which provides a hotbed for the enemy to concoct conspiracies among the Muslims. If Muslims want to succeed, they should unify their ranks and maintain unity among themselves. The Almighty Allah (SwT) says:” Allah loves those who fight in the way of Allah like a wall of cemented blocks.” The present status quo of despondency and failure now prevalent all over the Islamic Ummah is the result of differences and disunity among the Muslims. If they unify their ranks, many of their issues will find a prompt solution.

Q-16: Who are behind the current resistance, Taliban or other factions? I mean, are there other factions of the Afghan nation who are participating in the present Jihad?

A: Americans have committed an aggression against the whole country, Afghanistan and Afghanistan is the home of all Afghans. So defense of this homeland is the Islamic and national duty of all the Afghans. It is due to this fact, that now the resistance movement has expanded throughout the country. There are many Afghans who are standing up to the invaders shoulder to shoulder with the Taliban. They are not ready to accept the foreign yoke as we are not ready to accept it. For example, Anwar-ul-Haq Mujahid, son of the leader of Hezbe Islami, Malawi M. Younus Khaless has been waging Jihad against the invaders under the leadership of the Islamic Emirate. Similarly, the stand taken by the well-known Jihadic leader G. Hekmatyar is commendable indeed. There are other Mujahideen at our ranks who have taken part in Jihad against the former Soviet Union. All of them are waging Jihad under the banner of the Islamic Emirate. I would like to say the current resistance against the invading Americans is not only the sole obligation of the Afghans but all Muslims should stand by them by offering assistance in the form of material and other contributions. The Islamic Emirate has launched a drive to win over and convince all those who have been beguiled by the invading Americans and is making efforts to reach an understanding with them, so that they will join the ranks of their brothers, the Mujahideen.

Q-17: Considering the reign of your government, many observers and the public of the world think that you are against the modern educational system, particularly the education of women. Do you admit, it is true?

A: I do not agree with this claim. Obviously, we were facing various problems during the reign of the Islamic Emirate but still kept the door of schools and universities open and procured enough books as well as other facilities. The country had passed through a period of anarchy given rise to by the factional fighting which had resulted into the destruction of many schools. Many remained ruined but some schools and universities had been closed down due to the armed clashes among the factions prior to the formation of the Islamic Emirate. Many sons of our land were deprived of education and knowledge. But here, I would like to reiterate that higher female education was available for women in Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Herat and Jalalabad during the reign of the Islamic Emirate particularly in the field of medicines. The said process of education continued intermittently throughout the period of our governance. In addition to this, female education continued in home schools. Of course, education is a necessity and mandatory for women as they are for men. However, we should take into account the Islamic rules as to the observation of the veil. But if the international community had granted us ten percent of the assistance of what they are now giving to the stooge regime in Kabul, we would have opened all the schools and institutes for male and female education and even we would have brought the standards of education in parallel to the world standard of

education. But it is a matter of pity that the international community has been assisting the puppet regime financially and their funds are being wasted and gulped down by the prevailing corruption and embezzlement at the Administration.

Q-18: It means that you believe education is necessary both for male and female. But we have some reports that the Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate have burnt down schools and other centers of education or at least closed down these centers. What do you say about this?

A: These are not the facts but this is a mere propaganda launched by the enemy. The Mujahideen are themselves students who know the importance of education. You may know that a great portion of our budgets were allocated for education during our government. So how can we ruin those centers which we have ourselves built up. We have instructed our Mujahideen to identify the perpetrators who burn schools and give them exemplary punishments. Similarly, we have arrested some elements who were operating beyond organizational set-up of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. We have conducted investigation in this regard and found that all of them were foreign paid. They themselves admitted that they had been employed by some American intelligence networks and were regularly receiving money for the sabotage activities. This is why we say the Americans are the cause of ruins and adversity in our country. They destroy our schools and brutally martyr our innocent people and raze to ground our country.

Q-19: You know that there are many sects and religious schools in Afghanistan i.e. Hanafi, Salafi, Shia, Ikhwan etc. What is your policy in this regard?

A: Afghanistan is the home of all Afghans and they are living together in this country in a cordial atmosphere. The Islamic Emirate respects views of all sects and schools and believes in equality of rights for all. We want a prosperous and peaceful life for all in the shade of an Islamic government.

Q-20: The Karzai Administration claims that mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate are involved in the narcotic trafficking and promotion. Are the mujahideen of IEA really involved in these activities?

A: This is the same poisonous propaganda aimed at our character-assassination. You know during our reign, we had banned poppy cultivation and narcotic trafficking but the international community, unfortunately, did not positively react to these steps. Our policy is based on Islam which does not allow the trafficking of intoxicating items. So this allegation is baseless. If we go through the facts, we will know that the puppet regime in Kabul and the Americans are involved in the narcotic trade because narcotics smuggling and post cultivation increased rapidly following the American invasion of Afghanistan and the establishment of the quisling administration in Kabul. Those in the west acknowledge that spectacular increment in narcotic trade has been noticed after the American attacks against Afghanistan but still the international community and other world organizations have been assisting the corrupt Kabul government. This means that they are indirectly protecting the regime's illegitimate activities. They should put an end to their assistance with this failed administration and instead give assistance to the true representative of the people.

Q-21: To end, what is your message to the Muslims of the world?

A: We urge the Muslims of the world to be aware of the conspiracies of colonialism by adhering to injunctions and instructions of the Almighty Allah (SwT) and the holy prophet (peace be upon him). The global Power of Tyranny is striving to entangle Muslims in the cobweb of its conspiracies; to create differences among them and bring about an atmosphere of mistrust. The Muslims rulers should put their trust into their people for the protection of their lands and should not isolate themselves from the people. Clash between the rulers and the people are paving way for the domination of these countries by the foreigners.

America has a message of destruction and perdition for the whole world ostensibly under the notorious and fake slogan of democracy and progress. If the Muslims want to bring about stability, peace and progress in their countries, they should join their efforts to

stamp out the American activities, aimed at creating anarchy in these countries. They should support the mujahideen in Afghanistan and Iraq who are fighting against the Americans. Both are the common fronts of resistance of the Ummah. Fruits of victory at these fronts will certainly trickle down to all the Ummah. But their failure will also leave a negative impact on the Ummah. Today the jihadic resistance in Afghanistan and Iraq has put an end to the era of awe and shock of colonialism. They have dealt crushing blows to this giant. The sophisticated technology has failed vis-a-vis the power of faith and determination. The arrogance and tyranny of America is now a stuff of mockery among the oppressed people. The Muslims countries should take advantage of this opportunity and support the Mujihadeen in order to save the whole world from the mischief and arrogance of America. Afghans are again in field to make history by crushing another arrogant of the time. The world of the Islamic country should appreciate this heroic milestone of the Afghans.

--Forward to the establishment of Islamic sovereignty in Afghanistan.

Peace be upon you all.

Personal Profile:

Mr. Mullah Afghan Jan Mutassim, Son of Sayed Abdul Sattar was born in Nilgham village, Panjwai distt, Kandahar Afghanistan in 1971. He received his primary and middle education in local seminaries and remained student of well-known religious scholars of Kandahar. However, he got his higher education in the land of refuge.

Mr A.J. Mutassim took part in Jihad in various fronts during the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. In 2007, he was nominated as Head of the Political Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

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