

**HUMAN
RIGHTS**

in Afghanistan

**MYTHS
and REALITY**



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Afghanistan Today Publishing House
Kabul 1987

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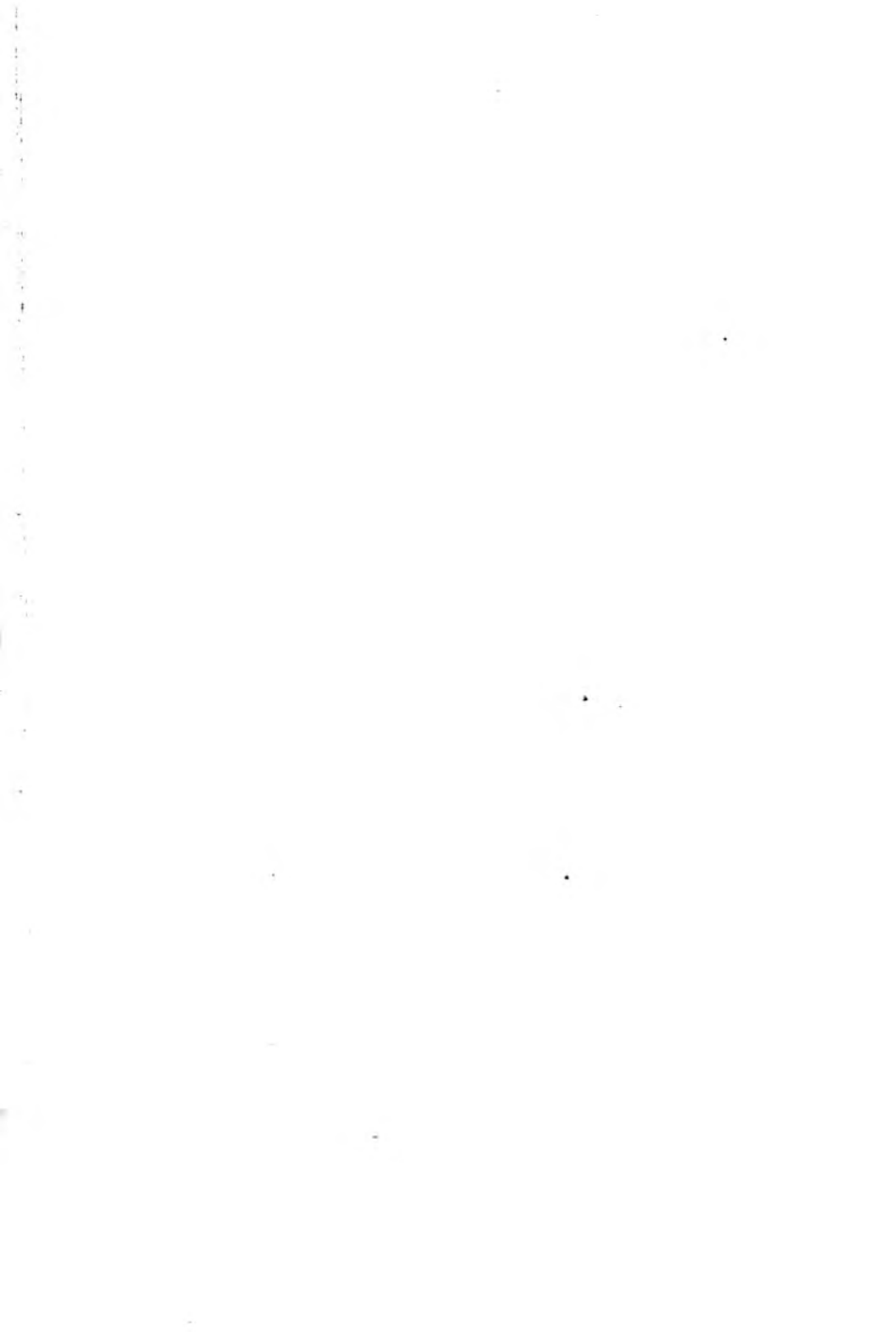
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INTRODUCTION

Human rights problem, as an expression of ideas and thoughts, abstractions and realities, determination and wishes, has consistently been attracting the attention of humankind.

There has been various kinds of comments and evaluations with regard to the human rights problem about its great role for human beings and mankind in general is unquestionable.

In some of Western capitalist countries human rights which should in fact be a matter of deep concern, have been turned into a diabolic instrument. And instead of bringing welfare to the human beings it brings plunder and pain to a vast number of people.

The human rights problem cannot and in fact should not be separated from social and economic life of the people. Human beings have concrete rights which they should enjoy in definite social and economic conditions. The declaration of such ideas as gradual and general human rights is nothing but demagoguery without any real content.

The scope of human rights should be seen in the essence of ideologies. We should look for the content of human rights in the essence of ideological convictions. How can one indulge in exploitation and still come forward in defence of human rights for all?

We are firmly convinced that in our country born of the national-democratic revolution and based upon the ideological principles of people's sovereignty, throughout all these years the status of human rights is preserved more carefully and steadfastly than in some other countries with similar economic, social and political development. Incidentally, it is due to this fact that today hue and cry is raised by the propaganda machinery in capitalist quarters and by their supporters with regard to the status of human rights in Afghanistan. But these are nothing but distortions and fabrications. The reasons for these actions are clear, for today Afghanistan has become the focal point of class conflicts on the world scale. The world public opinion is focused on Afghanistan, due to the fact that there are many new political developments under way. So the tendency to discredit the popular gains in Afghanistan is aimed at undermining the ideological and revolutionary practice in the entire world and at the same time is a blow at all those forces which express their support for Afghanistan.

The propaganda machinery of the reactionary forces is trying to disseminate a distorted picture of the popular government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in an attempt to justify all the suffering that their patrons impose on our people. What is astonishing to the people with firm views and logical thinking power is the biased attitude of the propagandists towards us and the extremist groups as far as the question of human rights is concerned, for in this field norms and regulations should be identical for all. It seems as if there exist different human rights and different human rights practices. It seems as if two realities exist for one and the same concept. It is absolutely clear from the propaganda of imperialism and reactionary circles that the forces opposing the

DRA enjoy their full support in all their most heinous crimes. It looks as if this support and hailing by those forces for these crimes are embedded in the very nature of this propaganda machinery. Such a way of thinking is neither sane nor logical. It seems that they are authorized to keep their society in an information vacuum about the human rights. People are aware of some of the fabrications about Afghanistan they disseminate. In such a situation hard facts given about the DRA would be most useful.

An international organization some time ago asked for a permission to look into the state of affairs in Afghanistan as far as human rights are concerned from a close quarter. Afghanistan has no objections to such an initiative. As a matter of fact, various delegations from the IRCS already visited our country, including a UN expert on human rights in Afghanistan. During his 10-day visit to the DRA, he closely reviewed the state of prisons and courts and got acquainted with the life of those refugees who returned to the DRA. He also paid a visit to some provinces in Afghanistan. There he saw the opposite of what they had been spreading about Afghanistan.

The present book is a collective effort of those who want to analyze the true situation as far as human rights in Afghanistan are concerned and thus to show the slanderous character of reactionary propaganda. In this book we describe crimes committed by the extremists, cite examples of their diabolic deeds and elucidate the policy of the DRA towards the problem of human rights.

The present book consists of five chapters which contain the description of the situation in general, the breach of the principles of human rights by the extremists, the situation with the religious scholars

in the DRA, the legislative activity of the DRA and the policy of national reconciliation. We draw on irrefutable documents to support our statements.

It is our intention to go on with such work. We hope that our present efforts will help enlighten the readers about this very important sphere in the life of the present-day world.

Chapter 1

PEACE AND PROGRESS - PRESSING NEEDS OF AFGHAN SOCIETY

Before the April (Saur) Revolution of 1978, as a result of the domination of feudal and pre-feudal relations and due to neo-colonialist domination Afghanistan was among the most backward countries of the world.

Although 90 per cent of the country's population were engaged in farming and livestock-breeding, due to the low level of the development of productive forces and domination of traditional relations in the countryside, the per capita annual agricultural income reached only 127 US dollars. The produce of this sector was not even suffice to meet the minimum essential requirements of the population in foodstuffs.

But in spite of that, large possibilities which were available for raising productivity of land under cultivation were not utilized. For example, only 12 per cent of the land in the country was irrigated. However, every year only half of it could be cultivated, while from 80 to 90 per cent of water resources practically remained non-utilized. Chemical fertilizers, both home-made and imported, were suffice only for 12 per cent of the land under irrigation.

There were only 15 small industrial firms (workshops) with a little more than 500 workers. In the country only 5.9 per cent of workers were employed in

industry. There was not a single steel-making plant in the country. The power production was very low. Afghanistan with an annual per capita power consumption of 60 KW produced and consumed less electric power than the majority of other countries.

The average per capita income reached only 160 US dollars. The distribution of national income was unjust and the annual income of 40 per cent of the population was less than 80 US dollars. Most of the people, including from 66 to 88 per cent of children up to one year of age, suffered from malnutrition. A great number of people were suffering from various lethal diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, smallpox, etc. Only 5 per cent of the population of the country had access to the healthy drinking water, so there was nothing strange in the fact that 50 per cent of the children died before the age of five and the average life expectancy was only 45 years. It is a shocking fact that only 0.65 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP), i.e. 75 Afs., were allocated per person into public health service, while there were only one physician and one hospital bed for every 3,000 of the population. It should be mentioned that 80 per cent of the physicians and major part of the hospitals were concentrated in Kabul.

Ninety per cent of the population of the country could neither read nor write, and only 14 per cent of school-age children were able to attend schools. In spite of such a serious situation in this area only 2 per cent of GNP had been allocated and spent to promote public education.

Due to the economic crisis and increasing unemployment during the decades prior to the Revolution, over a million Afghan nationals, mainly the most capable part of the society, had left the country for Iran and other countries of the Gulf in search of employment

and higher wages. Two and a half million of the population were leading a primitive nomadic life. Women were the most deprived segment of society. Only 5,000 women were taking a direct part in social production. The country's development was uneven and there existed extremely backward regions. Attempts were also made to intensify the national discrimination, disregarding equal rights of equal brother nationalities inhabiting Afghanistan. The main economic indices illustrating socio-economic situation in Afghanistan are a true reflection of the results of economic, social and cultural policies of the ruling circles of the country during more than two decades until the victory of the Revolution in 1978 after state socio-economic development plans were carried out. Those indices could not indicate anything but inability of the said policy to solve the most pressing national problems.

The people of Afghanistan were deprived not only of the minimum economic, social and cultural rights, but practically of most basic political and civil rights. The right for organization and legal activities of political organizations and parties, even for the formation of trade unions, was not guaranteed by law.

As the crisis was expanding and getting deeper it brought forth ever stronger protests, to which the regime responded with greater repressions and police actions. This further complicated the situation and impeded the solution of pressing economic, social and cultural problems.

To resolve vital problems that piled up during several decades a comprehensive and fundamental change was needed so as to remove all the obstacles from the road to development and prosperity.

The April Revolution, which was a natural result of the development and maturity of Afghan society and

the outcome of the long struggle of the people of Afghanistan for doing away with backwardness, poverty and intolerable deprivation, triumphed under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

By removing the obstacles from the path towards social progress, the foundation has been practically laid for the solution of basic problems and decisive struggle through people's concerted efforts against deep-going economic, social and cultural backwardness.

Therefore the National-Democratic Revolution was warmly welcomed by the people of Afghanistan.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was established during the first days of May 1978. The guidelines of the revolutionary tasks of the DRA were adopted and published. On the basis of the said document vast comprehensive changes in all spheres of life of Afghan society have been started.

The democratic Land Reform was announced and practical steps towards its implementation have been taken. The farmers were freed from large debts reaching up to 31 billion Afghanis, construction of schools and apartment houses began on a large scale.

A nationwide programme to combat illiteracy has been launched by the government. So Afghanistan began to march towards fundamental changes in the interests of the largest strata of society and towards the construction of a new progressive society.

It was known from the very early days that it would not be an easy job to overcome the difficulties and accomplish this task. Because of the internal opposition, actively supported by the government of the United States and its close allies, increasing obstacles were created on the path of the revolutionary process in Afghanistan. Simultaneously, mistakes and deviations from the principled path, particularly the

adventurist activities of Hafizullah Amin, heavily damaged the revolutionary process from within.

As a result of the above-mentioned factors significant part of those who historically and due to their objective interests should have supported the Revolution, were affected by the hostile propaganda and psychological war unleashed by our enemies and joined the opposition and the counter-revolutionaries dispatched from the outside.

These groups, with strong support of the US government and its allies in the region, carried out their destructive anti-government activities in 19 out of 31 provinces of the country. Traitor Hafizullah Amin, who illegally seized power, was overthrown by the patriotic party members faithful to the Revolution. With the beginning of a new phase of the Revolution, legality and democratic justice were restored, and efforts to remove the negative results of the previous mistakes and the policy of adventurism have been made.

Now, nine years since the triumph of the April Revolution in Afghanistan, attempts are made by Washington and its allies to distort the true picture and by manipulating facts shift the heavy blame for starting the war in Afghanistan and keeping it going on others. Although Washington, due to the possession of the huge propaganda machine, can impose a distorted picture of the events, it in no way is able to eliminate the facts and some documents that exist. As one of the leaders of extremist groups confessed, destructive activities of fundamentalists from Pakistan territory aimed at destabilizing the situation in Afghanistan have started many years before the April Revolution, only few months after Mohammed Daoud took power in 1973 as President of Afghanistan. Also before the Revolution 20,000 trained members of these groups were stationed in Pakistan. After the victory of the April

Revolution the fundamentalists stationed in the regions near the border expanded their destructive anti-government activities to a scale incomparable with the past, and due to the complexity of the situation during the first two years after the Revolution, they managed to attract a number of ordinary Afghans to their groups.

The facts and documents published lately in the international press indicate that the plot of an undeclared war against the DRA was masterminded at the NATO symposium only two months after the victory of the April Revolution and immediately preparations for the formation of opposition groups were started.

The said symposium took place in 1987 in Annapolis in the USA to discuss the "Events in Afghanistan and Its Results for the United States". It was decided to widely support the formation of fundamentalist groups and other anti-government groups in Afghanistan.

Such a decision was taken at a time when the US government and its allies one after another recognized the Afghan government and the fact that the triumph of the April Revolution was the manifestation of the will and desire of the people of Afghanistan. Today, however, the US Administration and Western politicians are trying to forget about the above-mentioned facts.

Even the Western media on some occasions pointed to the motives of the US plots against the DRA. For example, a French daily soon after the Revolution, on July 3, 1979, wrote that there is no reason to say that after the defeat in Iran the US will refrain from taking further measures in this region. The USA is trying to use the events in Afghanistan in its anti-Soviet policies. This is the aim of the USA and to reach this aim it will not refrain, without any doubt, from any assistance to the rebels, including training rebels and

organizing armed rebel groups to be dispatched to the territory of Afghanistan. For this it has to reach an agreement with Pakistan.

Similarly, it is clear that US imperialism and its allies are using the events in Afghanistan as a pretext for increasing international tension and for interference in the internal affairs of countries in the region. Declaring the oil-rich countries of the Gulf and the Middle East the sphere of US vital interests and defending it with the Rapid Deployment Force, are nothing but interference in the internal affairs of these countries. Using the present situation, Washington attempts to turn the territory of Pakistan into its main base and the strategic springboard in the region.

In spite of the fact that until 1980 imperialist countries were trying to make their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan as secret as possible, the truth about the undeclared war against the DRA and the organization of aggression from the outside, particularly from the Pakistan territory into revolutionary Afghanistan, could not be hidden from the world public. Even the Western media occasionally have made some facts known to the world public. Ronald Reagan, before being elected US President, confessed that the US government supplied arms to the groups opposing the Afghan Revolution.

Anwar Sadat, Egyptian President, only a few weeks before his death confessed to the American Television, NBC, that he had sold Soviet-made weapons to the United States so that the US could airlift them to Afghan counter-revolutionaries. As Sadat confessed, his army depots were open to them.

A special correspondent of the French daily Le Figaro Stochlin explained in 1979 that it was an open secret that the US was getting ever further involved in the affairs of the Afghan rebels. The Le Figaro correspondent quoted the US Consul in Peshawar that following the advice of the US Department of State the Pentagon supported the religious movements of Afghanistan so as to draw the attention of fanatic Muslims in Iran after the Islamic Revolution in that country. The visit of Brzezinski, National Security Adviser to the previous US President, to the borders between Afghanistan and Pakistan, his meeting with the leaders of the extremist groups, his pledge to render them further assistance and encouraging them for terrorist activities are all proofs of US interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Under the Reagan Administration aggression and provocations against the Revolution in Afghanistan acquired new dimensions. Ronald Reagan who during the period of his candidacy considered indirect measures taken by the Carter Administration concerning providing the Afghan counter-revolutionaries with arms illegal, now turned the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan into the official policy of the US Administration and is openly advocating the continuation of this policy.

In March 1981, Ronald Reagan declared in a TV interview that the US is ready to take a decision on directly providing the opposition groups with US weapons. In July 1981, Washington allocated another 21 million dollars for assisting the opposition groups. It must be mentioned here that the total US assistance in the period between 1978 and 1987 to the opposition groups based in Pakistan reached three billion dollars. Now the US government puts at the disposal of the lea

members of the fundamentalist groups 630 million dollars annually. It is planned that this assistance in the future be increased to one billion dollars. It should be added that the CIA also secretly allocates a large sum for subversive purposes in Afghanistan.

The Washington Post has defined the undeclared war against the DRA as one of the greatest "clandestine operations" since the Vietnam War.

The United States, in order to set the world public against the Soviet Union, this peaceloving country, and against the Afghan Revolution propagates baseless accusations in alleged use of chemical weapons by the limited contingents of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Kent Lans, a CIA expert on propaganda, confessed that this propaganda had started long time ago. He pointed out that since 1974 the CIA publishes such accusations in the press, telling that the Soviet Union took part in a chemical war in South-East Asia and is now doing the same in Afghanistan.

On September 23, 1981, Mathew Nelson, Professor of biochemistry at Harvard, famous US college, printed an article in which he stated that the US government could not provide scientific evidence pointing to the use of chemical weapons in Indochina and Afghanistan. Mathew Nelson mentioned that, contrary to the hue and cry raised by some US experts on defence matters, and intelligence and medical circles, there aren't any sufficient reasons to support the claims of US experts on the above-mentioned matter.

The New York Times in its November 24, 1981 issue pointed out that James Bambory, Professor of biochemistry at University of Colorado, who was the first scholar to do research on toxic substances, believed that this allegation of the Department of State was completely groundless.

On October 12, 1981, international press wrote that the sole aim of the Haig accusations against the Soviet Union is to win the support of the world public opinion for the cause of the escalation by the US of the arms race, especially of chemical and biological warfare programmes.

A special UN commission which investigated "proofs" submitted by the US Department of State has convincingly proved the absurdity of accusations levelled at the USSR. Experts - representatives of Egypt, Kenya, Peru and the Philippines - have not accepted a single testimony presented by the US Department of State which charges the Soviet Union with violations of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

While visiting the hospital managed by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, the commission was told by the physicians that they have never treated patients affected by the use of chemical weapons.

In the course of the investigation, the UN experts failed to find any grounds for such accusations against the Soviet limited contingent.

On the contrary, the facts show that the United States has used a great amount of chemical weapons during the aggressive war in Indochina. There are also reliable evidence to prove the use by the US of chemical weapons in the unholy war against independent Afghanistan. A clear picture can be found in international press from those arrested with chemical bombs.

US imperialism has chosen Pakistan as a springboard of undeclared war against Afghanistan. The regional CIA headquarters have been moved to Pakistan. The CIA agents, without losing time, soon began to help the counter-revolutionaries hiring them to interfere in the internal affairs of independent Afghanistan.

After the victory of the April Revolution, the CIA assigned Louis Dupree, one of its best experts, to contact the counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan and to organize their forces. Louis Dupree headed a team of spies consisting of Louis Adams, Robert Lisard, Louis Robinson, Vagon Dorvid, Rogers Brook, Dyod Tiriman, Richard Jankan and others. Soon a wide network of military training camps were created along the Afghan borders with Pakistan.

Now, there are more than 120 camps on the territory of Pakistan where counter-revolutionaries are trained and armed before being sent for terroristic operations in Afghanistan.

Among the instructors and trainers of counter-revolutionaries there are US government officials, British experts, Egyptian and Pakistani officers and so on.

The official Pakistani authorities with dire hypocrisy declare that they have nothing to do with training and arming the opposition bands and that they only provide humane assistance to the refugees. This claim of Pakistan is a blatant lie. It is a proven fact that the government of Pakistan is playing a considerable part in training and arming the extremist opposition groups.

US imperialism and Pakistani militarists, long before the DRA invited the limited contingent of Soviet troops, had set up military training camps and strategic bases on the territory of Pakistan for aggression against the DRA. The media in the West have revealed facts about the interference of the West long before the arrival of the limited contingents of Soviet troops.

On January 18, 1980, Hindustan Times, the Indian daily, wrote that one of the leaders of the rebels had disclosed that during 18 months (starting from the middle of 1978 onwards) about 35,000 Afghan rebels were

trained in Pakistan. Similarly the Patriot, another Indian daily, in its January 18, 1980 issue confirmed that in the eighteen months, 35,000 Afghans have learned how to use various types of weapons, including anti-tank ones.

Le Figaro in its February 14, 1979 issue wrote that the Islamabad regime had good motives not only to harbour the Afghan rebels but arm them against the regime.

The French newspaper Liberation in its March 19, 1979 issue published a well-documented article in which it wrote that the Afghan tribes which were opposing the new government of Afghanistan on religious grounds and were also against the liberation of women, had taken refuge in the territory of Pakistan. There they had set up about ten military training camps. The journalist of the Liberation wrote that there were thousands of armed men in these camps.

According to the reports published by the Christian Science Monitor on August 9, 1979, training camps for Afghan extremists were created with the help of Pakistani militarists.

Similarly, the rebels were given arms by the United States to topple the regime in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Lebanese newspaper Al-Shaab in its April 16, 1979 issue wrote that the groups of Afghan refugees who were dispatched to Afghanistan from Pakistan revealed that in Pakistan thousands of Afghan rebels were armed with American weapons and were learning how to wage a guerrilla war. The news on the existence of military training camps for the Afghan counter-revolutionaries on the Pakistani territory have been printed in the following publications:

Times of India

Feb. 1, 1980

In its February 2, 1979 issue, the special correspondent of The Washington Post Peter Newman who visited several military training camps of Afghan counter-revolutionaries around Peshawar wrote that according to a Pakistani officer so far 2,000 Afghans had received military training in Pakistan.

According to the article in March 3, 1980 issue of Asia and Africa Today, the government of Pakistan started the training of Afghan refugees in Warsak camp in May 1978, one month after the victory of the Revolution in Afghanistan.

At a meeting held in Islamabad leading government authorities of Pakistan urged the Afghan extremists to wage an active struggle against their enemies. At this meeting it was openly declared that it was the moral obligation of every Pakistani not to refrain from rendering any possible assistance to the Mujahiddin.

In its August 14 issue, the Patriot writes that the Pakistani authorities are denying that they are involved in arming the rebels and organizing them for invasion into Afghanistan. But the leaders such as Asghar Khan and Bezanjo know well enough what is going on inside their country. They openly accuse the government of Pakistan of its direct involvement in destructive activities against Afghanistan.

Like the United States, Pakistan has continuously followed a policy line fraught with animosity towards the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and has backed this policy with extensive financial, military and propaganda assistance.

In order to portray itself as being innocent in the eyes of the world public opinion, the Pakistani government claims that it is impossible to control the movement of the counter-revolutionaries in the territory of Pakistan. But the people of the world know very well that the government of Pakistan is quite capable of suppressing with all possible means any organization which rises against its wishes. They are also aware that the Pakistani authorities create serious obstacles to the return of the nomads to Afghanistan in the spring seasons.

Furthermore, the weapons delivered to the local extremists are transported by ships to the Pakistani ports. From there, the arms are carried to the Afghan border by the Pakistani army. Similarly, those training camps where the extremists undergo training to be later dispatched to Afghanistan, are being guarded by the armed forces of Pakistan. The government of Pakistan has full control over centres and organizations of the extremist groups in Peshawar and other cities.

Therefore, if the government of Pakistan would close down the main centres for the export of war and bloodshed, there would be no need for the closure of the borders between the two countries. All these facts prove that the Pakistani authorities are not willing to impose any limitations on the movement of counter-revolutionaries but, on the contrary, they arm and equip these gangs and dispatch them for missions of destruction to Afghanistan.

In return for this cooperation, Washington gave 3.2 billion dollars as military economic assistance to the government of Pakistan and in the next five years the latter will receive more than four billion dollars. On the basis of this decision, the US Administration delivers the most up-to-date weapons, including F-16

nuclear-capable aircraft and other modern armaments, to Pakistan.

It is with this large-scale assistance that Islamabad has been able to embark on its nuclear venture and is working to produce nuclear bomb. Furthermore, the United States is implementing its wide-scale plans through Pakistan, one of which is to turn Pakistan into a base for extremist bands to be dispatched to Afghanistan.

Professor Robert Wasing of the United States stated in December 1985 that the starting and continuation of the anti-Afghan policy by Washington would not have been possible without the cooperation of Pakistan (Jang newspaper, published in Pakistan in December 1985). In its anti-Afghan venture, Washington enjoys the support of its close NATO allies.

Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Great Britain, upon her arrival to Pakistan on October 8, 1981, paid a visit to border areas of Pakistan with Afghanistan where the training centres of the counter-revolutionaries are located. In her talks with the extremist leaders in the city of Peshawar, she declared support for their destructive activities against the DRA and promised financial aid of 2 million pounds in addition to 5.8 million pounds which have already been allocated.

By delivering arms and military equipment to the extremists, London is once again interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Lately it has delivered supermodern Blowpipe ground-to-air missiles to the extremist groups which have been used for downing passenger planes on several occasions and have resulted in the death of 149 civilians, including 16 children.

Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, France, Japan and some other West European countries are providing financial resources, technical equipment and political and propaganda support to the extremists

who are fighting against the DRA and are directly involved in the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

In the summer of 1979, when the scale of interferences and aggression from the territory of Pakistan against the DRA expanded and intensified to a dangerous point, the government of the DRA dispatched a delegation led by the Deputy Foreign Minister to Islamabad and demanded that in accordance with the principles of coexistence and goodneighbourly relations, a stop be put to the interference and aggression against the DRA from the territory of Pakistan. Regrettably, the Pakistani authorities not only did not respond positively to this lawful demand but expanded the scale of this conspiracy. These acts of the Pakistani authorities, which can be considered nothing but continuous aggression from the outside in accordance with the UN definition of aggression, approved by the General Assembly in 1974, expanded more and more.

Under these circumstances, Afghanistan was forced to ask the Soviet Union, its traditional and ancient friend, for immediate assistance.

After repeated requests of Afghanistan the Soviet Union agreed to send a limited number of its troops to Afghanistan in order to repel the foreign aggression. The agreement between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union for the dispatch of the limited military contingent is in full conformity with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, Article 4 of the Treaty on Friendship and Goodneighbourliness between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and Resolution No. 387 of 1979 of the Security Council of the United Nations. The governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have clearly declared from the very beginning that when the foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is stopped, the limited contingent of Soviet troops would be withdrawn.

The events and facts prove that the assertions of Washington Administration to the effect that the war and its continuation are due to the presence of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan are nothing but a sheer lie and hypocrisy. Furthermore, it should be kept in mind that the Soviet Union ever since 1919, when Afghanistan obtained its political independence, had continuously assisted Afghanistan in the economic, technical, cultural and military spheres and in the most difficult times had positively responded to the requests of the people of Afghanistan. Therefore, the request of the DRA for military assistance from our great northern neighbour to ward off the foreign aggression was not incidental. The Soviet assistance to Afghanistan has been rendered irrespective of the changes in the regimes in Afghanistan and has proven its fruitfulness.

The cause of peace, national independence, progress, democracy and true social justice, as has been defined in the Programme of Action of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and other important party and state documents, constitutes the basis of all the activities of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

During the nine years since the Revolution, despite all the problems created as a result of the undeclared war, efforts have been continued to consolidate national independence, democratize all spheres of social life, establish the equality of the rights of all nationalities, promote the growth of culture and education, eradicate illiteracy and solve other problems in the interests of the people.

The growth of the public sector in the economy not only has been successful but to a large extent it has been able to reduce the effects of the economic blockade imposed by the West and of the sabotage of counter-revo-

lutionary extremists. Furthermore, 40,000 new jobs have been created, which meet the demands of the present-time living standards. During the last five years, ninety million Afghans have been invested in the national economy. This figure exceeds all the state investments in the development programmes before the Revolution.

In the economic policy, the party and the state undeviatingly follow the line of protecting human beings. One-fourth of the state investments in the years 1981-1985 has been spent on the development of public services. In the current five-year-plan period, the total state investments in the development of education, medical services and culture amount to more than 31 per cent. The DRA foreign policy is based on the respect for the principles of peaceful coexistence, goodneighbourly relations, non-alignment, positive and active neutrality, respect for the Charter of the United Nations, and active participation in the international efforts for peace, disarmament and friendship among peoples.

The domestic and foreign policy of the DRA is indicative of the fact that Afghanistan wants to live in a peaceful atmosphere of goodneighbourly relations with all its neighbours and focus all the efforts of the Afghan society on the solution of the pressing social, economic and cultural problems which have been accumulating for decades, the overcoming of the main internal enemy of the Afghans - the extreme economic backwardness and the achievement of speedy economic and social progress. To achieve these aims Afghanistan requires international assistance and cooperation.

It is on the basis of this principled peaceful policy of the DRA that despite the undeclared war and extensive anti-Afghan campaign of Washington and its

allies all-sided and active efforts are exerted for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

The proposals, initiatives and flexible position of the DRA at the Geneva negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan put forward on January 15, 1987, through the special envoy of the United Nations, are part and parcel of the peaceful policy of the DRA aimed at achieving peace through political and peaceful means.

The declaration of the policy of national reconciliation and the unilateral ceasefire by the party and people's government in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the readiness to negotiate with the opposition, the announcement of general amnesty as a result of which over 6,000 political prisoners have been freed, the publishing of the Draft Constitution of the DRA and the invitation extended to the opposition to express their views over this draft which contains all the necessary provisions for the safe return of the refugees are all measures which have been put into effect by the DRA for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the speedy cessation of war and bloodshed in the country. These measures are based on the humanistic and peaceful policy of the leadership of the DRA which leaves no grounds for any pretexts for hesitation as far as the political settlement and achieving peace are concerned.

Even the mass media of the West do not have any doubts that the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation by the DRA leadership is a wise measure aimed at achieving peace. The nine years of war and bloodshed have affected every Afghan family and have become the only obstacle hampering the realization of objectives of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the DRA. Its continuation will bring nothing but further misery and deprivation. The

policy of national reconciliation as a new measure aimed at achieving peace and putting an end to war arouses surprise and appreciation of many people.

The policy of national reconciliation is gaining support among the forces opposing the DRA, including those who were engaged in armed struggle. Despite the obstacles created by the Iranian and Pakistani authorities, the growing number of refugees welcoming this policy are returning home. So far no one has found a better alternative to the policy of national reconciliation.

Naturally, the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan require that the opposition forces including those who are encouraging, instigating and financing the war against the DRA, those from whose territory this war is being waged and also those who are practically waging the war, would positively respond to the peaceful policies of the DRA leadership and instead of relying on weapons, destruction and bloodshed would let the Afghans traverse their road to peace through national dialogue and would solve the issues around Afghanistan at the negotiation table.

Regrettably, the White House is not ready to take any steps along the path of reason.

Washington is not only the prime source of negative reaction to the policy of national reconciliation but its delegations arriving in Islamabad and Peshawar promised large financial assistance and the delivery of modern weapons to the extremists so as to encourage them to oppose the national reconciliation and the ceasefire. At the threshold of the fourth phase of the seventh round of the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, when the people of Afghanistan, the region and the world expected a decisive turn towards peace, Washington announced the delivery of 600 new consign-

ments of Stinger missiles to the extremists and openly declared that if the government of Pakistan would act independently of the will of the United States of America, it will lose the promised military-economic assistance of four billion dollars.

Therefore, despite the efforts and measures taken by the leadership of the DRA to put an end to war and bloodshed, the noise of gunfire is still heard in the land of Afghans and the war is taking its new victims.

Despite the sabotage and torpedoing of the process of national reconciliation by Washington and its extremist allies, the people of Afghanistan are continuing their struggle against war with even greater force and are confident that they will achieve peace and do away with backwardness once and for all.

Chapter 2

OPEN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Links of Afghan Extremists

As can be seen from the available documents, imperialist and reactionary countries (especially the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan), due to their political systems and in disregard of the international norms and principles, have conducted destructive activities against the DRA. The astronomic sums of overt and covert financial assistance given to the extremist bands, their military training, arming them with the most modern and lethal weapons such as Stinger missiles by the United States and Blowpipe missiles by Britain, the meetings of the President of the United States and the leaders of the governments of Italy, Britain and France with the leaders of extremists, the dispatch of the spies to the territory of Afghanistan, and some other examples of the ties of the extremists with the imperialist and reactionary countries and organizations are a vivid proof of the interference of these countries in the internal affairs of the DRA.

Afghanistan has been the subject of the studies by research centres, among them the Department of Research on Afghanistan in the framework of Nebraska University, which is affiliated with the CIA. The studies of this Centre show that the United States has put more than one and a half billion dollars worth of

military assistance at the disposal of the extremists. The United States had rendered aid worth 150 million dollars in 1983, 125 million dollars in 1984, 470 million dollars in 1985, 630 million dollars in 1986 and is planning to donate even larger amounts in 1987 to the extremists for carrying out their heinous crimes.

According to The Washington Post, the assistance of the United States to the extremists through covert channels has been 500 million dollars. This is in addition to the overt assistance which is being given to them. In 1986 alone, 850 American advisers arrived at the Peshawar areas to conduct military training of the extremists. The Washington Times in its April 2, 1986 issue writes: "The first batch of Stinger missiles has been delivered to the Afghan rebels."

London Daily News in its issue of March 6, 1987, revealed that a covert army of the United States entitled KMS, which is a bunch of mercenaries led by two experts -- Major David Waxer and Colonel James Johnson, has established close contacts with the extremists stationed in the territory of Pakistan.

The crimes committed by the extremists with the assistance of the US Administration are countless. The world public is well aware of the overt and covert tries and cooperation of the Afghan extremists with the imperialist and reactionary countries and their respective organizations. In the present book the readers will find a large number of shocking revelations of cases of torture, murder, explosions, highway robbery, attacks and other inhuman acts committed by the extremists. The extremists would not have been able to commit such crimes without arms, equipment and proper training. An assessment of the activities of the extremists show that the Federal Republic of Germany is second to the United States in the scale of training and arming the extremist groups formed to kill and rob

the people of Afghanistan. During his official visit to China, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the FRG declared his support for the Afghan extremists. In a speech at one of the sessions of the Parliament he stated that his government had allocated 60 million marks for financing the activities of Afghan extremists in Pakistan on an annual basis. This is in addition to 20 million dollars which was given as an emergency assistance to the extremists by the European Common Market.

The Organization for Self Reliance was created under the leadership of Wolf Ganz Biets at the initiative of the ruling West German Christian Democratic Party. The leadership of this organization is composed of an Afghan and some Germans. It has no task other than coordinating the criminal and inhumane activities of the extremists.

An organization led by Yorgan Todin Hoffer is one of the active German organizations whose leaders have the closest ties with the CIA and West German secret service BND. This organization has sent dozens of spies and saboteurs to our country with the assistance of the extremists. One of these people is Dr. Frayak who has illegally entered Afghanistan with the help of the extremists for conducting subversive activities.

The world public knows well enough that the biggest centres for training saboteurs are located on the territory of Pakistan and Iran. Hundreds of extremists are trained in these camps and are secretly dispatched to Afghanistan for carrying out subversive missions. The world mass media published extensive reports on these training centres.

The dispatch of spies and military advisers is another point which shows the dependence of the extremists on foreign countries. From the very beginning of the interference of imperialists and reactionary

forces in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, dozens of press conferences with the participation of journalists from all around the world have been held. The world press gave a wide coverage to the stories of the spies from the above-mentioned countries who had confessed to their part in the clandestine operations and the training of the extremists. At these conferences collection of classified information on the participation of these countries in sabotage activities has been made public. Dozens of spies have been arrested, but as an example we will publish the confessions of some of them which prove the relationship of the extremists with the foreign countries and are a vivid example of the interference of imperialist countries and their allies in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Patric Sails (Photo 1)

My name is Patric Sails, son of Alic Sails... I used to work in the commissary of the United States in Karachi... The American Embassy asked me to work in the commissary of the American Embassy in Lashkargah. Later on I was appointed to the commissary of the United States Embassy as Deputy Director. One day Griffin invited me to his office and asked me to gather some information. Altogether I spent ten and a half years in Afghanistan. I was gathering information from friends and acquaintances and was passing it to Griffin.

Haji Qudus Qaderi (Photo 2):

I was employed by Edward Young, CIA Administrative Officer in Kabul. I filled in the CIA form. Afterwards I was given order to prepare reports on the social, political and military conditions of Afghanistan. After the completion of the office term of Edward Young I was submitting my reports to Moris Wolfen and in return I received money.

Philip Aguyar Jean Marry (Photo 3), born in 1953,

is one of the people who had come to Afghanistan for intelligence purposes. After his arrest in Logar Province he was interviewed in front of the TV cameras and radio correspondents.

In early 1982 he came to Karachi with a nurse by the name of Ann. One of the extremists accompanied him to Logar Province in Afghanistan. Together with the extremist group he was directly engaged in sabotage activities. He was passing pictures, films and other classified information to the government of France which in turn sent it to the CIA. After Ann returned to Paris in November 1982, two other persons by the names of Jobel and Owilla were sent to Pakistan to be dispatched to Logar Province in Afghanistan.

On several occasions the extremist groups while carrying out destructive activities, highway robbery and attacking people's residences, abducted people of different walks of life such as workers, peasants, doctors, students, soldiers, and clergy, including women and children. The victims were beaten, tortured and kept without food, water or warm clothes in dungeons.

Zalmay, son of Sardar Mohammad, a resident of Kama subdistrict of Ningarhar Province, stated (Photo 4):

In 1980 the extremists in Sanger Mandary village forcibly entered our house at night and took my brother and myself to Aslam desert. Our fault was getting land from the government. The armed members of the group started beating us. One of the members of the group fired a shot at my chest. They wanted to cut off my arm. I screamed and begged the leader of the group whose name was Shokoor to have mercy on us for he knew my father to be a pious Muslim and that I too was a Muslim. He did not listen to me and instead of my arm they cut off both my ears and my brother's. We were half dead when the security forces came over and took us to the hospital.

Farid Ahmad, son of Amir Jan, resident of Ningarhar (Photo 5) stated:

I was in twelfth grade in Gazi Abad High School of Ningarhar Province. On several occasions I was ordered by the extremists to join them. Because I refused, they abducted me and took me to Char Dara village. They put the Kalashnikov submachine

gun across my eyes and said that since I wanted to study and did not want to fight in the holy war, they would make me blind. They fired and, as a result, I cannot see any more.

Stoning is one of extremists' most common and brutal way of killing people. In some provinces a special place is repeatedly used by the extremists for the purpose. Such places have won the ill reputation of a slaughterhouse. According to the available documents, among such places are the caves of Panj Shir and Patkia Kapisa and Wardak Provinces. In these slaughterhouses, tens and hundreds of our compatriots are being tortured. When the government takes measures to free the prisoners, the extremists kill them.

Abdul Wahid Goud, one of the former leaders of the extremists in Panj Shir, has written in his confession that he remembered seeing 450 prisoners in Malsepa and Chah Ahoo prisons (Photos 6 and 7). Chah Ahoo is located in the Safeed Chehr area of Panj Shir along a river on the slopes of a mountain. This prison is in fact a cave. The men living in these prisons lost all ability to talk, hear or move. They resembled corpses. They were to be murdered by various means. The life of some was ended by hitting them on their heads with large stones, some were riddled with bullets and others were beaten in their private parts until they were dead. The bodies of the dead were thrown into the river.

The murdering ground of Baba Sange Shrine is located in Nijrab subdistrict of Kapisa Province. There the extremists have stoned to death a large number of teachers, students, peasants and clergymen.

Mullah Hadi is one of those clergymen who was murdered there. Another hair-raising place for murdering people is located in Hauza Kaibaz.

Ghulam Hazrat, a resident of Herat, who is a driver, gives his eyewitness account of this place:

At six-thirty in the morning when I was on my way home from the public bath, I was threatened with a gun by two persons who had their faces covered. They blind-folded me and took me to the headquarters of the band. They put me under various types of torture. After a while they took me to the murdering grounds. There was a large number of corpses there. Two of the corpses were decapitated not long ago and were covered with blood. I screamed and passed out. When I regained my conscience, I was in a prison cell, from which later I managed to escape.

In Abu Talit Fort located in Naissan village of Herat, the extremists from the Jamiat-i-Islami had dug a well 200 metres deep. Here is an eyewitness account of one of the officers:

When the extremists left the village, a deep well full of decomposed human bodies was discovered. Among the corpses there were two belonging to the people who seemd to have been thrown alive into the well not long before the well was discovered. They were tied down with ropes and died without being able to do anything for their rescue.

Note: The above-mentioned murdering grounds are only some of the examples of the long list of such grounds.

The Use of Chemical Weapons Against the People of Afghanistan

The use of lethal chemical weapons and poisonous substances made by the United States and its allies during the last nine years by the extremists, is one of open violations of the international norms and principles, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the imperialist countries (Photo 8).

The Afghan extremists have used these lethal weapons delivered to them by the imperialist countries against the Afghan people, which have resulted in death, paralyses, psychological disorders, crippling,

incurable wounds, and gradual death of innocent Afghans (Photos 9 and 10).

Most of the victims of these weapons are women, children and elderly people. The use of these weapons by any country or groups of individuals is in defiance of the existing international documents.

The chemical weapons sent to counter-revolutionaries by the Reagan Administration and its NATO allies contained hand grenades, various mortar and cannon shells and ground-to-ground missiles.

On September 29, 1986, the extremists by firing shells with chemical poisonous substances on Nazian sub-county of Shinwar Grand county, have poisoned more than 60 local residents including children, women and elderly persons.

In the nine years of war, the CIA in collaboration with other warmongering countries has never missed a chance to help an Afghan to kill an Afghan.

However, the counter-revolutionaries backed by US imperialists did not stop at that. They have even reported to poisoning drinking water and foodstuffs with special poisonous substances which have resulted in the death or incurable diseases among our compatriots.

Miss Shakella, an official of the Ministry of Commerce, was a student in the ninth grade in the Mariana High School. At a press conference she told the journalists:

The extremists who are enemies of science and culture spread poisonous substances in the schools for girls. When I entered the school, going towards my classroom, I smelled a pleasant odour. But in a few minutes I passed out. When I regained conscience after two days, I found myself in a hospital. Despite persistent treatment, I still have nervous problems. Small matters upset me. I have constant pain in my hands and legs.

Sakhi Mohammad, a member of Harakate Islami group, after his arrest by the security forces of the DRA told me following at a press conference (Photo 12):

In early 1981 I was recruited by the Harakate Islami group. Until the time of my arrest, I was making trips to Pakistan to bring in arms and ammunition. I has received training in the area near Attack Bridge. Last year when I went to Pakistan the person in charge of military affairs of Harakate Islami told me that my arms have arrived and I should learn how to use them. Together with other 20 people I went to an area called Hawli Kabuli (Kabul Yard). Two American and one Pakistani advisers taught me how to use a new type of mortar. I knew how to use a mortar, but this mortar functioned differently. Then I was told to move 300 to 350 metres away from where we were standing. First the direction of the wind should be determined. I was also told that the mortar should be fired in the morning or in the evening. We were given permission to inspect the area five hours after it was hit by a mortar shell. I was given a gas mask as well. When I illegally entered Afghanistan I was arrested.

Greater Numbers Must Be Killed

This is a slogan that the extremists want to put into practice. The total number of people murdered in the Kabul City one by one during six years reached 450. From the point of view of the leaders of the extremists this figure is too small and unconvincing. They felt duty bound to raise this figure and thus resorted to murder and mass terror.

The extremists' terrorist activities assume various forms:

- Mining the public roads. On many occasions a great number of the mines made in France, Italy, Britain, the USA and other countries, that have been captured by the security forces, were shown to the foreign and local journalists at press conferences. But many of these weapons went off causing great calamities.

Bombardment of Cities and Villages

When the state decided that the cities and villages should have reliable security belts and be safe from the attacks of armed bandits hiding in caves, this decision was enthusiastically supported by the people and tens and hundreds of groups of defenders were formed. With cooperation of the security forces they participated in strengthening the security belts around the cities and villages.

Discontent with this situation, the extremists resorted to criminal actions of mass killing by firing mortar shells and missiles from large distances, killing hundreds of our compatriots in different provinces, including children, women, and elderly people. In 1985, the extremists repeatedly fired ground-to-ground missiles at the Kabul City, hitting Dehmazang and Pole Artan areas and killing dozens of children, women and other civilians (Photos 15-17).

Besides killing many people, the ground-to-ground missiles that have been fired by the extremists at the cities damaged many houses and set others on fire. Such was the case, for instance, in the Old City of Kabul (Photos 18-20).

Explosions in Crowded Places -- Another Method of Mass Killing

The security forces of the country have prevented quite a number of explosions from taking place, but sometimes the extremists, skillfully and with the help of their foreign instructors, hid explosives in vehicles and exploded them in crowded places.

The bomb explosion near the terminal building of the Kabul airport was one of the most shocking incid-

ents. In this incident 207 persons were wounded and 13 killed (Photos 21, 22).

During the eight years of direct interference of the USA and its allies in the internal affairs of Afghanistan many incidents similar to the mentioned above have occurred. Photos and descriptions of some of them would convince the reader that imperialists and their lackeys have never respected human rights and committed inhuman crimes thus violating national and international laws.

In recent years new and more sophisticated equipment of mass terror have been put at the disposal of the extremists so that they could increase the number of their criminal deeds. Among these horrifying modern weapons are US-made Stinger missiles and British Blowpipe missiles (Photo 24). Their thirst for mass killing was not quenched by all the crimes they committed by planting mines and firing missiles. All in all they delivered more than 600 Stinger missiles to the extremists.

Extremists often used these weapons against peaceful civilians. Among such criminal acts are the downing of the Bakhtar plane in the air space of Kandahar along with passengers, a plane shot down in the Khost and another passenger plane which downed in Zabol Province. These are heinous crimes.

In these incidents altogether 149 women, children and men were killed and many families were set in grief (Photos 25-33). Everybody denounced the bandits who perpetrated these crimes and their backers.

What the Extremists Are Doing Abroad

When people witness or receive the news about all these deadly weapons and the crimes committed with their help and learn about innocent people being killed,

every sensible person will ask himself: why human beings instead of leading peaceful life are fighting each other and what is the reason of such hostilities. In our country, Afghanistan, it has been considered an established fact that all these crimes are rooted in the anti-humane policies of the imperialist countries.

The Afghan fundamentalists, with the assistance of the imperialists and reactionaries, and having access to large amounts of arms and ammunition, are continuing to commit such abhorrent crimes against their compatriots in the country that it is even difficult to write about them.

Attacking people's houses and robbing them of their belongings, mining the highways, raping and drug trafficking, committing acts of banditism and terror, setting fire to houses, transport vehicles etc. are just a few things that can be mentioned as examples of the crimes committed by the Afghan fundamentalists abroad, particularly in Iran and Pakistan. As it is known, most of the leaders of the fundamentalist groups are living with their groups in the camps stationed in the above-mentioned countries where big deals and transactions with respect to the purchase and sale of arms and narcotics, human beings and even the nation itself and exchange and collection of intelligence information are taking place.

It is known to the world that greed is the weak point of the so-called fundamentalists: anyone who pays more will be served better. The Pakistani government which has the possibility of distributing assistance to the fundamentalists does it in pursuit of its own ends and thus imposes its will on them.

The fundamentalists have undertaken to help remove difficulties facing the Pakistani government, and are committing severe and inhumane crimes against the people of Pakistan.

The world media have made public data on the cases of explosions, smuggling, robberies and armed attacks which have taken place in those regions of Pakistan where the Afghan fundamentalists are living.

They kidnap young girls from the camps located in Pakistan and sell them to Sindhis and Punjabis. These crimes have attracted a great number of customers to the camps. Those girls who resist are raped and then sent to widows' camp. As a matter of fact the widows' camp is nothing but a brothel frequented by the leaders of the groups.

Mullah Mir Hamza captured by the security forces states:

Sometime the need arises to increase the number of combatants and to send them to fight in Afghanistan. On such occasions the fundamentalists arrive at the camps and select a number of people to be used for armed destructive activities. Those who refuse to go are executed by the order of the Commandant and their wives are sent to the widows' camp.

Almost everyone is confident that most of the Afghans living in Pakistan want to return to their home country. But the armed forces of Pakistan stationed on the border are stopping the returnees. If they capture a group of returnees, they send them far away to a desert where they have no access to water, food, shelter or other essential necessities.

Said Ali, one of the returnees who was originally an inhabitant of Jozjan, says:

All our compatriots who are living in Pakistan want to return to Afghanistan but they are prevented by the authorities. We, 40 people altogether, were captured by the fundamentalists when we made an attempt to return home. They took us to a desert and left us there without anything. As a result 32 of us died and only eight were able to escape alive and returned to Afghanistan.

Banditry is another sphere of activities of the fundamentalists. One or several armed groups make at-

tempts to block highways, forcefully stop the caravans carrying foodstuffs and essential goods, and loot them. In case the passengers or the drivers resist, they are killed on the spot. If the caravans are carrying goods which the attackers do not need for themselves or if the truck crossing those areas is empty, they set fire on such a truck.

Abdul Karim, son of Mohammad Yaquob, driver of one of such trucks, says:

On August 16, 1364, I was driving a truck loaded with 122 large bundles of expensive fabric along the Salang Highway. The truck was stopped by the fundamentalists who took the goods. They wanted to kill me so that I would not be able to expose their hide-out but, fortunately, I managed to escape.

Shadagh, son of Faquir Chand, a merchant from Kabul City, says:

My commercial goods which consisted of several items worth 13,750 US dollars were looted by the fundamentalists in the Salang region.

Sometimes it happens that the trucks and buses stopped by the fundamentalists are carrying not goods but passengers. In this case they force all passengers to leave the vehicle and start searching them. They take all their money, valuables, jewelry and their luggage and those who resist are killed in cold blood.

In Tera Path located between Kabul and Gerdez, the fundamentalists stopped a taxi carrying passengers to Paktia Province. Gul Ahmad, one of the passengers who refused to hand over his belongings, was mercilessly killed.

Haji Khir Mohammad together with his son and Said Alam, a taxi driver from Mir Bacha Kot district, were driving towards Kabul. Their car was stopped at Deh Saquaw Ali by a gang, belonging to the Gulbuddin Hekmatyar fundamentalist group. They killed all the passengers including the driver and stole 7 million Afghanis

in cash and the car. Since they were not able to take off the gold rings from the corpses, they cut off their fingers.

No One Should Be Left Unharmd

Women constitute half of the society and they deserve respect and appreciation. This respect and appreciation have been reflected in one way or another in many international documents. But, unfortunately, we notice that some groups under the slogan "No one should be left unharmd" for many years have been trying to harm, in one way or another, the women and prevent them from participating in the formation of society and in cultural, political and other spheres of life. Everyone is aware that during 1972 a number of fundamentalists who were then fighting against the government or living in Pakistan and Iran, were trying to discourage girls and women who wanted to attend schools or work in government offices by throwing acid in their faces and in this way threatening others who wanted to study and acquire scientific knowledge.

Everyone knew these groups which were known as acid spreaders. Now the same groups under different covers and names are committing various crimes against Afghan women inside Afghanistan and abroad on a larger scale. These groups now are enjoying more financial support and get modern weapons from Western countries, first of all from the USA. At present these groups possess modern chemical weapons and chemicals with the help of which they have poisoned many schoolgirls.

At present raping of women, abduction, buying and selling, forced marriages, murder, hanging and amputation of breasts of women are typical crimes committed by the acid spreaders and many other similar groups.

Hamidullah, son of Mohammed Rahim, a member of a terrorist group in the Baghlan Province belonging to the fundamentalist party Jamiat-i-Islami, related:

I have passed on 40 men and women various kinds of death sentences, such as execution, stoning to death, burying alive, skinning, etc. When I used to pass the stoning death verdict on someone, I ordered that the man should be half-buried. The method consists in digging a pit, placing the person into it in such a way that only half of his body is buried and then throwing stones at him until he is dead. The order of skinning was executed through skinning the convict by some persons with small knives. If the convict was a woman, her breasts had to be cut off first. They were buried while they were half alive.

The following examples can give an idea to the readers which groups of women are the target of attacks by the fundamentalists.

- Noor Jehan Makhmoor, a teacher in Malali primary school.
- Pashtoon, daughter of Mr. Aslam, a teacher of literacy courses.
- Karima, daughter of Malik Mohammed, a teacher in Zerghoona high school.
- Zakia, daughter of M. Alam, teacher of literacy courses.
- Gulab Jabar Khil, a teacher in Chabar Kala school.
- Shamlaa, a teacher in a kindergarten.
- Shafiqua, daughter of Abdul Ghafoor, a teacher of Nazo Ana school.

The victims mentioned above are only a few examples of those who were murdered. But the complete list of the women killed, abducted, raped, compelled to forceful marriages or kidnapped and sold as commercial goods is so long that it can cover the pages of dozens of books.

Amena, a teacher of Ariana school, says:

I and Karima have been captured by the funda-

mentalists. They took us to separate places and since I was resisting they beat me. Finally they sold Karima for 13,000 Afghanis to Naik Mohammad, a member of the same fundamentalist group, and I was taken by Darwish to Pakistan. Darwish was told by his friends that since his record was good and long, the Commandant gave me as a gift to him. After a while Darwish raped me and made me his wife without Nekah¹ and after that he was using me as a tool for satisfying his inhuman lust.

Karima said:

A group of kidnapers in Kulangar, Logerd Province, was assigned to abduct young girls, take them to Pakistan and sell them there. This group abducted Kamela, Perwin, Safoura and many other girls and murdered Zarghoona who was a teacher and hanged her sister. Her body was hanging for many hours on a tree. They followed me all the time. One night they attacked our house. They beat me until I fainted.

Compulsory Expulsion of Civilians

Because the number of those who join the extremists on their own free will and without pressure or torture is very few, when it so happens that they have a greater number, they are as a rule in a state of remorsefulness and doubt.

The identity of the rebels was not clear to our people during the first years of intervention on the part of the imperialist and reactionary countries and at the beginning of the undeclared war against Afghanistan. Some of our countrymen were deceived and unconsciously joined the ranks of the extremists. But later, realizing what the extremists' real aims and the nature and composition of their groups are, people no longer joined them or even accepted their presence in the localities.

In order to consolidate their ranks and implement dozens of their sinister and inhumane plans, the ex-

¹Nekah -- a marriage contract in accordance with Islamic sacred tenets.

tremists set themselves one main and fundamental goal -- compulsory expulsion of all inhabitants from their residences in villages, townships, subdistricts, districts and cities. This was a major problem confronting all ringleaders of secret organizations, intelligence services and, in particular, armed extremists. Every group was out to evacuate regions it had access to, for doing so they benefited as follows:

- the more there are Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, the more money and military hardware the extremists receive;

- when the extremists evacuate a township they get abundant material gains, for they personally rob the shelters of the inhabitants who are forced to leave the place in order to stay alive;

- for guiding a person across the border, the extremists charge him from 20 to 50 thousand Afghanis, and kill along the way those who have a considerable amount of money, thus looting whatever they have;

- they use the evacuated areas for setting up hide-outs for armed groups and for accumulating arms and ammunition, because the security forces of the country do not perform armed air raids over residential localities;

- the extremists always lack armed men. That is why they use the refugees living in the camps based in Iran and Pakistan as a reserve, forcibly arming some of them and sending them into Afghanistan under the guidance of the members of the band. What acts later this armed group will commit and how its members and innocent persons turn into criminals is a question dealt with in this book;

- the more Afghans they manage to drive abroad, the more hue and cry they raise and large-scale propaganda launch in the international arena as well as in the UN and its agencies, calling for material, moral

and political support in the name of refugees. The extremists, therefore, see their interests in that they should increase the number of refugees and take advantage of this. They have also realized that no one is ready to leave, without any reason, his or her home and wander in the burning deserts of Iran and Pakistan. So they are well aware that it is impossible to make one leave his place without resorting to violence, violating social order, threatening with arms, blackmailing and launching slanderous propaganda, and that life has to be so narrowed and limited for the people that they should be compelled to quit the job, neighbourhood and even the homeland.

Look at this document:

DOCUMENT No.1

In the name of God!

(Declaration of Jamiat-i-Islami)

Workers, peasants, shopkeepers, businessmen, teachers, school students and all Muslims of Afghanistan should leave their work and launch a general strike and join the ranks of your Mujahiddin brothers. Be aware that we take revenge upon the enemies of Islam against every drop of your blood and those of martyrs.

Down with the puppet regime!

Down with the enemies of Islam!

Hoisted be the banner of Mujahiddin of Islam!

Publication of Jamiat-i-Islami

Following is an explanation about the major methods of work by the extremists who directly or indirectly threaten the inhabitants forcing them to leave their places of residence and homeland. In such cases, using their mercenaries or by means of spreading leaflets among villagers and dwellers, the extremists order them to evacuate their shelters and leave for mountains and caves or for foreign countries. Those who resettle to a safer region or join the security forces are



Photo 1. Patric Sails, a CIA agent. While working in the US embassy in Kabul he engaged in counter-revolutionary activities.



Photo 2. Haji Qudos Qaderi was enlisted by the US secret services. While working at the US embassy he took part in subversive activities against the DRA.



Photo 3. Philip Aguyar, a French citizen, who illegally penetrated the DRA territory and under the guise of a physician gathered intelligence information.



Photos 4, 5. Zalmay, son of Sardar Mohammad, and Farid Ahmed, son of Amir Jan, victims of counter-revolutionaries.





Photo 7. This young man was tortured and humiliated by the extremists in the way Nazis committed their atrocities in the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Dachau.

Photo 6. The prison where prisoners were held in inhuman conditions.

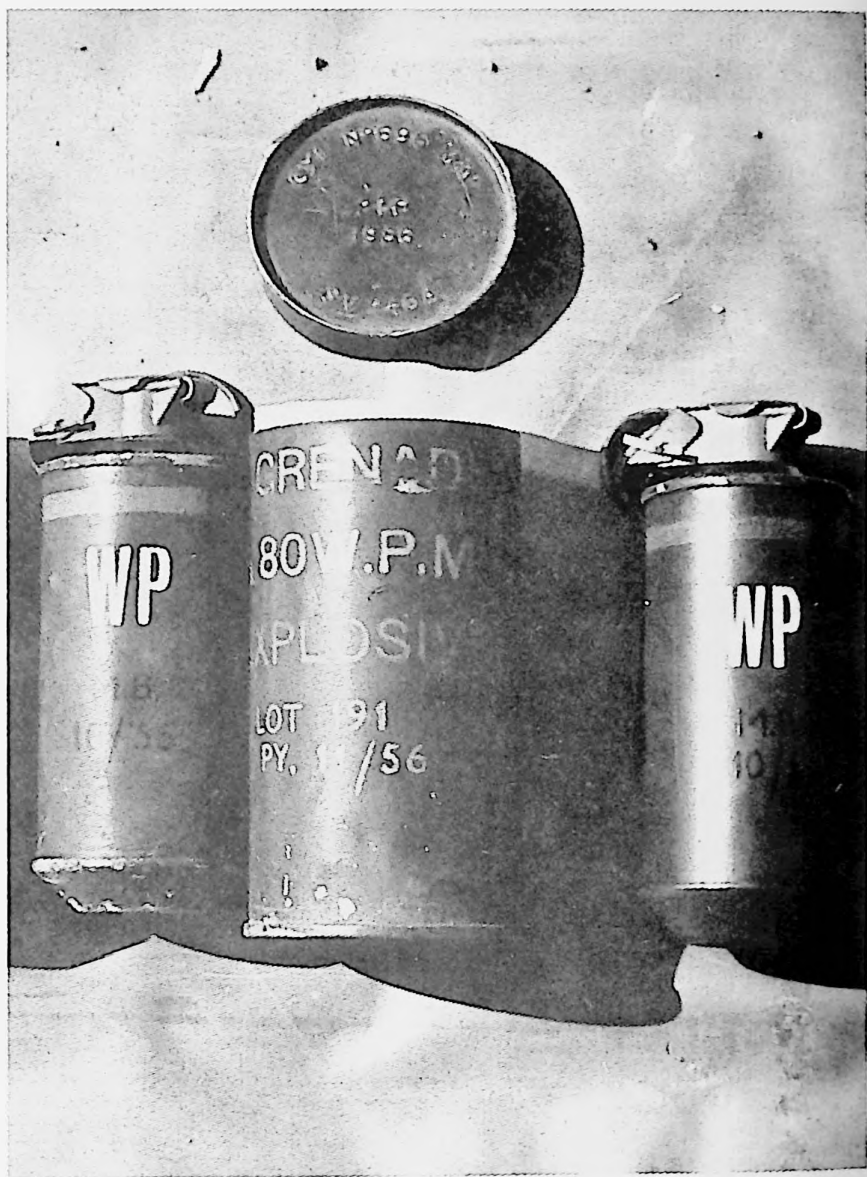
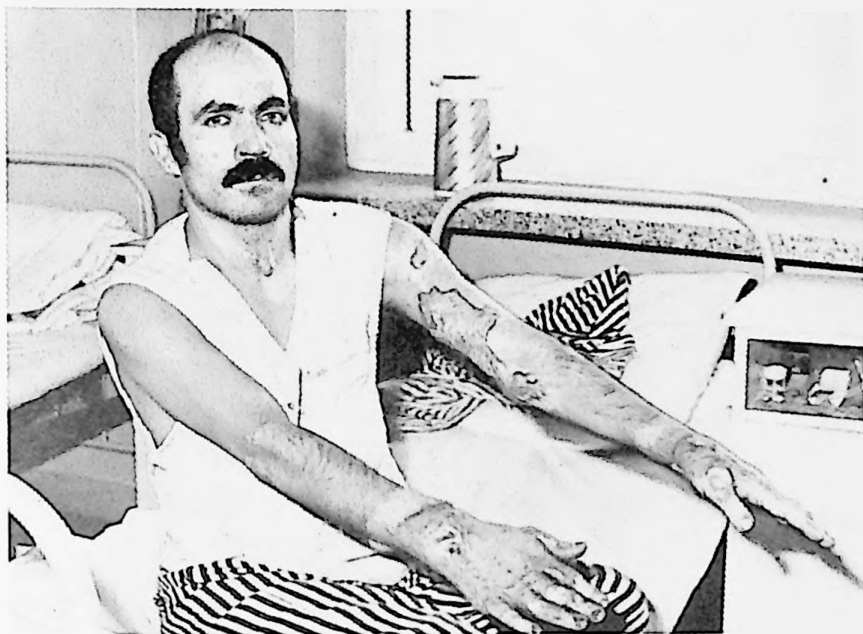


Photo 8. Samples of chemical weapons captured from the counter-revolutionaries.



Photos 9, 10. Victims of the explosion of chemical shells fired by the extremists.



Photo 11. Schoolgirls of the Aisha Durrani lycée injured by poisonous substances before being sent to a hospital.

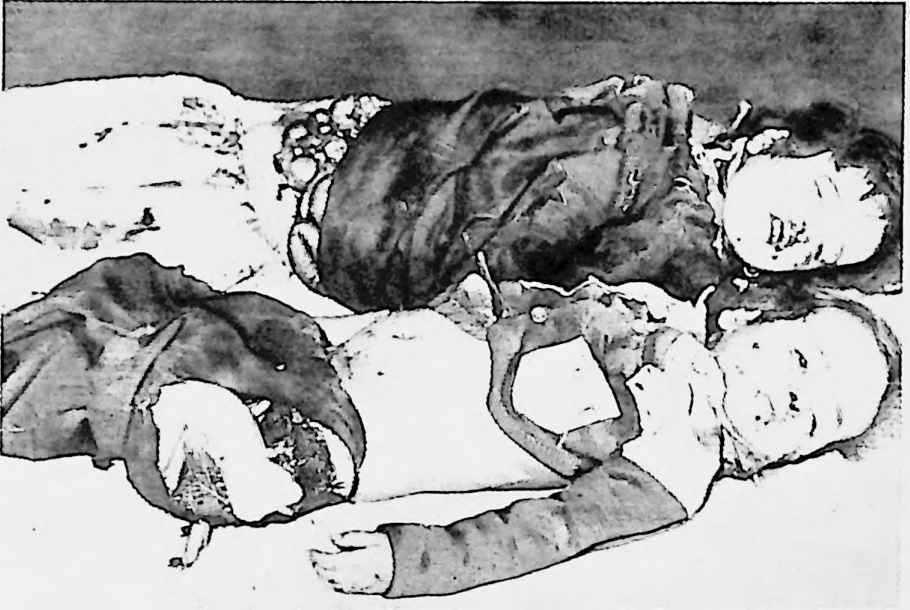


Photo 12. Sakhri Akhmad, captured by the DRA security forces, is giving evidence on the use of chemical weapons by the counter-revolutionaries.

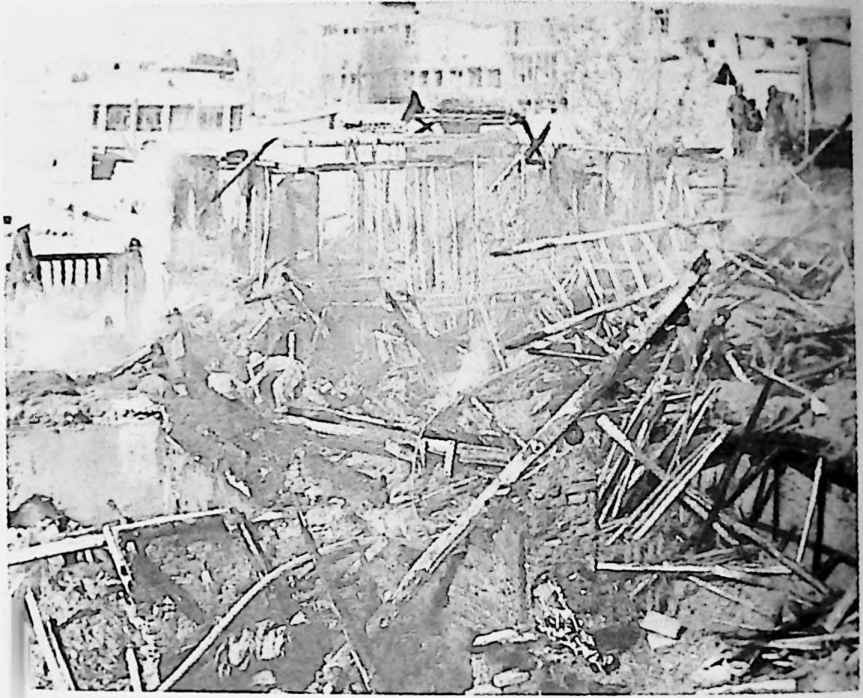


Photos 13, 14. The extremists are blowing up bridges, highways, and transport vehicles. Their victims are mostly civilian population.





Photos 15, 16, 17. Civilians killed as a result of a missile attack on the settlements in the Pole Artan region launched by the counter-revolutionaries.





Photos 18, 19, 20. The extremists carry out acts of subversion in the densely populated areas of Kabul.





Photo 23. A powerful bomb attack by the extremists in Ghazni caused many casualties and severe destruction.

Photos 21, 22. As a result of the explosion organized by the "Islamic Society" terrorist group at Kabul airport in 1984 many structures were destroyed and many people, including children, killed.

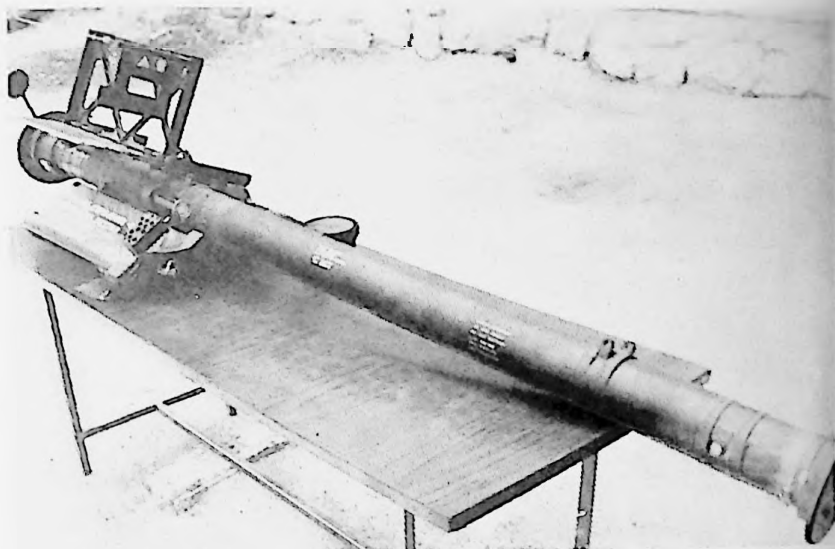


Photo 24. A Stinger missile captured by DRA soldiers during the Pagman military operation.



Photo 25. The wreckage of a passenger plane downed in March 1987 in Khost Province. All the 52 passengers and members of the crew were killed.



Photos 26-33. Victims of the plane downed by an American missile in Zabol Province.



Photo 34. The counter-revolutionaries destroy even religious buildings. The photo shows the ruins of a mosque on the territory of the Polytechnical Institute in Kabul.

threatened with death if they find themselves within the reach of the extremists. This is borne out by the following documents:

DOCUMENT No. 2

In the Name of God!

Declaration of Harakate-i-Islami of
Afghanistan

Muslim brothers of Dehsabz county of Kabul,
During the 9 years since the communist coup d'etat of infidels in Kabul and the occupation of independent Afghanistan by Russian forces you have become well aware of all their criminal actions committed against the Muslim people of the country. The Russian forces and their slaves have turned our Islamic nation into a ruin. They killed our ulemas, enlightened ones and our innocent Muslim people and offended our dignity. Our pious Muslim people from the very beginning of the communist coup d'etat started a crusade in the name of Allah against their criminal acts. They began their crusade with Allah Akbar (God is Great!) and have achieved great victories in this cause and will carry it till the final victory.

Therefore, all the Muslim people of Dehsabz are asked to leave their places of residence with their families because Base No.4 of Mujahiddin has planned to launch an armed operation against infidels from Dehsabz. We do not want you to face great loss and casualties.

God help us!

Base No. 4 of Harakate-i-Islami

DOCUMENT No. 3

Ittehad Islami Mujahiddin of Afghanistan

In the Name of God!

Announcement of IIMA

Islam and faith of God have never accepted compromise with brutality and suppression but, on the contrary, Islam teaches to carry resolute struggle against brutality and cruelty.

Muslim compatriots of Dehabad region of Khanabad county! The Mujahiddin are informed that a number of spies of the infidel and communist government have started some activities in your villages and have persuaded a number of

your youth to work for them. They have also asked your elders to organize security posts in their villages. The Mujahiddin regard these infidels as being against Islam and warn all not to cooperate with them. Otherwise they will be severely punished. Thus we warn all elders and Imams and other inhabitants of the villages to rescue yourselves and your families from bombardments by the state forces and go to the Muslim countries of Iran and Pakistan. There comfortable living conditions will be created for you and you will also receive help from other Islamic countries so that you could strengthen the ranks of fighters against the infidels.

God help us!

Your Mujahid brother,
Commander of Deh Abad
Region

Firing ground-to-ground rockets and mortars on apartment houses in rural and urban areas is the easiest way for the extremists to intimidate the people and force them to flee the country. This tactic is especially widespread with respect to border areas and villages located there. For example, in the course of ten days the district of Tarkani has seven times been subjected to attacks by ground-to-ground missiles. In August 1987, the security forces of the DRA seized ground-to-ground missiles in Parwan Province. When the security forces capture these weapons or when these weapons are not promptly delivered from abroad to the extremists, the latter use other means to upset the peaceful life of the people -- planting and exploding mines in populated areas, so as to force still more people to seek refuge, thus trampling underfoot their inalienable and human right -- the right to live in their home country.

Secret Order

This is yet another means used by the extremists to make the life difficult for the residents. In some

areas, extremist mercenaries covertly resort to threatening individuals, forcing them to comply with some of their demands. Fining and collecting Oshor (one-tenth of a peasant's crop) are their most common demands. They interfere in the personal and social affairs of people, arranging forced marriages, exchanging or buying and selling plots of lands without considering the relevant law, forcibly changing prices in the local markets, hindering state functionaries from going to their jobs and from performing their public services, prohibiting boys and girls to go to school, threatening the owners of transportation means and forcing them to refuse transporting foodstuffs and primary commodities needed by the people, and intimidating professors, physicians and engineers in a hope that they would leave their jobs.

DOCUMENT No. 4

In the Name of God Almighty!

Islamic Alliance for Liberation of
Afghanistan

To all civil servants, officers, shopkeepers and residents of Gardiz and related areas! For the last time you are warned that if you are for Islam and want to safeguard the dignity of Afghan land, please don't miss the time and display your Islamhood through cooperation with your Mujahid brothers. And cut all connections with state organs which are trying to establish communism under the yoke of the interventionist state of Russia. You all should be aware of your actions. As it is known to all people, the state is using pressure against Islamic Alliance and in order to restore its power it has announced universal military service in the country. This is an aggressive announcement and it is necessary for all the above-mentioned Muslims to make their final decision. Otherwise they will bear financial loss and the casualties.

Haji Guldad Amir of Islamic Alliance,
Zalio Village of Gardiz

DOCUMENT No. 5

In the Name of God!

Warning of the Jamiat-i-Islami
Committee of Qarabagh county

Abdurrahim, Mohamad Karim, Gulam Mohammad
and Sakhidad, peasants in Qarabagh,

As we are informed you have received quite a good harvest from your gardens, took it to Kabul City and sold it to infidels there. We expected you to have a sound awareness and Islamic sentiments to join your Mujahid brothers or at least help them financially. But we realized that you remained indifferent towards your Mujahid brothers and wanted that savage Russians remain in our homeland and continue their occupation of our country.

Therefore, we warn you and all peasants of Qarabagh to stop work and migrate with your families. Otherwise your children, home and life are in danger and you should bear the responsibility.

Jamiat-i-Islami Committee of
Qarabagh

Collaboration and Instigation to Flee

In some cases the extremists fail to evacuate the inhabitants by resorting to force and different kinds of threats. Then they resort to other means -- launching propaganda and giving unrealistic promises, in this way seeking to make people want to flee the country. In such cases, the extremists prepare "passes" and give them in exchange for money or free of charge to those persons and accompany them to the border. The scheme is quite clear from the following authentic documents.

DOCUMENT No. 6

Ser. No. 801

Central base of Hizbi Islami
Afghanistan

Greetings to Mujahid Brothers!

The following five families consisting of
22 persons, residents of Kabul, affiliated to

Hizbi Islami, Afghanistan, are introduced to you so that you do not bother them at our control points and let them pass.

Note: Upon arrival check the Id. number of the person guiding them with registration record.

DOCUMENT No. 7

Harakate-Inghilab Islami Afghanistan

Ser. No. 192 Dated 12/8/60 (Fall 1981)

Financial branch Isfahan of Iran

In the Name of God!

Greeting to Taibat Branch!

Hereby, Ghulam Dastagir, Khodaydad Mohammad Alam, Ghulam Noordin, members of this organization are introduced to you. They are members of our Isfahan Office and have extensively cooperated with us. We wish fruitful cooperation with them.

Let Islam be triumphant!

Emayat Ullah Enayat

As is well known to the world public and a great number of journalists and members of political, social, national and international organizations, although the process of repatriation has been several times expedited since the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, some 70,000 our compatriots have returned home only over a six-month period of ceasefire, crossing the borders with Iran and Pakistan, despite the obstacles created by the governments of these countries. This process is steadily going on.

The return home of all the Afghan refugees will mean death for the extremists, so they want to kill others in order to survive themselves. Under this slogan and in order to translate into practice their ring-leaders' orders, the extremists stop the repatriation of Afghans on the borders with Iran and Pakistan, rob them of their property and leave them in arid deserts.

Recently on account of the increased concentration of returnees near the borderlines, the extremists decided to invigorate their propaganda and resort to more threats inside the camps. The extremist leaders come to the camps, gather together our deceived compatriots, sometimes by means of appeal and sometimes by means of threat, and using venomous lies and propaganda and delivering statements try to make them change their decision to return home. Hue and cry raised by the extremist leaders has the aim of reaching the whole world so that more help, money and modern weapons be sent to them, for the national reconciliation policy has endangered the very existence of Mujahiddin, as they call themselves.

Like a drowning person who grabs at everything, the extremists again resort to issuing statements and declarations that have lost their meaning to everyone. The extremists' leaflets distributed in the camps and residential areas of Afghan refugees are full of threats against those who want to go home. The purpose of these leaflets is to make people drop the idea to go back home.

DOCUMENT No. 8

Hezb-i-Islami of Afghanistan

Date 27/8/1363 (1984)

Secretary Office

To Provincial Head of Kandahar,

All commanders of central fronts should be informed of the resolution of Gaus 15, 1363 (December 1984) session of leaders of various Tamzims and advisers of friendly countries which was chaired by General Fazel Haq, Governor of Suba Sarhad of Peshawar. The session has adopted the following decision which shall be strictly observed:

1. In order properly to arrange the affairs of various fronts, a group of Pakistani advisers will soon be sent so that you should work under their supervision.

2. Those persons and families who escape from Pakistan back to Afghanistan should be arrested and sent back to Pakistan.

3. Those persons who remain indifferent in the sacred crusade of the people of Afghanistan against infidels should be encouraged or forced to join the crusade and should be drawn to your ranks.

4. Expand your propaganda against the Kabul state and ensure the people that the victory of Islamic revolution is imminent.

5. You should share your problems and difficulties with the advisors of the friendly country of Pakistan and solve them using their advice.

Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar,
Amir of Hezb-i-Islami of
Afghanistan

DOCUMENT No. 9

Ittehad Islami Mujahiddin
Afghanistan

Date 12/11/65 (February 1986)

Ser. No. 1345

To the information branch.

Inform your branches in Turkham, Terri Mangal and other border posts not to allow any of the emigrants to return to Afghanistan without permission.

Haji Damran

From the facts and documents presented in this book the reader will undoubtedly learn who is infringing upon human rights in Afghanistan and what kind of hirelings are used for the purpose.

Economic Losses

Over nine years have elapsed since an undeclared war of imperialism and reaction has been launched against the popular government and people of Afghanistan. The initiators and patrons of this war and the Afghan extremists who carry the war at home clearly announce time and again that to achieve their aims

they will fight to the last Afghan. And their aims are to overthrow the revolutionary government, stifle the economy and reverse the socio-economic development of the country. They use all means to achieve their goal, from killing innocent people to collecting tribute and plundering people's properties. They burn peasants' harvest, set fire to shops, schools and hospitals and blow up roads and bridges. They kill teachers, students, clergymen and state employees on the way to work. Let figures speak for themselves.

So far the armed opposition destroyed 314 sacred places, 1,950 schools, 480 health centres, two-thirds of communication networks, 1,000 trucks, and 1,600 kilometres of power transmission lines. The total losses inflicted on various spheres of the economy can be summarized as follows:

	Million Afghanis
Irrigation canals	66.2
Telephone polls	4.8
Herat Salma Project	1,000
Power lines	990
Passenger cars and trucks	7.4
Projects under construction	198
Buildings	410
Construction machines	200
Industrial machines	22
Mining equipment	1,500
Farm machinery and animals	21
Communication equipment	18
Electrical equipment	320
Food supply	495
Medicine	2.5

Sacred places, schools, mosques, books and teaching aids worth a total of 4.2 billion Afs. have been destructed.

The toiling peasants have suffered great losses. Over 1,600 trucks and agricultural machinery, 1,512 storehouses of agricultural products, 25,000 tons of fertilizers, 139 farm buildings and 144,000 residential houses belonging to peasants have been demolished.

The private transport sector has lost 1,546 trucks costing 2,061 million Afs.

Killing doctors, teachers, clergymen, workers, engineers, students of literacy courses makes another sphere of the savage activities of the extremists. So far they have killed several thousand innocent people. For example, over 1,000 clergymen have been killed by extremists.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Public Health 968 wounded children are hospitalized, most of whom have been maimed and are under treatment in the Al Abad hospital. So far about 2,000 wounded children were treated in the country's hospitals.

Chapter 3

RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS IN THE DRA

The sacred religion of Islam is the religion of the majority of the Afghan population. Facts show that the people of Afghanistan has been deeply influenced by this religion for centuries.

The April Revolution which triumphed in such a deeply religious society had to recognize the principles of Islam in all state affairs.

The basic guidelines of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the documents of the government of the DRA, the Fundamental Principles and the documents of the plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the PDPA correctly reflect these principles.

One of the most important articles of the Fundamental Principles of the DRA, Article 5, which refers to the relations of the government and religion, guarantees:

- respect and observance of Islam;
- freedom to observe any religion;
- freedom and equality of all religions and sects;
- assistance to the clergymen and religious scholars.

Article 56 of the Fundamental Principles states the following:

"...In considering cases, the courts shall apply the laws of the DRA. If the laws contain no provision on the basis of which a given case can be decided, the court shall decide the case in conformity with the

general provisions of the Sharia and the principles of democratic legality and justice."

Following such principles, in 1980, for the first time the Department of Islamic Affairs was established to manage and organize the Islamic affairs. This Department was turned into a ministry later the same year. In 1983 the second Islamic conference of Afghanistan was convened to consider the ways and means of promoting the role of Islamic scholars. Right now there are 10 Islamic schools, a number of schools teaching to recite the Koran, a faculty of Islamic studies and a school for training clergy in the country.

For the promotion and enrichment of Islamic culture for the first time in our history the Centre for Islamic Research has been established. This Centre will promote the writing of scholarly works on various fields of Islamic studies, both of Sunni and Shia, doing translations and research into Islamic history. Later on this Centre will be turned into a higher institution of Islamic studies.

To improve the observance of Islamic affairs within the army, separate religious departments have been created. Right now there are 426 mullahs in regular army and 432 mullahs in security forces. A total of 16,897 mosques are now under the supervision of the government which pays the salary to 9,798 mullahs; 237 mosques have been built anew and 1,224 mosques, which have been destroyed by the counter-revolutionaries, have been reconstructed. A total of 726 million Afghans have been allocated for Hadj pilgrimages during the last eight years.

The government has allocated 40 million Afs. as a subsidy to the pilgrims of Karbala, a Shia sacred place in Iraq. The total expenditures of the government in the field of religious affairs are estimated at about two billion Afs.

During the Ramadan (fasting) month this year for the first time, the competition of the Koran recitations was conducted in which contestants from 12 Islamic countries participated. The first scientific Islamic conference under the motto "Peace and Islam" was conducted.

The Draft Constitution of the DRA is now being circulated for public discussion. The second article of this important document states: "Sacred religion of Islam is the religion of Afghanistan."

Article 40 of the Draft reads as follows: "In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan freedom of religious rites is guaranteed to all Muslims.

"Followers of other religions are fully entitled to perform their religious rites, provided they do not disturb public peace and order.

"No citizen has the right to use religion for anti-national and anti-people propaganda purposes, for arousing enmity and perpetrating other deeds contrary to the interests of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan."

Article 95 of the Draft states:

"Every Muslim citizen of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan who has reached the age of 40, is born of Afghan parents and enjoys the civil and political rights can be elected President."

Article 96 reads as follows:

"After being elected President an Afghan citizen shall take the oath and swear in the name of Allah, the Almighty, to protect the sacred religion of Islam, observe the Constitution and safeguard the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, to preserve the basic rights and freedoms of the citizens and apply all his efforts for ensuring social justice and promoting people's prosperity, and for strengthening peace and progress of the country."

Article 121 of the Draft states:

"The judges shall apply the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the DRA in the cases under their consideration. Where no explicit provisions exist in the law the court shall, following the provisions of the Sharia of Islam, adopt a decision that ensures justice in the best possible way."

All this makes it obvious that in the DRA extensive and persistent efforts are being exerted, at the highest possible level, for maintaining social order and ensuring human rights. Although extremists also proclaim their love for Islam, they acted absolutely contrary to their claims. According to the available data, the extremists, acting in violation of human dignity, the Commandments of the Allah and the Sharia, murdered 967 clergymen, among whom were the following ulemas:

- Mawlawi Abdul Hakim, son of Haji Abdul Hafiz; after several years of schooling and teaching he was elected senator of the people of Jawzjoni. He was a religious teacher. He was killed by the counter-revolutionary bandits in 1980.

- Mawlawi Abdul Ghafar Akhendzadah, son of Mohammed Yaqoob, from Janee Khail of Ghazni. After finishing his education he was working as a religious teacher. He taught in a madrasah in the mosque of Haji Ghulam Farouq Kandahari. In the middle of 1979, while he was getting ready for praying, he was killed by the counter-revolutionaries.

- Mawlawi Nasrullah Gordezi was born in the Kurseen village of Sayed Karam of Kunar Province. He was elected member of the Supreme Council of Ulemas and Clergy. He was killed by the counter-revolutionaries in the middle of 1980.

- Sayed Mohammed Amin from the village of Garm Aab of Behsood district, Wardak Province. He was a stu-

dent of Mir Ali Ahmad "Hujaat", great clergyman of his time; he was Imam of a mosque for thirty years, preaching religion. He was killed by the counter-revolutionaries in March 1981, while he had just finished his morning prayers.

- Alhaz Asadullah Nasrat, from Andkhoi, began his career as a teacher in the old madrasah of Andkhoi, centre of religious studies. For some time, he was a preacher of the Alaazoo Goza congregational mosque and also, for some time, he worked as headmaster of the madrasah of Abu Muslim of Maimana, poet and writer; he was killed in June 1981.

- Mawlawi Abdul Hameed from Malik Deen Mohammed village of Nava district of Ghazni Province, belonged to a religious family; he learned religious sciences from prominent Ulemas. After completing education he had a lot of students and was Imam of the Etefaque Mosque of Kabul. He was killed in July 1981 just after his evening prayers.

The counter-revolutionaries killed hundreds of other Ulemas and clergymen. Following are some of the names:

No.	Name	Place of birth
1.	Mawlawi Shah Faqir	Zaranj subdistrict
2.	Qari Ahmad	Zaranj subdistrict
3.	Mawlawi Khan Mohammed	Gany Ali Beq of Taluqan Province
4.	Mawlawi Ghulam Mohammed	Char Asiab district of Kabul
5.	Mawlawi Sayed Habibullah	same
6.	Hayatullah Rohani	same
7.	Qari Mohammed Nazar	Char Asiab district, Kabul Province
8.	Judge Hessammudin	Rustaq district
9.	Mullah Isradi	Farkhar district, Samange Province

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| 110. | Mirza Fazel Beg Rohani | same |
| 111. | Mawlawi Mohammed Anwar | same |
| 112. | Mawlawi Baaz Mohammed | same |
| 113. | Sofi Mohammed Rahim Rohani | same |
| 114. | Mullah Abdul Qadeer | same |
| 115. | Sofi Rajabali Rohani | same |
| 116. | Mawlawi Sayed Faqir | Mohd. Chaman Taluqan
Tukhar |
| 117. | Abdul Wahaab | same |
| 118. | Shah Murad | Aaeen Darah village,
Taluqan Province |
| 119. | Mullah Abdul Karim | Haiat Beg |
| 120. | Haqdad Rohaani | Khoja district |
| 121. | Haji Noor Ali | same |
| 122. | Mawlawi Abdul Rashid,
son of Abdul Rahman | Preacher of Abu Wasr
Mosque, Balkh Province |
| 123. | Mawlawi Sayed Mir Hassan,
son of Sayed Ismail | Balkh Province |
| 124. | Mawlawi Mohammed Gasem,
son of Mohammed Hassan | Balkh Province (head-
master of Asadia
school of religious
studies of Balkh) |
| 125. | Mawlawi Abdul Hai, son
of Abdul Ghani | Balkh Province |
| 126. | Mawlawi Mohammed Zaman,
son of Sarbelond | same |
| 127. | Mawlawi Abdul Aziz,
son of Aqa Jan | Imam of the mosque
of Chental district,
Balkh Province |
| 128. | Mawlawi Faqir | Representative of
the Department of
Islamic Affairs in
Parwan Province |
| 129. | Mawlawi Sayed Jamal
Istatific | Member of the De-
partment of Islamic
Affairs of Parwan |

	Province
30. Mawlawi Abdul Rahim (Narg)	same
31. Mawlawi Abdul Wahaab	same
32. Mawlawi Safiullah	Member of the Department of Islamic Affairs of Kunduz Prov- ince
33. Mawlawi Shamsuddin	same
34. Mawlawi Abdullah Hakim	Member of the Department of Islamic Affairs of Jouzjan Pro- vince
35. Mawlawi Abdullah Rayan	Member of the Department of Islamic Affairs of Kunduz Prov- ince
36. Mawlawi Sayed Jaafar	Ghazni Province
37. Mawlawi Abdul Sallam	same
38. Mawlawi Mohammed Wali	same
39. Mawlawi Faqir Mohammed	same
40. Mawlawi Saifuddin	same
41. Mawlawi Khanshreen	Member of the Department of Islamic Affairs of Ghazni Prov- ince
42. Mawlawi Ghulam Mohoiddin	same
43. Mawlawi Abdul Ghafar Kandahar	Kandahar Province
44. Mawlawi Loudin Aurozgoni	Preacher of the mosque of Treenk= Aurozgan Provinc

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--|
| 45. | Mawlawi Mohammed Sharif | Jamal Afha, Parwan Province |
| 46. | Mawlawi Nazaruddin | Preacher of Adraskan district, Herat Province |
| 47. | Mawlawi Sayed Abobakr | Preacher of the congregational mosque, Herat Province |
| 48. | Mawlawi Abdul Hakim | Preacher of the Mosque of the army division of Herat Province |
| 49. | Mawlawi Sayed Abdul Raof | President of madrasah of the city of Herat |
| 50. | Mawlawi Mir Abdul Haq | Teacher of the madrasah of Haji of Herat Province |
| 51. | Mawlawi Abdul Rahman | Preacher of Ishanq Mosque of Herat Province |
| 52. | Mawlawi Ghulam Rasul | Preacher of Pashtoon Zarghon district of Herat Province |
| 53. | Mawlawi Abdul Karim | Preacher of Qalai Wahed Mosque of Paghman district, Kabul Province |
| 54. | Mawlawi Sayed Jalal Istalifi | Parwan Province |
| 55. | Mawlawi Rahmat Gul | |

Terrorists and other enemies of religion and people, in addition to the murder of Ulemas and clergymen, have also set fire to and destroyed sacred places and places of worship. Some examples are given below.

1. Mosque of Gulbuddin village located in Nahr-e-Chaman Area, Taluqan Province.

2. Mosque of Haji Abdul Satar village in Nahr-e-Chaman Area of Taluqan Province.

3. Mosque of Mullah Mohammed village in Nahr-e-Chaman Area of Taluqan Province.

4. Mosque of Shah Taluqan village located in the west of the city.

5. Mosque of Kunyak village in Sarni Sang, Taluqan Province.

6. Mosque of Aaq Masjid village, Taluqan Province.

7. Mosque of Nasher village, Taluqan Province.

8. Mosque of Acha Qeshlaq, Taluqan Province.

9. Mosque of Chaillah village, Taluqan Province.

10. Mosque of Gurda Gao village, Taluqan Province.

11. Mosque of Tsorchah village, north-east of Taluqan.

12. Mosque of Aieemuddin village, Natr-e-Chaman, Taluqan.

13. Mosque of Dashtaa village, Lalm, Taluqan.

14. Mosque of Guzar village, Chah district.

15. Mosque of Saur village.

16. Mosque of Takhnaabad village.

This is not all the crimes committed by Mujahiddin in the name of Islam but against Islam and the religion. In the countryside they have committed similar crimes. At the same time the state and the revolutionary party have been consistently defending the sacred religion of Islam and Muslims and consider these principles as basic ones in their policies.

There is documentary evidence about other crimes of the extremists committed against Islam:

- Mawlawi Abdul Salam from Ghazni was killed in 1979. He was first tied to a tree and after three days mercilessly killed by the extremists.

- Mawlawi Sayed Jaafar Akhundzadah from Ghazni was killed by the extremists in 1979 for refusing to join them.

- Mullah Abdul Wahaab Rohani from Parwan was killed in 1979 by the criminal terrorists without any reason.
- Mullah Abdul Ghafoor Akhudzadah from Ghazni was killed in 1979, for he was defending his homeland.
- Mullah Wazir from Kandahar was killed in 1979 inside the mosque.
- In 1980 a lot of damage was inflicted upon historic monuments by the armed extremists who pretended to be true followers of Islam.
- In February 1980, the extremists used different types of bombs in the Damana subdistrict of Paktia Province, as a result of which five of Mullahs were killed.
- In July 1980, the extremists attacked a secondary school for boys in Kunduz. Out of 600 copies of the Holy Koran available in the school library 400 were completely and 200 partially burnt.
- In July 1980, the primary school of the Upper Kaasi of Cheghcheran City, Ghoor Province, was set fire to by the extremists, as a result of which 600 copies of the Koran were burnt.
- In October 1981, Folad, Hekmatyar's driver, in his confession stated he had seen the murder of a number of elderly people with his own eyes and participated in setting fire to and destructing the mosques of Khogiani, Zauci, Shamshopore, Moimubarak Shrine of Surkhrod, high schools of Malikyar Hotels of Surkhrod, bridges of Kabul, Jalalabad, Surkhrod and Toorkham.
- In August 1982, Mullah Sheer Ahmad from Bada, his wife and two daughters were killed by the extremists and another daughter was wounded.
- In August 1982, the extremists burnt the Shahzadah mosque in Herat Province.
- In December 1982, while thousands of the citizens of Herat were celebrating the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad in the congregational mosque of the

Herat City, the extremists opened fire at the mosque as a result of which four persons were killed and 154 wounded.

The extremists have ruined 1,026 mosques and looted the belongings of 960 shrines and sacred places.

The facts and figures cited above clearly indicate how human rights have been trampled under foot by the extremists and those who claim to be true defenders of Islam, and how human rights are protected by the DRA government.

After reading this book, the reader will realize that the extremists' slogan of "Islam is in danger in Afghanistan" is deceptive, baseless and biased.

Those who are making use of the sacred religion of Islam as a means of destruction of the DRA must know what horrifying crimes they are committing against our people.

In real terms the slogan "Islam is in danger in Afghanistan" has more propaganda use outside our society. Inside Afghanistan this slogan has lost all meaning.

The false defenders of Islam have shown their true face in our society. People consider their word in this sphere as the word of SATAN.

Chapter 4

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE DRA

After the victory of the April Revolution, alongside socio-economic, political and cultural transformations, major steps have been made in legislation and democratization of socio-political life of the country. Over 500 decrees, laws and regulations were issued to ensure the rights of citizens and consolidate the social basis of the Revolution.

The Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (provisional Constitution) have played quite an important role in the implementation of the democratic laws in the country. It furnished the ground for profound new laws meeting the growing needs and expectations of people in a changing society.

The DRA, in observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other prestigious international documents, has endeavoured to incorporate these international laws in the post-revolution laws and regulations.

Therefore, during the post-revolution years the DRA has joined various international conventions in the sphere of human rights such as the International Convention of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, the convention on banning torture and other humiliating and anti-human punishments, the convention on the elimination of racial discrimination, the convention on the suppression and punishment of the crime of apar-

theid, the convention on non-application of the statutory limitation to war crimes, etc.

The spirit of these conventions has been extensively reflected in the DRA rules and regulations that are being observed in practice.

The following principles are strictly observed in the DRA: equality of rights of all citizens before the law; a ban on all kinds of discrimination; equality of man and woman; freedom of religious rites and rituals; the right to work; the right to education; freedom of speech; the right of assembly and demonstrations; inviolability of the home and the privacy of correspondence.

Although deep-going changes have already taken place in the country in recent years, ever broader changes are in the making. This is clearly reflected in the new Draft Constitution of the country which has been published for public discussion. The Draft Constitution has been enthusiastically received by the people throughout the country. The adoption of the new Constitution in the near future will pave the way for broader democracy and human rights in the country.

Basic Changes

Great changes in the sphere of legislation have led to radical changes in social and legal relations in society. In fact, the years of the Revolution are regarded as a period when real democracy has taken deep roots in society.

In the new political and legal system wide use has been made of the accepted democratic traditions of the country, including the system of tribal Jirgahs as local Jirgahs, and the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly).

The establishment of local bodies of state authority is another major step in the promotion of demo-

cracy. The election for local bodies of state authority provided the opportunity for the people to elect their representatives to these bodies, and take an active part in solving local problems.

Based on the legal changes, concrete measures were adopted to ensure the rights of social minorities in the country. Today all religious minorities can perform their religious rites freely and in a democratic atmosphere and enrich their cultural heritage. Children of various fraternal nationalities enjoy an opportunity to receive school education in their native languages. For the first time various national minorities put out their own publications in their mother tongue. They are also entitled to converse in their native language in the courts of the DRA.

In order further to enrich certain languages major steps were taken. For example, grammar and alphabet were developed for several languages for the first time.

National minorities were given equal rights and opportunities in social and political activities. This fact was clearly reflected in the Loya Jirgah as well as local and tribal Jirgahs and the elections to local organs of state authority held during the post-revolutionary years.

Women who for centuries played a secondary role in the socio-political life of Afghan society were provided with equal opportunities with men. They have been guaranteed the equal right to work and occupy professional posts in the state offices and to take an active part in socio-political life. Currently Afghan women are extensively drawn into socio-political and economic spheres of the DRA.

Major steps have been taken to eliminate illiteracy in the DRA. The work accomplished in this sphere has been appreciated not only inside the country but

throughout the world as well. The DRA has won the Krupskaya Prize of UNESCO for carrying out the mass literacy campaign successfully. The educational establishments in the country have been radically reconstructed in the interests of the broad masses.

The collective participation of people in economic, social and political spheres has been encouraged. As a result, different groups of people were able to form socio-political organizations. As legal vehicles, these organizations have made it possible for all individuals to promote their knowledge in various spheres, and enrich their rights. As an example we can mention the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of Afghanistan, the Lawyers' Association of Afghanistan, the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Women's Council, Journalists' Union, Artists' Union, and Union of Writers of the DRA. Most important among these organizations is the National Fatherland Front of the DRA which is the largest public organization in the country. The National Fatherland Front has been playing quite a prominent role in promoting understanding in villages and cities of the country of the social orientation of our society. The Front has played a vital part in drafting the Constitution and other legal documents adopted in the country.

Chapter 5

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, PEACE AND LIFE

The special session of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, held on January 2, 1987, approved of the cessation of war and fratricide and ensuring nationwide peace in the DRA as the first vital necessity for the people of Afghanistan.

After the thorough study and assessment, the Revolutionary Council unanimously confirmed and supported the policy of national reconciliation and the appeal for national unity, proposed by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan at the special plenary meeting of its Central Committee, held on December 31, 1986.

This event of historical importance for the people of Afghanistan took place exactly at a time when the people of Afghanistan had become fed up with the war, that has brought them nothing but death and devastation. Peace and reconciliation have become the vital need for the people of Afghanistan on which their present and future fate completely depends. Peace is needed for life, for national unity, for progress and development of Afghan society, for ensuring and strengthening of independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

The people of Afghanistan are in favour of the policy of national reconciliation, which will put a stop to the nine-year war imposed on the country.

The policy of national reconciliation which opens up a new page in the history of the country is steadily assuming a nationwide character.

Principles of national reconciliation: ceasefire; avoiding armed struggle and bloodshed; just representation in the political and economic bodies; non-persecution for the previous political activities; general amnesty; maintenance and strengthening of historical, national and cultural traditions; and respect and observance of the sacred religion of Islam.

Aims of national reconciliation: maintaining peace and security; providing appropriate conditions for independent democratic and progressive development of Afghanistan; creating a situation of tranquility in Afghanistan and consolidating independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. On the basis of these principles and objectives, the following measures have been taken by the PDPA and the government of the DRA:

- Unilateral ceasefire for a period of six months (from January 15, 1987 to July 15, 1987) was announced by the DRA. In accordance with the people's demand and in view of the positive results it brought about in the past six months promoting the carrying out of the policy of national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace in the country, the ceasefire has been extended for another six months until January 15, 1988.

- At the meeting of the special commission of the national reconciliation of Afghanistan, held on January 3, 1987, thirty-five prominent national and social figures were elected members of the presidium of the commission.

- On the basis of the decision adopted on January 3, 1987, by the Revolutionary Council of the DRA (about national reconciliation in Afghanistan) the formation

of local commissions of national reconciliation made up of people's representatives, whose task is to implement the policy of national reconciliation and peace, began all over the country. From January 15, 1987 up to July 15, 1987, 3,200 commissions of national reconciliation were formed in localities and tens of thousands of patriots and fighters for the cause of peace, among them more than 6,000 representatives of the opposition, have participated in these commissions. In fact, they are considered democratic institutions ensuring equal participation and representation of the people of Afghanistan, set up for the settlement of the most important issue -- cessation of war, maintaining peace and so on.

- The decree of general amnesty was announced on January 25, 1987, by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, according to which the DRA government refuses to persecute ringleaders and members of the groups and other opposition political forces who have carried out anti-state activities against the DRA inside and outside the country. If they do not start hostile activities against the DRA again, they will not be persecuted for their deeds committed prior to January 15, 1987. On the basis of the decree of general amnesty, up till now, up to seven thousand prisoners have been released from the country's prisons.

- To implement the policy of national reconciliation, ensure national unity and just representation of all the patriotic political forces for peace, the PDPA and the government of the DRA proposed the formation of the government of national unity on the basis of compromise and coalition. For this purpose, on July 15, 1987, the following posts were offered to the opposition:

- Vice-President after the adoption of the Constitution.

- Deputy Prime Minister (Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers);
- Supreme Court;
- Ministry of Domestic Trade;
- Ministry of Foreign Trade;
- Ministry of Mining and Industries;
- Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education;
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform;
- Ministry of Justice;
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs;
- Ministry of Construction;
- State Committee for Culture;
- Ministry of Public Health;
- Ministry of the Affairs of Nationalities;
- Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs;
- State Committee for Repatriates;
- State Committee for Labour and Social Maintenance;
- State Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- State Minister for Foreign Economic Relations;
- State Minister for Nationalities;
- State Minister for Tribal Affairs;
- State Committee for Sports and Physical Training;
- Ministers without portfolio for economic, social and legal affairs and ambassadors.

The representatives of the other side in reconciliation can be put on the staff of all ministries from top to bottom.

To carry through the policy of national reconciliation successfully even the post of the President of the Council of Ministers, i.e. Prime Minister of the DRA, can be included in the list and discussed under the conditions of alliance.

Elections to collective state and administration leadership as a living manifestation of the just and

democratic participation of the people's masses in the running of state affairs, are a great achievement by the people in an effort for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and ensuring peace in the country.

So far, elections to the local government bodies have been held in 29 provinces, including Khost grand district, 125 districts, 55 subdistricts, 62 towns and 5,512 villages and altogether 2,118 local councils with 23,991 people's deputies have been elected. These deputies include 340 persons who have recently returned home and another 1,184 persons representing armed opposition groups who have gone to the side of the national reconciliation and the people's power. Among them are 166 presidents and 131 secretaries of local bodies of state power and administration.

Since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation till late August 1987, elections have been held in 2,408 villages and in 4 districts and 3 subdistricts. Elections were held in an open and free atmosphere, without any interference on the part of the relevant local government bodies. These are the localities where peace has been ensured in the wake of the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy.

Since the declaration of national reconciliation over 30,000 members of the armed opposition groups have joined the policy of national reconciliation and the state.

On August 6, 1987, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA has adopted the message of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA addressed to the leaders of the armed groups inside the country. The message says: "The government of the DRA have offered the posts such as subdistrict, district and division chiefs and various posts in the administrative bodies in localities; if they wish new

local government bodies in districts and provinces and their branches will be established." The message added: "The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and the government of the DRA give the authority to you, brothers belonging to armed opposition groups, to act in the following way:

"To set up in every village, subdistrict and district local offices and ensure their security, and inform the related provinces so that the latter render assistance in accordance with your requirements."

The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council suggested to the opposition to proclaim the said villages zones of peace.

The government of the DRA also declared that in case these regions were proclaimed zones of peace, the Afghan and Soviet troops would be withdrawn from there.

At present signs of establishing coalition government at various levels such as village, district and province, have emerged. For example, as of July 23, 1987, in Kaldar and Shortepa districts of Balkh Province such a form of state administration has emerged in almost 15 per cent of the villages. Besides, leaders of opposition armed groups have been elected as governors in four provinces.

The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA on July 4, 1987, adopted the law on political parties. This has been done with due account taken of the interests of the people of Afghanistan in the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, ensuring nationwide peace and democratization of the political and social life and active participation of all the political parties and organizations and the citizens of the DRA in the political life of the country.

Under the historical, economic, social and cultural conditions of Afghanistan the law on political

parties provides for the opportunity, by creating a multi-party system, to involve various national forces within their particular parties in accelerating the socio-economic development of society, in peaceful construction and development of Afghanistan and in solving the nationalities problems.

The law on political parties has a deep-going national and democratic character. This law makes it obligatory for the political parties to observe and respect the sacred religion of Islam, and religious, national, historical and cultural traditions of the Afghan people. According to this law, the programmes and rules of these parties must be consonant with the underlying principles of the country's home and foreign policy: defence of independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country; these parties should promote the socio-economic development of the nation, avoid armed struggle against the state and the pursuance of war objectives, refrain from advocating colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racial discrimination, apartheid and fascism, comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, principles of peaceful coexistence, friendship and cooperation among all peoples of the world and the policy of non-alignment and positive and active neutrality, and observe the laws of the DRA. Political parties can be joined by members from all strata and classes of society. They have the right to affiliate themselves to the National Front of the DRA, nominate their candidates for the elections to local organs of state power and administration, maintain temporary or permanent alliance with other political parties, freely express their views on political, social, economic and cultural problems of the country, and set up their publishing organs. The state has to ensure the security and safety

of the offices of the political parties which have received official recognition after a permission on their formation is issued by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

The Draft Constitution of the DRA has been printed in July 1987 for nationwide discussion as a constitution of national reconciliation putting an end to war and bloodshed and ensuring a nationwide peace. This Constitution has been drafted on the basis of national cultural and historic traditions and values of Afghanistan, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Charter and international conventions. Being thoroughly enriched by open comments, proposals and views expressed by people throughout the country, the Draft Constitution serves as a guarantor of preserving and consolidating independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent and non-aligned Afghanistan, of not joining military blocs, and of a democratic and just involvement of people in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life of the country. The Draft Constitution guarantees the right to health protection, to education, and to work for all citizens of the DRA. It calls for national unity of the people of Afghanistan and peace inside the country, for friendship and cooperation in the international arena and for peaceful coexistence of all nations of the world.

In the second Article of the Draft Constitution the religion of Islam has been declared as the religion of Afghanistan.

The Draft Constitution, that is to be approved by the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) after having been discussed nationwide, is an authentic document guaranteeing the participation of all political forces of Afghan society in the administration of state affairs

along democratic principles, the forming of political parties and their open activity within the framework of a multi-party system and the freedom of conscience and expression for all citizens of the DRA. The provisions on the equal participation of women in political, social, economic and cultural affairs of society, safety of the family, and mother and child care have been also included in the Draft Constitution.

The adoption of a new Constitution of the country would signify: the destiny of the people is in the hands of the people; the power of the people is in the hands of the people; and the will of the people is in the hands of the people.

In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the sacred religion of Islam is protected, respected and observed. The state provides all the necessary conditions for the performance of religious rites. It pays keen attention to the repairing of old and construction of new mosques, shrines and religious schools destroyed or put on fire by the extremists during the post-revolutionary period. The state renders all-round help to scholars and clergy of the country in their efforts to carry out their noble mission. For the first time in the history of the country a major Islamic Research Centre for training specialists in Islamic science was founded in the first month since the policy of national reconciliation was proclaimed. The state has shouldered all expenditures involved in maintaining the faculty of theology in the Kabul University and of 20 religious schools. In recent years 1,226 mosques have been either reconstructed or repaired, and 231 newly built. For this purpose the state allocated about 2,000,000,000 Afghanis. This figure greatly exceeds the total expenditures on these purposes over 50 years before the Revolution.

In 1987, two thousand pilgrims have been transported to Mecca by Bakhtar Afghan Airlines, half of their travelling expenses being paid by the state.

Dialogue and cooperation between the state and the clergy are steadily expanding. This year more than 1,000 clergymen have been elected to the local organs of state power and administration. Seven hundred and twenty clergymen are members in the national reconciliation commissions.

In order to coordinate religious activities and make it possible for people to perform their religious rites, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and the High Council of Scholars and Clergy of the DRA, the latter being a nationwide social organization of clergymen with a ramified structure, are active in the country.

The DRA furnishes favourable conditions for peoples of different ideologies and religious beliefs on equal and just footing freely to perform their religious rites. Freedom of conscience in the DRA is protected and guaranteed by the law.

In the Economic Sphere

The national economy and its steady growth form the strongest basis for the policy of national reconciliation. The war-ravaged economy of the country can be rehabilitated through the implementation of the country's first socio-economic development plan.

In 1986, the GNP has reached 155.6 billion Afs. which is 3.7 per cent higher than in 1985. This year the national income has reached 102 billion Afs., showing a 3.6-per-cent increase.

The plans for construction have been fulfilled by 113.8 per cent. In this a significant role was played by the technical, scientific and economic assistance of the Soviet Union.

The main projects built with Soviet assistance include Salang tunnel, the runways of Kabul airport, 110-kw power transmission lines, the smelting furnace of Jangalak factory, the mining equipment of Jarqodoq mine, the blood bank and the residential blocks in Kabul City. A number of these projects have been put into operation after the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation.

The main front of struggle for the implementation of this policy is the countryside. The decree of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA on the principles of solving agrarian problem is regarded as a major step in improving the situation in the countryside in various spheres. The amount of land in private ownership was set at up to 100 jeribs (5 jeribs=1 hectare) of first-class land or the land equivalent to it. This provision does not refer to land used at private mechanized farms.

After the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation special attention was paid to the protection of private sector and the rendering of all-round state assistance to this sector.

The self-governing organ of private entrepreneurs, i.e. the Economic Consultative Council, has acquired wide authority in defending the interests of private sector in the highest state organs. The policy of national reconciliation has led to greater trust of the private sector in the people's state. Since then greater number of private entrepreneurs have been investing great amounts of capital in setting up new enterprises as well as retooling the old ones.

Lately, 115 requests have been submitted for a permission to establish new private enterprises. The private sector has shown keen interest in the 50-million-rouble credit that the state has received from

the Soviet Union for the development of private and mixed enterprises.

Similarly, big headway has been made in the sphere of public health, education, transport and so on. The main factor promoting these achievements is the successful implementation of the national reconciliation policy throughout the country.

The promulgation of labour law, a rise in the salaries of servicemen, workers and office employees, an increase in lunch allowance for employees, free distribution of flour and edible oil on food coupons issued to the state employees and other measures of the state have clearly testified to the successful implementation of the national reconciliation policy in the DRA.

Likewise, over 65,000 Afghan emigrants have returned home, especially from Iran and Pakistan. The DRA has provided proper conditions for the return of our compatriots back to their places of residence.

The state ensures secure life for all repatriates regardless of their political ideas, affiliation and stands:

- All repatriates are entitled to all rights and privileges as citizens of the DRA;
- All repatriates eligible for military service are pardoned for a period of six months;
- Peasants and landowners on returning home under the terms of national reconciliation are released from taxes for one year and their previous taxes are waived;
- The debt of landowners for chemical fertilizer and sowing seed as well as agricultural machines and implements will be pardoned;
- The repatriates are exempted from payments for such utility services as electricity, water, telephones, etc., for a period of one year after their return;

- Taxes on shops, private trading establishments and companies, as well as rent payment for state shops and the fines involved in the above will be waived in case the facilities were not used in the interests of owners in their absence;

- The moveable and immoveable property, including residential houses, currency, bank and company shares, factories, and transport vehicles which have become nationalized or put under state custody during the absence of the owner will be given back to the latter;

- If the owners of idle private enterprises return back, the enterprise will be given back to him and he will be helped to start his enterprise going.

Based on the national reconciliation policy the State Committee for Repatriates has been set up within the framework of the Council of Ministers. The Committee has established branches in various provinces, especially in those bordering on Pakistan and Iran. Likewise, peace camps and guest houses have been established in border provinces to render urgent assistance to new repatriates. These centres, beside giving room and board and cash, help repatriates to be safely transported to their home towns.

- Educational opportunities have been provided for children of repatriates.

- Those who worked before departure as workers and state employees will be reinstated in their posts in their respective institutions and enterprises. Those who have passed or reached the retirement age will receive their retirement pension beginning from the day of arrival.

- The returnees' personal property needed for their families will be exempted from custom duty upon their arrival.

As it was mentioned earlier, based on the general amnesty decree of the Revolutionary Council and other decrees issued by the legislative organs of the DRA, all repatriates enjoy equal rights as citizens of the country and take part freely in all administrative affairs.

Obviously, the problem of the return of Afghan emigrants does not involve the DRA alone. The DRA time and again has requested the United Nations, the UN High Commission for Refugees, the International Red Cross Society and the World Council of Volunteer Organizations, to send their representatives to Iran and Pakistan and facilitate the return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan.

Delegations from above-mentioned organizations have been invited to Afghanistan to observe closely how the DRA intends in practice to solve this problem.

The US imperialism and its accomplices in the region, especially Pakistani authorities, are pursuing a mischievous and subversive policy in respect to the Afghan emigrants' problem. Their interest in Afghan emigrants is aimed not at helping them safely to return to their homes but at using their presence in Pakistan for the anti-DRA campaign and misleading world public opinion.

The Afghan emigrants are a great human reserve for organizers of international terrorism. Western mass media have time and again revealed that the international reaction and imperialism, along with their regional collaborators, are exploiting the religious sentiments of Afghan emigrant youth and have established numerous military camps in Pakistan for training terrorist bands. In order to fan up the undeclared war and fratricide in the DRA they equip these terrorist groups with most up-to-date arms and dispatch them to the DRA. They try to take advantage of Afghan emigrants to strengthen the

positions of international terrorism. On the other hand, they try to justify their bloody crimes and gain support of the world community.

Some use to say that Afghan refugees do not want to return home. A question arises: If it is so, why the refugee camps in Iran and Pakistan are guarded by these countries' armed forces? The DRA government, time and again, requested the governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to give permission to Afghan civilian passenger planes to transfer those Afghan refugees who are eager to return home to Afghanistan. The Pakistani and Iranian authorities, however, rejected the request. If the refugees really do not want to go home, it would have been only in favour of these authorities to see the Afghan planes fly back to the DRA without carrying any passengers.

The Western mass media intentionally ignore to tell the truth about Pakistan- and Iran-based camps to the world public. The fact is that 35 per cent of the refugees' children died from malnutrition, lethal diseases and poor living conditions in hot summers and cold winters. They are also deprived of education. Moreover, the refugees are denied all human rights and normal living conditions. Such are but a few examples of the real state of things as far as the observance of human rights by the US Administration and its allies is concerned.

All events, measures and actions mentioned above testify to the fact that the policy of national reconciliation is a means for Afghan society and the people of Afghanistan to ensure durable peace in the country and secure suitable conditions for economic, social and cultural development of Afghanistan. The ensurance of a durable and lasting peace in the DRA, of course, depends on the feasibility of a peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. The DRA, on its part,

sincerely tries to clear the way for a dialogue and understanding between all Afghan political forces, including the opposition, and to solve all national problems peacefully, at a negotiating table. In the sphere of its foreign policy too, the DRA displays flexibility and exerts all-round consistent efforts to settle the situation around Afghanistan which was created due to the interference and aggression on the part of international reaction and imperialism waging an undeclared war against the DRA. It has frequently been stated that in case foreign interference and aggression against Afghanistan is stopped and an international reliable guarantees are provided for non-resumption of such interference and aggression in the future, the limited Soviet military contingent will return to the Soviet Union.

In Geneva talks between the DRA and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Afghan side has consistently worked for the success of the negotiations. The DRA's great initiatives at these talks testify to its flexibility aimed at accelerating the process of settling the situation around Afghanistan. The DRA has shown further flexibility by declaring the policy of national reconciliation.

The proposal put forward by the DRA on the division of power within a coalition government, an invitation to political opposition to take part in this government and in the dialogue and negotiations for finding a peaceful solution to national issues, the provision by the DRA of all the necessary conditions for the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland, the enforcement of a law on political parties, the drafting of the new Constitution of the country, the issuing of a decree on land and water in the DRA and dozens of other important measures create the conditions for

ensuring peace throughout the country as well as help expedite the process of negotiations on the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan through Geneva talks. All the practical measures taken by the PDPA and the government of the DRA over the period after the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation gave answers to all the questions confronting the DRA at the negotiation table. However, as the famous Afghan proverb says, "One hand alone cannot make sound". The US Administration and its allies, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, prefer to hear the sounds of Stingers, Blowpipes and chemical weapons' explosions instead of the voice of peace in the DRA. They want the people of Afghanistan to perish in the flames of war and the country itself to be turned into a battlefield; they want to keep the war in Afghanistan going so as to use it as a means for confusing world public opinion and for strengthening their military presence in the region.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, problems related to human rights have been widely discussed and new measures have been worked out to this effect. This issue acquires ever greater significance in the face of the unprecedented scientific and technological progress enriching the material and spiritual life of mankind.

However, unfortunately, ensuring a new and humanitarian order as well as implementing the human rights principles are not something to be achieved easily. Unfavourable factors such as war, exploitation, seeking hegemony, intervention and the domination of the most reactionary ideas still remain the main obstacles. These factors not only have led to the violation of human rights and disturbance of humanitarian order but have provided for the culprits to distort the truth and conceal their unseemly deeds.

One of the manifestations of this phenomenon is the situation with human rights in Afghanistan which the political opposition and its foreign patrons are trying to distort in the eyes of the world public. But fortunately ever fresher facts concerning human rights affairs in Afghanistan have become known which reveal the fabricated character of the propaganda of the enemies of our people.

World public opinion, though slowly, is becoming aware of the true status of human rights in the DRA.

In reviewing the human rights problem in Afghanistan, it is necessary to focus on the most basic problem, that is, the general social conditions in the

country. The enemy's illusive propoganda machinery tries to portray the situation in such a way as if the problem related to human rights in Afghanistan is something new, emerging during post-revolutionary years.

Thus they try to justify the past regimes which had kept the country in centuries-old socio-economic backwardness and where not a word about the most elementary principles of human rights was ever heard.

The April Revolution not only renewed socio-political institutions but took constructive measures on human rights problems. For example, the state of the DRA enforced over 500 decrees and new rules and regulations for maintaining social and legal order in the country. All these new regulations were formulated on the basis of objective social realities, the accepted national norms, the people's religious sentiments as well as similar experiences in other countries.

The new legislative measures provided wide legal opportunities for every individual to enjoy his or her rights.

Serious attention was paid to the rights of citizens to health protection, to education, to the freedom of conscience and individual freedom, to the security of private property, respect for the rights of the family and other individual rights.

The state has provided the people with free medical services. The new system of education has made it possible for a greater number of individuals to receive a primary, secondary or higher education free of charge. Every kind of discrimination in education and in scientific and research activities has been prohibited and an opportunity has been provided for national minorities to develop their native literatures.

Literacy drive has been turned into a nationwide programme: thousands of literacy courses have been set up throughout the country, women were given the chance

to take part in social, political, scientific and cultural affairs. Their right to work and employment was guaranteed by the law. Respect for religion has been given priority.

The recently adopted law on political parties furnished the ground for promoting widescale political activities in Afghanistan which in turn leads to greater democracy in society.

A glance at the deeds by the counter-revolutionaries, however, reveals the fact that their main objective is to violate human rights. To infringe on the basic human rights such as the right to life, health protection, education, inviolability of the home, equality of women and other acknowledged human rights principles is on their agenda.

Since the very beginning, the opposition threatened people living in villages and towns, urging them to leave the places of their residence. Hence compulsory expulsion of the people from the villages where they could provide for themselves is one of the greatest tragedies imposed on our people by the opponents and enemies of Afghanistan. The latter have also trained terrorist groups.

Actions were taken against the state system, against the system of education and other fields where radical reforms were to be implemented. People attending literacy courses were threatened and many of them were killed, their courses, schools and cultural centres were put on fire and teachers and educational personnel were murdered.

Kidnapping individuals for the sake of terror and blackmail were encouraged by the opposition. As a result, people's personal safety and their residential security were constantly threatened.

Abuse of women and their abduction, assault and assassination were perpetrated on more than a hundred

occasions by the extremists. The evidence of those who survived tells of the extremists' inhuman approach towards their victims.

Moreover, religious scholars as well as religious institutes, mosques, takias and other sacred places became targets of attacks by the extremists. In recent years the nation has lost her best religious scholars on account of these terroristic activities.

As a result of bomb and mine explosions, use of poisonous gas, missile attacks, which were mostly targeted against educational and public institutions and major public centres, bus stations as well as airports, a large number of innocent people including children and elderly people lost their lives.

After extremists gained access to new destructive weapons such as Stinger and Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles, the security of air space over the country has become endangered and the number of victims of air catastrophes has sharply increased.

The opposition groups ignoring all the legal and traditional norms of the people, claimed that they themselves will pass the judgment and carry through the sentence. Consequently, a large number of people fell victim to their law of the jungle. Most of their victims were persecuted on charges of refusing to cooperate with opposition groups in their terrorist operations.

The armed opposition groups have launched extensive subversive activities making travel and transportation in the country dangerous, which has an undesirable impact on the national economy.

What is the source of great concern is the fact that these anti-human deeds of the opposition are not only supported by their foreign patrons but are being increasingly encouraged.

The guardians of these atrocities who monitor from overseas the fratricidal war, destabilization and destruction inflicted on Afghanistan put billions of dollars at the disposal of the enemies of the people of Afghanistan. If we objectively discuss the human rights problem in Afghanistan, the initial responsibility for the crimes against the DRA goes to foreign patrons. The confessions of their spies arrested in our country are vivid testimonies to this effect.

In the anti-Afghan activities of the hostile foreign forces not only the territory of one of our neighbours is being used as a springboard of aggression but a wide anti-Afghan propaganda campaign is also launched by Western mass media. This campaign has long ago acquired the scope of a psychological war against the DRA.

However, the DRA which regards service to the people as its main objective has been staunchly trying to take radical steps to ensure human rights and remove obstacles to the democratization of the country. Of course, the implementation of these measures met with serious obstacles created by opposition at various stages. Nevertheless, what has been achieved in the short period since the Revolution could be regarded as a positive record of human rights in the DRA.

With the full implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, new grounds will be provided for ensuring and realization of human rights in the country. This has become quite clear in the course of the implementation of the national reconciliation policy in the last few months.

The national reconciliation commissions in various parts of the country have taken urgent measures for reviewing the rights of the citizens as a result of which a considerable number of armed individuals laid down their arms and resumed peaceful life in their

towns and villages. Based on the general amnesty decree of the Revolutionary Council, a large number of our compatriots have returned home. Thousands of people have been released from jails. The continuation of the policy of national reconciliation will bring greater successes in this regard.

The Draft Constitution of the country envisages a new democratic system which will reflect the interests of the vast majority of our population. Seeking public opinion on the draft is an important practice in the country. The massive response to various points of the draft published in the press indicates the keen interest of the people towards this new legal document and peaceful prospects of the country.

The implementation of human rights is a sacred ideal which could be achieved through a persistent and prolonged struggle. Such an endeavour and struggle have been started in Afghanistan.



The campaign against the alleged "violations" of human rights in Afghanistan is still going on. Its aim is to whitewash the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and to justify foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The reader will learn from this book who defends the honesty and dignity of Afghan citizens in the long-suffering land of Afghanistan, and who, under the guise of fighters for human rights, violate them in every way possible perpetrating crimes even against the Islamic clergy (See the photo).