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## The Ghazni Prison Break

September 16, 2015

The rising insecurity in various parts of the country are making the headlines in the media frequently nowadays that depicts the fact that the situation is getting really threatening. From now onwards, if security situation is not kept in check, the possibilities of a chaotic and disordered future will turn to reality. It is really gloomy to see that the situation is getting worse even after so much insistence from the national and international authorities.

Taliban every now and then show their strength by making some astonishing attacks in different parts of the country, particularly on Afghan National Security Forces and their facilities.

On Monday morning Taliban insurgents stormed a maximum security prison in the capital of central Ghazni province, releasing 355 prisoners, of which at least 148 are considered to be a serious threat to national security.

According to officials, the prison housed 436 prisoners in total; out of which 355 escaped during the attack.

Ministry of Interior confirmed the attack and said in a statement that the attack happened at about 2am Monday when an insurgent detonated explosives at the entrance to the prison. A group of gunmen then stormed the facility. The MoI said seven security members were killed and seven others were injured. In addition a total of five insurgents died in the incident.

Taliban soon after the incident claimed the responsibility of the attack.

This incident shows the level of insecurity looming large in the country. When a high profile prison, which should have such strong security arrangements that thinking of breaking it should never be considered an option by the insurgents, is broken so easily by them, promising the common people security of their lives becomes a very difficult task. How can the forces provide security to others when they cannot provide security to their own selves and their facilities?

Moreover, the major concern is the release of 148 insurgents who are considered threats to national security. They are now at large and will be free to pursue their motive of further debilitating the security situation, not only in the province but in the entire country.

This issue should be taken seriously and the authorities should be questioned about their negligence of duties as without the negligence of responsibilities it would not be possible for the insurgents to carry out such an attack.

Wolesi Jirga in their session on the same day, lambasted the Ministry of Interior (MoI) over the attack, suggesting the Interior Minister be summoned to the lower house. They claimed that National Directorate of Security (NDS) had already provided the information that such an attack might take place but the Ministry was not able to discharge its duty and the house should deal with the authorities concerned in accordance with the law.

Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy said the attack had raised multiple questions, because it took place despite top security officials being alerted about the possibility. He tasked the internal affairs commission with summoning the interior minister to the lower house to brief lawmakers on the prison attack. A vote of no confidence should be tabled against the minister if he failed to come up with a satisfactory response.

This gloomy fact shows how insecurity and terrorism have been threatening the lives of the common people in Afghanistan. The common people, after suffering from decades of war and bloodshed deserve a relatively peaceful life. They have given so many sacrifices and now they hope that they would have tranquil life in the times to come. However, there is no guarantee that their hopes would turn into reality.

The people of Afghanistan must worry about the deterioration in security as they are basically the ones who have been suffering and may suffer to a further extent if instability and terrorism prevail in the country. It is really pathetic to see the civilians losing their lives because of the negligence of duty on the part of security officials.

The innocent people of Afghanistan deserve that the Afghan government and security officials must ensure to them a better future. They need to make sure that the post transition period in Afghanistan will be a period that can give poverty stricken Afghan people security and tranquility.

It depends largely on how Afghan authorities will deal with the circumstances ahead. At this crucial juncture, the Afghan government does not have any other option but to be more responsible and deal with the situation with honesty and dedication. Currently there are many

concerns about the Afghan government; addressing them is in its total control if other things are out of it.

In addition, for a lasting peace Afghan government must adopt a clear policy regarding the reconciliation process in the country. They have to try to bring back the process on track. Taliban, after the news of the death of Mullah Omar, have denied to take initiative regarding talks with the government. In fact, they, as a response, have continued violence and terrorism, while Afghan government apart from hesitating and waiting has not been able to offer anything else.