

THE STATE OF THE MUSLIM UMMAH

Prophet of God

By Shamim A. Siddiqi

The Muslim Ummah is going through the greatest crisis of its existence. On the one hand, the Ummah is infested with innumerable problems created by its own neglect and ignorance; and by the leftover legacy of centuries-old exploitation of the Western colonial powers, who ransacked the Muslim world for over two hundred years. On the other hand, the game of internal interference, genocide, human rights violations and acts of discrimination are being perpetuated in almost each and every Muslim country through the secular forces, both within and outside the Muslim world. Let us survey briefly the position of the Muslim world.

* BOSNIA, a recognized independent state in Europe, is bleeding; Facing torture, death and destruction. But the entire West is indolent in acting against the oppressor. It is content to render some abortive and scanty humanitarian aid through its 'handpicked world body', the Security Council, and determined to uphold the Balkanization of Bosnia along ethnic lines through forced peace parleys in Geneva.

The forces which, at last, are to supervise the distribution of food in Somalia could also advance emphatically in Bosnia to check and nullify the aggression. They have turned a deaf ear to all the cries, protests, demands and human sufferings. Bosnia stands today on the verge of total extinction. Only some besieged enclaves are left in their hands. Their days are numbered. Only Allah can save them and their country.

* KASHMIR has been striving for the last 44 years for its right to a plebiscite, either to join Pakistan or India pursuant to the terms of many Security Council Reso-

lutions. But this goal is nowhere in sight. Kashmir has been bleeding for the last three years as the campaign for self-determination intensified with each passing day. India is ruthlessly crushing the movement and has turned the entire valley of Kashmir into a war-zone. Innocent men, women and children are being killed, property worth millions of dollars is being destroyed and women are raped in mass. Human rights do not exist. Those who control the Security Council are keeping mum over these atrocities because they do not want to displease secular India. And do justice to a region which is predominantly Muslim. India has recently launched a campaign of terror, code named 'Oppression Tiger', in collaboration with Israel's Mossad.

* ALGERIA, a predominantly Muslim country, is ruled by a secular and pro-Western coterie. When the Islamic Salvation Party of Algeria was on the verge of success through the election process, these elections were nullified by the regime. But the West, and the US in particular uttered not a word against this blatant suspension of legality. All the mighty talk, all the tall tales about "Democracy" were transformed into prolonged silence, which continues today, because Algeria is a Muslim country. And the emergence of Islam anywhere in the world, even at the cost of their most cherished slogans of democracy and fundamental human rights, cannot be tolerated. This is hypocrisy of the first degree and tantamount to a scandalous double standard.

* SUDAN is another predominantly Muslim country and the largest in Africa. The people at the helm of affairs and political parties are trying their utmost to transform Sudan into an Islamic state. The West, as a result, has cut off all economic, military and humanitarian aid in order to choke it to death. It has instigated the Christian and pagan tribes of the southern Sudan to revolt against the established gov-

ernment of Khartoum by arming the separatists of the South to the teeth. The emerging Islamic state of Sudan is thereby weakened by continuous skirmishes and resource drainage on the battle fields. Shamefully, the pro-American kings and Sheikhs of the desert kingdoms of the Middle East are a party to this dirty hegemony, strengthening the war-plan of the West against the Islamic Sudan.

* SOMALIA: Both Italy and Great Britain exploited this country under their long protectorate. After its independence, Somalia was ruled by the dictator, Said Barre, for the next 25 years. For his personal gains, Said exploited tribal rivalries which culminated in his ouster from the country in 1990. Said's forceful removal from power by the masses was followed by total anarchy and massive tribal infighting for individual supremacy. Today in Somalia, there is only chaos, and no law and order throughout the country. In the midst of this condition, the Islamic Union of Somalia is tirelessly trying to extinguish the tribal war and to reorganize the country along Islamic lines. No outside organization like the OAU, the Arab League or the OIC or any peace agency is coming forward to restore normalcy to this country. It is only the humanitarian aid which is trickling in; and at a snail's pace and wholly inadequate at that.

Now, after wasting more than a year and allowing millions of innocents to die of hunger and starvation, America sends its marines and its troops to protect the food convoys and supervise their distribution throughout the country. There is every possibility that it will later disarm the people and the Islamic forces too under this disguise as pressure to this effect is growing from the Secretary General. Somalia is likely to be declared a protectorate under UNO and will cease to exist as an independent Muslim country for some time to come. As a result of this far-reaching development, the Horn of Africa, a strategic

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region of the Red Sea, will be used by the West for the control of the Islamic forces in the Middle East and Eastern Africa for decades to come.

* PALESTINE has been bleeding for the last 45 years. Intifada is nothing but the manifestation of a besieged people by a belligerent Israel who, after capturing the homeland of the Palestinian people through force, deceit, intimidation and coercive means and establishing the so-called state of Israel through an international Anglo-American-Russian-Zionist conspiracy, is not even prepared to give freedom to the enslaved people of the West Bank and the Gaza strip. They have no human rights worth mentioning. Day in and day out, they are killed as if in some game play. For their plight, the West has only crocodile tears to spare. Latest evidence of Israeli brutality is the exile of over 400 Palestinians. The so-called peace talks of the Middle East are nothing but a farce. They are just killing time without any abatement in their atrocities. America is maintaining and providing protection to Israel as its police state in the heart of the Muslim world. Israel will stay as an illegitimate child of America and Britain until the Muslim Ummah emerges as a power ready to challenge the hegemony of the West.

* AFGHANISTAN is a glaring example of the Western agenda against Islam. After defeating and ousting the Russian superpower, after the total destruction of the country's infrastructure and the infestation of the land by millions of mines, their historical battle to establish the Deen of Allah in Afghanistan still looks no closer than a distant dream. America has pressed Pakistan to follow the lines laid down in Geneva and withdraw its support from the pro-Islam Mujahideen. Through UN Agencies, the secular West is conniving to install a regime of opportunistic people in Kabul, supported by the militia of Najibullah's regime with the blessings of America. They are determined to get the country partitioned along ethnic grounds. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran, unfortunately, have become a party to this game.

* IRAQ, after paying the price of some half a million Muslims in the so-called Desert-Storm outrage, the loss of its infrastructure, after being practically partitioned in the North for the Kurds and in the South for the Shiites, making the life of its people extremely difficult and almost

unbearable, is still ravaged by its butcher, Saddam Hussein. All sacrifices were in vain because America in its game to have an unhindered flow of Middle East oil at a very cheap price is maintaining and sustaining his life and regime to perpetuate its supremacy over the Arab Sheikdoms. To combat the mischief of Saddam's regime, America has a constant excuse to maintain its military presence in the heart of the Middle East and to keep a close watch on the Islamic movements of the region. The West is thus killing two birds with one stone. One can foresee the American design after its recent bombardment over Iraq.

* PAKISTAN is another distressing example of American interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country. Various economic and military aids and pacts are America's levers of interference. Undemocratic and fascist political parties like PPP are an easy prey for American diplomacy to exploit and pressure different governments to follow the directives from Washington. A change is being forced upon Pakistan to nullify the Islamization process to bring the country back to secularism or chaos.

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* INDONESIA, the largest Muslim country in the world, is the hotbed of American diplomacy. President Suharto is secular in lifestyle and pro-Western in attitude. America has supported Suharto and provided the backing necessary for him to remain in power for the last 28 years. He has practically crushed almost all the pro-Islamic factions and parties while the Christian missionaries have all the facilities to spread Christianity deep into the masses, especially in the intensely populated Island of Java where the conversion to Christianity is, alarmingly, increasing by leaps and bounds. If it is not checked at once, it may soon turn into a land of Christian majority. This is the game which Christian missionaries are playing in a predominantly Muslim country under the patronage of a pro-American dictatorship. Through Suharto, America on one hand has crushed the Islamic movements of Indonesia while on the other, the rise of Christianity in a Muslim country is gaining momentum.

* CENTRAL ASIA is a region where America is playing its anti-Islam game

most openly and ruthlessly. The six Muslim countries of Central Asia — Kazakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kirghizia, Turkemenia and Azerbaijan, obtained their freedom after the collapse of Communist Russia. Immediately after their independence and recognition, Mr. Bush sent the Secretary of State, Mr. Baker, to tour these countries and impress upon them the inadvisability of forming close friendly relations with Islamic countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. America encouraged them to follow the model of secular Turkey.

The situation is alarming. There is little chance of abatement in the interference of the Muslim world's affairs with the new presidency of Mr. Bill Clinton. The Western countries, America in particular, are ravaging the Muslim countries in the following ways.

1. By seeing the Islamic movements curbed, destroyed or annihilated altogether as in Indonesia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Nigeria and elsewhere in Asia and Africa.

2. By removing the promising Muslim leadership around the world, if they cannot be won over to their side. The best examples are those of Hassan Al-Banna of Egypt, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan and the latest attack on Hassan Turabi of Sudan.

3. By promoting the life span of the self-imposed dictators and supporting the tyrants, the un-Islamic regimes and fascist political parties throughout the Muslim world. The best examples in this respect are that of Saddam Hussain of Iraq, Suharto of Indonesia, Asad of Syria, Mubarak of Egypt, Mrs. Bhutto of Pakistan, the Sheikdoms of the Middle East and the secularists in Turkey.

4. By manipulation through Security Council resolutions as in the case of Palestine, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Bosnia.

5. By killing hundreds and thousands of Muslim men, women and children, destroying their places of worship (Masajid), properties worth millions of dollars every year and curbing or disallowing their cultural manifestation in a planned and aggressive manner in countries like India, Russia, China, Eastern Europe, the Philippines and other lands where Muslims are in the minority. ■